



Environmental Protection Agency

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Environmental Permit (Renewed)

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.:	20130927- QGCCO
Fee:	Medium (C1) i.e., US\$ 500 per year
Fee Paid:	US\$2,500 for Five (5) years (January 2022- December 2026)
Addressee:	Ms. Luanna Persaud Country Director Qualfon Guyana Inc. Lot 146 Plantation Providence East Bank Demerara
Activity:	Operation of a Sewage Treatment Plant with Fuel Storage (Diesel ONLY)



Qualfon Guyana Inc., 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 the Sewage Treatment Plant with Fuel Storage (Diesel ONLY) at Lot 146, Plantation Providence, East Bank Demerara, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in a manner indicated in the Application for Renewal of Environmental Authorisation submitted on November 20, 2020, 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 Renewal of Environmental Permit, Reference 20130927- QGCCO issued on July 29, 2014 and expired on April 30, 2019.

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

1.0 OPERATION OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

- 1.1 Make an application to the Agency to vary this Permit in instances where it becomes necessary to:
 - i. change the construction, operation, structure, or layout of the facility and all associated buildings;

- ii. change equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility;
- iii. change the position and design of any outlet at the point or points of discharge of effluents; or
- iv. effect any other change outlined in 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.

1.2 Operation, inspection and maintenance of the Sewage Treatment Plant, shall be in accordance with the Delta Environmental- Packaged Wastewater Treatment Plants Manual submitted to the EPA. Inspection and maintenance reports shall be maintained on site and made available to the EPA upon request.

1.3 An **Emergency Response Plan (ERP)** for the Project shall be developed and submitted to the EPA. The Plan shall include, but not be limited to procedures for addressing all possible emergencies including procedures to follow in the event of Plant malfunction, spills and fires, local emergency response authorities, notification of national and local authorities, coordination of clean-up activities and assessment of health hazards to humans and the environment.

1.4 Emergency spill clean-up kits shall be readily available, clearly identified and maintained at the Project site for response to spills. Kits shall contain absorbent materials, drain seals and other appropriate tools for clean-up.

1.5 Obtain and maintain Guyana Fire Service Approval and submit a copy of the approval for the EPA's records.

1.5.1 Fire prevention and control equipment shall be maintained in accordance with this Guyana Fire Service Approval.

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

2.0 WATER QUALITY

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

2.2 Discharge of untreated wastewater into the environment is **strictly prohibited.**

2.3 Record and submit to the EPA, the GPS Coordinates for the final discharge point from the Treatment Plant by **January 31, 2022.**

2.4 A flow meter shall be installed at the discharge point from the Treatment Plant by **March 31, 2022** to monitor the rate of discharge of treated wastewater into the surrounding environment.

2.5 Records of flow rate shall be maintained on site and made available to the EPA upon request.

- 2.6 Discharges from the Treatment Plant into the environment shall be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Interim Guidelines for Industrial Effluent Discharge into the Environment*. The following are the allowable limits for the general environment and should not be exceeded:

Parameter	Daily Maximum Concentration	Units
pH	5.0 – 9.0	
Temperature	40	°C
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	<50	mg/L
Chemical Oxygen Demand	<250	mg/L
Total Nitrogen	<10	mg/L
Total Phosphorus	<2	mg/L
Total Suspended Solids	< 50	mg/L
Faecal Coliform	<400	MPN per 100mL
Oil & Grease	<10	mg/L

A water 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.

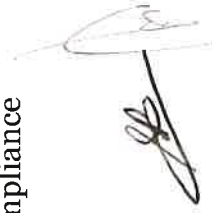
Monitoring of the parameters above shall be conducted at the approved sampling point/s and the results analysed at a GNBS certified laboratory or trained personnel using calibrated equipment. Analyses shall be submitted to the Agency as part of the Annual Report.

- 2.7 Sludge from the Treatment Plant shall be collected and disposed by an EPA Authorised Waste Disposal Company.

3.0 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000.**

- 3.2 Monitor ambient air quality at the boundary of the property to assess compliance with the requisite standards below:



Air Pollutant	Averaging Time	Maximum Permissible Level	Type of Monitoring
Carbon Monoxide	1 h	35ppm	Ambient
Nitrogen Dioxide	1 h	200µg/m ³	Ambient
Sulphur Dioxide	24 h	20 µg/m ³	Ambient

An air 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.

Monitoring of the parameters above shall be conducted at the approved sampling point/s and the results shall be submitted to the Agency as part of the Annual Report.

3.3 In the event of Plant malfunction or **inefficiencies** which may result in visible and or abnormal emissions to air, the operator shall:

- 3-3.1 Investigate and undertake remedial action **immediately**;
- 3-3.2 Adjust the process or activity to minimise those emissions; and
- 3-3.3 Record the events and actions taken. This shall be submitted in the annual report.

