



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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Environmental Permit (Modified)

Issued under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000

Reference No.:	20210524-WHCHS
Fee:	Medium (C1) i.e., US\$ 500 per year
Fee Paid:	US\$ 2500 for Five (5) years (October, 2022 – September, 2027)
Addressee:	Dr. Vilas Gobin Managing Director Woodlands Limited Lots 110-111, Carmichael Street North Cummingsburg, Georgetown
Activity:	Operation of a Medical Facility (Hospital) Supported by Power Generation and Storage of Fuel.

Woodlands Limited hereinafter referred to as the “Permit Holder”, is hereby authorised in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, to Operate a Medical Facility (Hospital) Supported by Power Generation and Storage of Fuel at Lots 110-111, Carmichael Street, North Cummingsburg, Georgetown, hereinafter referred to as the “Project”, in a manner indicated in the Application for Environmental Authorisation submitted on May 24, 2021, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, existing and/or forthcoming Regulations made under the said Act, and/or any applicable laws, guidelines, best practices and standards relevant to this project.

This is a Modification of Environmental Permit Ref.#: 20210524-WHCHS issued to Woodlands Limited for the period October 2022 to September 2027.

The Permit Holder, His Servants, Agents and/or Sub- Contractors shall comply with the following Terms and Conditions for Operation:

1.0 GENERAL OPERATION

- 1.1 Make an application to the Agency to vary this Permit in instances where it becomes necessary to:

- i. Changes in construction, structure, or layout of the facility and all associated buildings;
- ii. Installation of new and/or changes to equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility;
- iii. Any technology used or installed at the facility from which effluent may be discharged; or
- iv. Any other circumstance or condition prescribed by Regulation 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.

1.2 Hazardous materials (pharmaceutical and laboratory chemicals) shall be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's directions or Safety Data Sheet (SDS) instructions.

1.3 All employees involved in the management of hazardous materials (pharmaceutical and laboratory chemicals) shall be trained on Hazardous Material Communication and Emergency Preparedness Response. The annual training schedule shall be submitted to the Agency as part of the **Annual Report**.

1.4 Emergency spill cleanup kits shall be established and maintained at the Project for response to potential spills. Kits should contain absorbent materials, drain seals and other appropriate tools for clean-up. Spills should be cleaned-up by the Best Available Technology (BAT).

1.5 Guyana Fire Service Approval shall be maintained annually and shall be submitted as a component of the **Annual Report**.

1.6 The Project shall maintain fire prevention and control equipment in accordance with the Guyana Fire Service Approval. This may include a smoke detection and alarm system, fire extinguishers, fire hydrants or sprinkler systems as appropriate.

1.7 **The Permit Holder shall submit to the Agency, the requisite approvals upon obtaining such approvals from the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA), the relevant Municipality or any other authority with jurisdiction and oversight over the operations within.**

1.8 Adhere to the requirements of **the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws of Guyana.**

1.9 Adhere to the requirements of **the Health Facilities Licensing Act, 2007, Laws of Guyana.**

2.0 BIO-HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

2.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000.**



- 2.2 All waste generated by the project shall be identified and segregated at the point of generation. Bio-hazardous wastes should be segregated according to its category.
- 2.2.1 All waste mixed with any medical waste shall be treated as bio-hazardous waste.
- 2.3 The **bio-hazardous waste storage area** shall be maintained in accordance to the following conditions:
- 2.3.1 Be banded to provide 100% containment of the waste stored;
- 2.3.2 Be secure and access restricted to authorised personnel only;
- 2.3.3 Have clearly visible warning signs and biohazard symbols on the walls;
- 2.3.4 Be constructed with a hard, impermeable floor with drainage; the floor shall be designed to withstand cleaning/disinfection, without cracking, breaking or damage that would prevent effective disinfection;
- 2.3.5 Allow easy access for waste collection vehicles; and
- 2.3.6 Be protected from contamination and contact with storm water, rain, wind, and animals - measures should be taken to ensure the area does not become a breeding ground for vermin.
- 2.4 Bio-hazardous waste must be properly labeled and color coded. Labeling shall include words such as "Infectious Substances", "Bio Hazardous Waste" and "Bio Hazard".
- 2.5 Bio-hazardous waste containers shall be labeled with the following information:
- i. Name (location);
 - ii. Date;
 - iii. Type of Waste;
 - iv. List of Content; and
 - v. Quantity.
- 2.6 Bio-hazardous waste referred to in **regulation 19 (4)**, of the **Health Facilities Act, 2007** shall be kept separately from other wastes and shall be:
- 2.6.1 Stored in doubled impervious plastic bags at least **2 mm** in thickness, securely fastened and conspicuously marked "**infectious waste**"; when full the bags should **not exceed 25 pounds** in weight;
- 2.6.2 Transported in receptacles that are conspicuously marked "**infectious waste**";

