



Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana Environmental Protection Agency



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)-GUYANA ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION SCREENING REPORT

Project Name: Green Forest Investment

Type of Operation: Sawmilling

Reference/ Application No.: 202030228-RTGFI

Background to the Project

Green Forest Investment has submitted an application for Environmental Authorization to undertake sawmilling at Tract "RT" Long Creek Newtown, Eastern Side, Soesdyke /Linden Highway. The size of the area is 4.3 acres of lease land.

This project will involve standard sawmilling operation that will include transportation of logs from concessions in Region 6 and 10 to sawmill site. Logs will be offloaded and store in a log pond with the capacity to accommodate 200-220 cubic meters of logs. The logs will be transported from log pond by a log loader and taken to the mill site for processing, to include the removal of barks and the conversion of logs into boards as the final product.

Site Description

The sawmill is located at Tract "RT" Long Creek Newtown, Eastern Side, Soesdyke /Linden Highway. Surrounded by secondary forest, the Long creek Primary School is located 353.88m from the site. The Linden Soesdyke Highway is situated north of the site and is the main access road.

Geographic Location

The sawmill is located at approximately at 21N 0363129
UTM 0700684

Figure 1: Map showing the location of the project



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Characteristics of Potential Impacts

- The Long Creek Primary School is located 353.88 m from the proposed sawmill. Operations can generate air pollution, including dust and sawdust, which can be harmful to human health. Exposure to sawdust can cause respiratory problems, such as asthma and bronchitis, which can affect the health of students and teachers. Developer will implement measures to minimize these impacts, such as using noise barriers, the existing vegetation will also act as a noise and dust barrier to control emissions. Further sawmill is expected to be constructed 500 meters from the school. The EPA permit conditions will be stringent to protect the impact of the sawmill activities on the school. Compliance monitoring will be done by the EPA to ensure compliance.
- **Air Quality:** Dust and particulate matter: Sawmills generate a lot of dust and particulate matter, which can be harmful to human health. These particles can cause respiratory problems and aggravate conditions like asthma and allergies' emissions: Sawmills also emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which can contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone and smog. VOCs can also be harmful to human health, and exposure to high levels can cause headaches, nausea, and other health problems.

Machine and equipment will be connected to extractor systems which will channel dust into the dust containment bin. Saw dust generated by mill and edger will be removed from the mill floor daily by workers. Further workers will be provided with PPE and will be made mandatory for use during operation.

- **Noise:** Sawmilling involves the use of heavy machinery, which can generate a lot of noise. This noise can be disruptive to nearby residents and can cause hearing damage to workers if proper precautions are not taken. Noise pollution can also have negative impacts on wildlife in the area disrupting their communication and migration patterns. **Vibration:** The operation of sawmills can also generate vibrations, which can be felt by nearby residents and can cause damage to buildings and infrastructure. Vibrations can also be harmful to workers, causing conditions like hand-arm vibration syndrome.

Noise making machine and equipment will be housed i.e generator will be house in generator room and equipped with exhaust stacks. Further equipment and machine will be placed on concrete foundation to dampen the vibration and will only be in operation during work hours stipulated by EPA. the implementation of proper maintenance and repair procedures will be done for machine and equipment in keeping with manufacturer 's specification. Further use of personal protective equipment for workers will be mandatory.

- **Waste Management**

Non-hazardous waste from sawmilling can have both positive and negative impacts on the environment Some of the negative impacts are: **Air pollution:** The burning of non-hazardous waste (prevalent at most sawmills) from sawmilling can result in the

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emission of harmful air pollutants, such as particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds.

Water pollution: Improper disposal of sawmill waste can contaminate nearby water bodies, causing harm to aquatic life and humans.

Habitat loss: Large quantities of non-hazardous waste generated by sawmilling can lead to the destruction of natural habitats and disrupt ecosystems.

Greenhouse gas emissions: When sawmill waste is burned or decomposes, it releases carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, contributing to global climate change.

Wood waste (strips and Slabs) will be used for revetments and shaving and sawdust will be collected by persons in the area.

hazardous wastes; Chemicals used in sawmilling, such as adhesives and coatings, can release volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the air, which can contribute to air pollution and have negative health effects on nearby communities.

Water pollution: Chemicals used in sawmilling can contaminate water sources if not properly managed. These chemicals can leach into soil and groundwater, leading to pollution of rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water. Additionally, the disposal of chemicals and fuels can contribute to the pollution of waterways.

Soil contamination: Chemical spills or leaks from fuel storage tanks can contaminate soil and affect plant growth, which can have long-lasting effects on ecosystems.

Health hazards: Exposure to chemicals used in sawmilling can have negative health effects on workers and nearby communities. These effects can range from respiratory problems to more serious conditions such as cancer.

There will be scheduled servicing of machine and equipment. Fuel will be stores in tightly covered plastic plastic pails to avoid spillage and will be kept in a containment area. Waist oil will be reused on chainsaw.

Conclusion and recommendations

The EPA has Identified the potential impacts and the Significance of the said impacts arising from the construction and operational phases of this project. It is concluded that these impacts are localised, mostly short term, reversible, avoidable and mitigable. As such the agency will issue an Environmental Authorisation to reduce said impacts to acceptable levels.

Annex 1

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Photos



Picture showing the proposed site for the sawmill and the remaining vegetation which serve as buffer strip to protect the school from dust and noise.

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