4.0 NOISE MANAGEMENT

4.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000.**

4.2 Equip all significant noise-producing equipment, such as generators, with silencers or mufflers and/or enclose in suitable acoustic enclosures where necessary, to reduce noise levels impacting the surrounding environment and to achieve compliance with GNBS requirement.

4.3 Noise emissions shall be monitored at the Project's boundary (frequency to be determined by the Permit Holder and approved by the Agency) 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))

4.4 Measurement shall be done with a calibrated Type 2 Noise Meter, at least 3-5 metres from any reflecting surface and 1.5 above ground. Records of each monitoring exercise shall be maintained and results submitted to the Agency as a component of the project's **Annual Report.**

- 4-5 Service all equipment in accordance with manufacturer's specification to ensure efficiency and reduce the level of noise produced. Inspection and maintenance reports shall be maintained on site and made available to the EPA upon request.

5.0 STORAGE OF CHLORINE

- 5.1 Chlorine shall at all times be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's directions or Safety Data Sheet (SDS) instructions.
- 5.2 Safety Data Sheets for chlorine shall be readily available and easily accessible at all times at the Project.
- 5.3 The Chemical Storage Area shall be clearly labeled with "Danger, Chemical Storage Area- Authorized Personnel Only" where applicable as a spill control measure
- 5.4 A register of the quantities of chlorine stored at the project site shall be established and maintained. Register of information shall be maintained on site and made available to the EPA upon request.
- 5.5 Secondary containment (bundled area) shall be established and maintained around storage areas of all liquid chlorine. The secondary containment shall have:
- i. A volume equivalent to the volume of liquid stored within the largest storage container and;
 - ii. Walls constructed of impermeable materials.
- 5.6 Chlorine containers shall be clearly labelled in accordance with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling. The following must be evident:
- i. Signal Word
 - ii. GHS Symbols- (Hazard Pictograms)
 - iii. Manufacturer Information
 - iv. Precautionary Statements/ First Aid
 - v. Hazard Statements
 - vi. Product Name or Identifiers

- 5.7 Chlorine **shall not** be stored on damaged, or inadequately secured racking or on damaged pallets to minimise risks of spills.

6.0 FUEL HANDLING AND STORAGE

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.

- 6.3 Existing secondary containment around the fuel tanks shall be inspected for cracks and breakage 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.
- 6.4 All secondary containment shall remain sealed and all piping must 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.
- 6.5 The base of the secondary containment of the fuel storage facility shall be of impervious material.
- 6.6 Effluent from the secondary containments shall be pumped to a collection vessel and collected and treated by an EPA Authorised Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility. Discharge from the secondary containment is **Strictly Prohibited**
- 6.7 All collection, treatment and disposal of effluent shall be documented on a Waste Manifest Form which must be submitted to the EPA as a component of the **Annual Report**.
- 6.8 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.
- 6.9 Protection measures for fuel storage tanks such as painting and coating shall be maintained to minimise corrosion of fuel tanks.
- 6.10 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.
- 6.11 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 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 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 upon impervious base at strategic locations, both within and outside facility.
- 5.2 Burning of solid waste is strictly prohibited. All solid waste shall be disposed at an approved Solid Waste Disposal Site.
- 5.3 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.

5-4 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).

6.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

6.1 Notify the Environmental Protection Agency **within one (1) hour** of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies (e.g. oil spills, hazardous 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).

6.2 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.

6.3 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.

6.4 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.

6.5 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).

6.6 Submit an **Annual Report** to the EPA on your compliance with this on or before **March 31, each year.**

6.7 Report to the Agency any non-compliance(s) with the Environmental Permit (Renewed):

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.

6.8 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.

6.9 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.

7.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/ LIABILITIES

7.1 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.

7.2 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.

7.3 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.

7.4 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 excess of that prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by this Environmental Permit (Renewed), pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.

7.5 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of contravening conditions 7.4 and 7.5 of this Environmental Permit (Renewed) pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.

7.6 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.

7.7 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.

7.8 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.

- 7.9 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.
- 7.10 The EPA reserves the right to conduct regular inspections of the Permit Holder's 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.
- 7.11 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.
- 7.12 The EPA has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 7.13 This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 7.14 This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is effective for the period stipulated herein; **January 2022 to December 2026.**
- 7.15 This Environmental Permit (Renewed) shall remain valid until **December 31, 2026**, 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.
- 7.16 This Permit must be renewed by submitting a completed Renewed Application Form for Environmental Authorisation to the Agency at least six months before this Permit expires, that is, no later than **June 30, 2026.**
- 7.17 Any late submission of renewal application (s) after the specified date as stated above, the agency may require the Permit Holder to pay, in addition to 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.

7.18 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 Shankar Laxmi on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Date 2021.12.29

I hereby accept the above terms and conditions upon which this Environmental Permit (Renewed) 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	Madeira Cheria
DATE	January 07, 2022
SIGNATURE	
DESIGNATION	Company Director