- 2.6.3 Held for pick-up in specially marked non-metal containers separated from regular waste;
- 2.7 Bio-hazardous wastes consisting of human cultures and biomedical waste containing infectious agents and cultures shall be treated and disposed of via incineration at a minimum furnace temperature of 850°C.
- 2.8 The disposal of sharps shall **NOT** incorporate cutting, breaking, bending or any other manipulation.
- 2.9 Used sharps shall be placed in containers that meet the following requirements:
- i. Rigid;
 - ii. Puncture resistant;
 - iii. Impervious to moisture, leak and shatter proof;
 - iv. Display the universal bio-hazard symbols and a clear label of its contents; and
 - v. Can be sealed, preferably with a self-closing lid and/or a lid that prevents persons removing sharps from the container.
- 2.10 Storage of bio-hazardous waste should **not exceed seventy-two (72) hours (3 days)**. The 3-day period commences when the first item is placed into the designated storage container.
- 2.11 Bio-hazardous waste shall be collected, transported, treated and disposed by an EPA authorized waste disposal facility.
- 2.11.1 All bio-hazardous waste treatment and disposal shall be documented on a **Waste Manifest Form** which must be submitted to the EPA as a component of the **Annual Report**.
- 2.12 **Broken or leaking bags** of infectious waste **shall not be transported** from the hospital unless it is re- bagged in accordance **with condition 2.6 and 2.9**.
- 2.13 Where waste that may constitute a hazard to any person or thing is compacted and the integrity of the container is compromised, the container shall be handled as infectious waste as outlined in the **Health Facilities Act, 2007**.

3.0 RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 The following information for all radiation emitting devices shall be submitted to the EPA by **January 30, 2023**:
- i. A list of the radiation emitting devices and the serial numbers for the

- devices;
 - ii. Description of the location of all radiation emitting devices;
 - iii. A Radiation Safety Manual Plan;
 - iv. The shielding calculations for the room(s) used to store radiation emitting devices; and
 - v. Qualifications/ competency for staff operating radiation emitting devices.
- 3.2 The premises of the hospital that houses the x-ray department or unit shall conform to the following structural requirements for protection from radiation as outlined in the **Health Facilities Act, 2007**:
- 3.2.1 Radiation protection for the walls of the facility shall be a lead equivalent of 2 millimeters.
 - 3.2.2 Where there is a room above the facility, radiation protection in the ceiling of the facility shall be a lead equivalent of 2 millimeters.
 - 3.2.3 Where there, is a room below the facility, radiation protection in the floor of the facility shall be a lead equivalent of 2 millimeters.
 - 3.2.4 For the purposes of condition 3.2.3, a lead equivalent 42 millimeters means:
 - i. A single brick wall at least nine inches thick;
 - ii. A six-inch thickness of solid concrete; or
 - iii. Two millimeters of lead sheeting.
- 3.3 The waiting areas and change rooms shall be so situated that it prevents exposure to radiation. **Zero-radiation** protection for patients shall consist of gonad shields, or lead rubber aprons where necessary to support a patient during an examination.

4.0 FUEL HANDLING AND STORAGE

- 4.1 Adopt and comply with the National SOP "Guidance for the Design, Construction, Modification, and Maintenance of Petrol Filling Stations" and any forthcoming code of practice/guidelines pertaining to the **operation of fuel storage**.
- 4.2 A register of the quantities of fuel and associated hazardous materials stored onsite shall be established and maintained. Registered information shall be maintained on site and made available to the EPA upon request.
- 4.3 Fuel shall at all times be stored above-ground and away from ignition sources. '**No Smoking**' signs shall be posted where fuel is handled or stored.
- 4.4 All secondary containment shall remain sealed and all piping shall enter or exit the

containment over the wall. Secondary containment shall provide total containment, and no part of the tank infrastructure (e.g., dispenser, filling hoses and valves) shall protrude outside the containment.

- 4.5 Existing secondary containment around the fuel tanks shall be inspected for cracks and deterioration to ensure they are liquid tight to withstand hydrostatic pressure of any contained liquid when full. Inspection report shall be maintained on site and made available to the EPA upon request.
- 4.6 Discharge from the secondary containment of the fuel tank is **Strictly Prohibited**.
- 4.7 In the event of a spill, contaminated wastewater from the secondary containment shall be pumped to a collection vessel and collected and treated by an EPA Authorised Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility.
- 4.8 All collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater from the secondary containment shall be documented on a Waste Manifest Form and made available to the EPA upon request.
- 4.9 Fuel storage tanks shall be visually inspected to verify their integrity. Inspection reports shall be maintained on site and made available to the EPA upon request.
- 4.10 Protection measures for fuel storage tanks such as painting and coating shall be maintained to minimise corrosion of fuel tanks.
- 4.11 Maintenance and/ or repair of fittings, pipes and hoses shall be in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. A summarised inspection report shall be kept and submitted to the EPA upon request.
- 4.12 Overfill protection shall be installed and maintained on all fuel tanks. This may include an automatic shut off device or an audible or visible overfill alarm.

