

Environmental Impacts Screening Decision

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INDUSTRY, AND COMMERCE – CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW COMPLEX TO HOUSE

THE GUYANA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

Project location and components

The Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce is working to construct a new laboratory facility for the GNBS. This facility will be situated in Sophia Exhibition Complex (SEC), Greater Georgetown in Administrative Region Four, i.e., Demerara-Mahaica. The new building is expected to be situated on a 2.156 acres plot of vacant state-owned land in a commercial zone that has mainly office buildings or land earmarked for commercial development. The new facility is expected to have three (3) one flat structure and one two-flat structure to house the Administration Block. Additionally, chemicals (such as sulphuric, nitric and hydrochloric acids) will be stored in the Industrial Metrology Building and various fuels (such as diesel and gasoline) will be stored for short durations in a section to be designated in the Legal Metrology Building.

Environmental impact screening

The EPA's screening concludes that there are no identifiable significant environmental impacts nor is the project deemed environmentally sensitive. Impacts arising from the construction phase of the project are minor, localized, and acceptable.

Liquid effluent will be produced by the sewerage system onsite. This effluent will be treated before being released into the environment. In the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), checks and tests must be put in place so that this discharge can be monitored in a periodic manner. Further, an oil-water separator should be installed at discharge points to prevent hydrocarbons from entering waterways.

Given the composition and nature of the operation the following parameters can be impacted and will need to be monitored:

1. Total Suspended Solid (TSS);
2. Total Dissolved Solid (TDS);
3. Oil and Grease; and
4. Biochemical Oxygen Demand.

There is the potential for dust and particulate emissions and noise emission originating from the project during:

1. The movement of heavy-duty vehicles, e.g., Trucks, and
2. Operation of a Generator set.

To mitigate this impact, the project will implement the following measures:

1. Will ensure all machinery and equipment are working efficiently and have the required silencers/mufflers installed where necessary;
2. All equipment used will be well maintained to prevent the negative noise impact usually produced from old equipment;
3. Ensure that the operation maintains an impervious surface within the site to be used for vehicle movement to acting as a buffer for the vibrations during the construction phase;
4. Project proponent will implement mitigation measures recommended by the EPA for effective management where necessary; and
5. The material transported must be placed in a way that the material is not exposed to the wind or rain in a way that may produce the fall of the material or dispersion of particles.

The project during construction and operation will generate hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.

The developer proposed a Waste Management System - an onsite service, self-contained responsible for the receiving of all on site waste. The developer will be responsible for ensuring that these wastes are effectively managed during both storage and disposal.

Hazardous wastes will be sent through a specialized sewerage system so as to break down those chemicals to safe levels before being released into the environment. The developer must ensure that these wastes are effectively managed during both storage and disposal. Hydrocarbons stored on site must be placed in a containment bund.

Conclusion

The EPA concludes that the impacts of this project are localized and mitigable. As such, this Project does not require an Environmental Management Plan (EMP), nor an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). However, the Developer will be required to submit a **Construction Method Statement** to the Agency.

It is therefore recommended, that this project be placed on 30 days public notice, and thereafter be moved to permitting once no objections are raised during the publication timeline.