5.0 NOISE QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000**.
- 5.2 Noise emissions shall be monitored at the Project's boundary to determine compliance with **Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Guidelines for Noise Emissions** into the Environment, not exceeding the **Commercial Limits** listed below:

Commercial Limits: 80 dB (Day-time (06:00 h -18:00 h))
65 dB (Night- time (18:00 h - 06:00 h))

5.3 A **Noise Quality Monitoring Plan** including but not limited to sampling point/s displayed on a map and frequency of sampling shall be submitted to the EPA for approval by **January 31, 2023**.

5.3.1 Monitoring of the parameters above shall be conducted at the approved sampling point/s and the results analysed at a GNBS certified laboratory or trained personnel using calibrated equipment. Analyses shall be submitted to the Agency as part of the Annual Report.

5.4 All machines/equipment shall be serviced in accordance with manufacturer's specification to ensure efficiency and reduce the level of noise produced. A summarised maintenance report shall be maintained on-site and made available to the EPA upon request.

5.5 All equipment and machinery shall be placed upon foundations properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations.

5.6 All significant noise-producing equipment, such as generators, shall be equipped with appropriate silencers or mufflers and/or are enclosed in suitable acoustic enclosures where necessary, to reduce noise levels impacting the surrounding environment to achieve compliance with Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) requirement.

6.0 WATER QUALITY

6.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000**.

6.2 Direct discharge of untreated effluent including biohazardous waste such as bodily fluids into the environment is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.

6.3 Treat all wastewater with a 10% bleach solution prior to discharge into the Georgetown sewerage system. Discharge of wastewater into surface drainage is prohibited.

6.4 Disposal of medical wastes that consist of human cultures that may contain infectious agents into the surrounding drainage system is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.

6.5 Only non-radioactive decontaminated/non-infectious liquids that has been treated shall be disposed of into the Sewerage System.

7.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

7.1 In accordance with the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement)**

Regulations, 2013, promote good sanitation and solid waste disposal practices on site. Covered garbage receptacles shall be placed on an impervious base at strategic locations, both within and outside the facility.

- 7.1.1 Non-hazardous solid waste shall not be burnt at the Project. All solid waste shall be disposed of at sanitary landfill by an EPA Authorised Waste Disposal Company.
- 7.2 Good house-keeping, sanitary, and hygienic practices shall be maintained at all times. The facility's drains and surroundings shall be kept free of vegetation and litter.
 - 7.2.1 Solid waste receptacles shall be secured when not in use.
 - 7.2.2 Waste collection areas shall be kept clean. Dry methods shall be used when cleaning around waste handling and disposal areas (e.g. sweeping, use of absorbents).
- 7.3 Adhere to the requirements of the **Food and Drug Act Cap. 34.03. Laws of Guyana.**
 - 7.3.1 Pharmaceuticals stored by the project should be in accordance with the **Food and Drug Act Cap. 34.03** and associated regulations.
 - 7.3.2 Expired Pharmaceuticals shall be disposed of in accordance with the regulation of the Government Analyst Food and Drug Department (GA-FDD) requirements.
 - 7.3.3 Each disposal of expired and recalled drugs shall be recorded on a Waste Manifest Form and shall be submitted as a component of the **Annual Report.**

8.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 8.1 Notify the Environmental Protection Agency **within one (1) hour** of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies (e.g., oil spills, biohazardous materials/wastes spill, sudden onset disaster, natural, technological or human-induced factors that cause or threaten to cause severe environmental damage as well as harm to human health or livelihood).
- 8.2 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 8.3 Notify the Agency in writing of any change of name or ownership of the Permit Holder's facility within **thirty (30) days** after the change occurs.

- 8.4 Notify the Agency **within twenty-one (21) days** in event of death, bankruptcy, liquidation or receivership of the Permit Holder or if the Company becomes a party to an amalgamation.
- 8.5 Maintain and submit to the Agency records of the type, composition and quantity of contaminant released (i.e., any solid, liquid, gas, odour, sound, vibration, radiation, heat or combination of any of them).
- 8.6 Submit an **Annual Report** to the EPA on your compliance with this Permit on or before **March 31, each year**.
- 8.7 Report to the Agency any non-compliance(s) with the Environmental Permit:
- i. Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Environmental Permit becomes aware of the non-compliance outlining the anticipated manner in which human health or the environment may be impacted.
 - ii. Within **seventy-two (72) hours** of the time the Holder of the Environmental Permit becomes aware of the non-compliance, submit to the Agency a written report containing a description of the non-compliance, its cause, the period of non-compliance including exact dates and time and the anticipated time it is expected to continue if the non-compliance(s) has not been corrected.
- 8.8 Comply with any lawful directions given by the EPA from time-to-time in furtherance of the implementation of any international or other obligation for the environmental protection of Guyana.
- 8.9 It is the responsibility of the Permit Holder to ensure the permitted activity and premises are secured and that all practicable steps necessary to prevent fires, explosions, leaks or suspected leaks and spills at the permitted premises are taken.

9.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/ LIABILITIES

- 9.1 The Permit Holder shall be liable for any material environmental harm caused by polluting the environment, pursuant to s. 39 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.2 The Permit Holder shall be liable for any serious environmental harm caused by polluting the environment, pursuant to s. 39 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.3 The Permit Holder shall be liable for any activity that causes or is likely to cause pollution of the environment unless all reasonable and practicable measures are taken

to prevent or minimize any resulting adverse effect, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.

- 9.4 The Permit Holder shall be liable for discharging, causing or permitting the entry into the environment, of any contaminant in any amount, concentration or level in excess of that prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by this Environmental Permit, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.5 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of contravening conditions 9.3 and 9.4 of this Environmental Permit, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.6 The Permit Holder shall not be indemnified by the Agency for any activity that causes or is likely to cause pollution to the environment, resulting from adverse effects through the discharge, any contaminant in any amount, concentration, ultra-hazardous substances, chemicals or otherwise, and shall be rendered liable to prosecution and to penalties prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act and Regulations.
- 9.7 The Permit Holder shall be liable of any gross negligence or willful misconduct caused by the Permit Holder, his Servants and/or Agents, to the environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release, discharge, or spill, of contaminant fluids, oil or lubricants.
- 9.8 Should the Permit Holder contravene or be likely to contravene any condition of this Permit, the Agency (EPA) may serve on him an Enforcement Notice in accordance with Section 26 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.9 Where it appears to the Agency that the Permit Holder is engaged in any activity that may pose a serious threat to natural resources or the environment, or a risk of serious pollution of the environment or any damage to public health, the EPA may issue to the Permit Holder a Prohibition Notice, which may order him to immediately cease the offending activity, in accordance with Section 27 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.10 The EPA reserves the right to conduct regular inspections of the Permit Holder's construction activities as part of its monitoring and enforcement requirements under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05, and the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 9.11 The Permit Holder, His Servants and/or Agents shall at all times, allow entry to the permitted facility to any Officer designated by the EPA for the purposes of conducting inspections or any other legitimate business of the Agency. Pursuant to Section 38 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, it is an offence to

assault, obstruct or hinder an authorised person in the execution of his/her duty under the said Act or its Regulations and the Permit Holder shall be liable to penalties prescribed under paragraph (c) of the Fifth Schedule for doing so.

- 9.12 The EPA has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 9.13 **This Environmental Permit (Modified) is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.**
- 9.14 This Environmental Permit (Modified) is effective for the period stipulated herein; **October 2022 to September 2027.**
- 9.15 This Environmental Permit (Modified) shall remain valid until **September 30, 2027**, unless otherwise suspended, cancelled, modified or varied, in accordance with the provisions of this Permit or the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 9.16 This Permit must be renewed by submitting a completed *Application Form for Renewal of Environmental Authorization* to the Agency at least six months before this Permit expires, that is, no later than **April 30, 2027.**
- 9.17 Any late submission of renewal application after the specified date as stated above, may require the Permit Holder to pay, in addition to the renewal fee, a late penalty fee (accruing at the time such obligation was first owed for renewal) at a rate of **two thousand dollars (GY\$2000.00) per day for every business day late, until such renewal application is submitted to the Agency**, without prejudice to any other rights of the Permit Holder in connection therewith.
- 9.18 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Permit or with applicable laws and regulations, whether existing or forthcoming, shall render the Permit Holder liable to prosecution and to penalties, inclusive of civil penalties, injunctive relief and imprisonment, as prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection Regulations and other applicable Laws of Guyana.

Signed by *Sharifal Lazack* on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.




Date 2024. 04. 03

Environmental Permit (Modified)-Ref: 20210524-WHCHS

Issued under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

I hereby accept the above terms and conditions upon which this Environmental Permit is granted and agree to abide by the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, and any existing or forthcoming regulations, guidelines, best practices and standards made under this Act.

NAME:	VILAS GOBIN
DATE:	2024-04-12
SIGNATURE:	
DESIGNATION:	MANAGING DIRECTOR

