



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



January 9, 2025

Reference No.: 20191029- MASMD

Mr. Mark Anthony Seekwar

No. 78 Village, Corriverton

Corentyne, Berbice

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Ganges Street Sophia, Georgetown Guyana

Dear Mr. Seekwar,

Environmental Permit (Renewed) for the Storage of Mercury

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prepared an Environmental Permit (Renewed) for you to Store Mercury at Lot 34, Race Course, Springlands, Corentyne, Berbice.

Please sign the Environmental Permit (Renewed) to indicate your acceptance of its terms and conditions and agreement to comply with the statutory requirements of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

The cost for the Permit is **US\$500 for Five (5) years (i.e., US\$ 100 per year)**. You are required to pay this fee or its equivalent in Guyana Dollars (GYD) using the Bank of Guyana daily exchange rate. Payment can also be made to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in cash, Manager's, or Personal Cheque in Guyana Dollars (GYD). Please note that Personal Cheques written in United States Dollars (USD) will not be accepted.

Should you have any questions or need clarification, kindly contact **Ms. Lanique John, Environmental Officer 1, EPA's Whim Regional office** on telephone number 337-2201/2207 or email epawhim@epaguyana.org.

Yours sincerely,


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Kemraj Parsram
Executive Director

Attach: Environmental Permit (Renewed)

Guidelines for the Preparation of Environmental Annual Reports

Ganges St., Sophia, Georgetown, GUYANA.

Tel: (592) 225-5467/5471-5472/6044/6048 | Fax: 225-5481



epa@epaguyana.org



www.epaguyana.org



Environmental Protection Agency - Guyana

"The Environment is Everybody's Business"



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

Ganges Street, Sophia,
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Email: epa@epaguyana.org
Website: <http://www.epaguyana.org>

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.:	20191029- MASMD
Fee:	Small (C1) - US\$100 per year
Fees Paid:	US \$500 for Years (5) years – (December 2024 – November 2029)
Addressee:	Mr. Mark Anthony Seekwar No. 78 Village Corentyne Berbice
Activity:	Storage of Mercury

Mr. Mark Anthony Seekwar, 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 Store Mercury at Lot 34, Race Course, Springlands, Corentyne, Berbice, hereinafter referred to as the “Project”, in a manner indicated in the Application for Renewal of Environmental Authorisation submitted on August 27, 2024, 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 the Operation Permit Reference No.: 20191029 - MASMD issued in December 2019, which will expire in November 2024. This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is issued pursuant to the Environmental Protection (Authorisation) Regulations, 2000.

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

1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1. Adhere to the requirements of the **Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws, of Guyana.**
- 1.2. Obtain and maintain approval for the use and management of toxic chemicals from the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board. *A copy of this Approval shall be kept on-*

21/02/2025
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Environmental Permit (Renewed) – 20191029 - MASMD

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

site and made available to the EPA upon request.

- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. Notify the EPA of all third parties/agents/sub-contractors permitted to store mercury at Lot 34, Race Course, Springlands, Corentyne, Berbice, or carry out any other aspect in relation to this project, **within three (3) working days** before their retention.
 - 1.4.1. Where no objection is communicated to you following the notification referred to in Condition 1.4, the said third party/sub-contractor is deemed approved to carry out the respective aspect of this project in accordance with this Permit.
 - 1.4.2. The terms and conditions of this Permit are binding upon the Permit Holder, and the Permit Holder is responsible for any violations made hereunder by the Permit Holder, and all employees, agents, third parties, and sub-contractors.
- 1.5. An **Emergency Response Plan (ERP)** shall be submitted by **December 2024** and maintained for the project. The Plan shall include, but not be limited to procedures for addressing all possible emergencies including spills, 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.
- 1.6. Emergency spill clean-up kits shall be maintained on-site for spill response.
 - 1.6.1 The kit must contain absorbent materials, drain seals, and other appropriate tools for clean-up.
 - 1.6.2 Kits must be readily available and easily accessible in the event of an emergency.
- 1.7. The Safety Data Sheet for Mercury shall be located on-site and easily accessible to staff and other officials visiting the site.
- 1.8. The Mercury Storage area **MUST** be marked with warning signs containing the following information:

“Warning: Toxic Mercury Storage Area”
- 1.9. The flooring in the storage area shall be covered with mercury-resistant materials, such as an epoxy coating, and should be light-coloured to allow the detection of mercury

droplets/ leakage.

- 1.10 Where indoor air is vented outside, particularly from storage and handling areas, such venting shall be done via activated carbon or other mercury capture systems.
- 1.11 A register/record of the quantities of mercury stored on site shall be maintained. This register should include the following information:
- 1.11.1 The quantity of mercury imported;
 - 1.11.2 The quantity of mercury stored at the location;
 - 1.11.3 The list of purchasers, including the quantity of mercury and the date it was purchased.

The registered information shall be kept on-site, made available to the EPA upon request, and submitted as a component of the Annual Report highlighted in **condition 4.6**.

- 1.12 Flasks within which mercury is stored shall meet the following criteria:
- 1.12.1 Must not be damaged from any materials previously stored in them or have contained materials that could adversely react with mercury;
 - 1.12.2 Must not be excessively corroded;
 - 1.12.3 Must have a protective coating (paint) to prevent corrosion;
 - 1.12.4 Must be gas and liquid-tight.
- 1.14 Storage flask labels shall include the following information:
- 1.14.1 The names of the suppliers of the mercury;
 - 1.14.2 The level and purity of the mercury;
 - 1.14.3 The gross and net weight;
 - 1.14.4 The date when the mercury was injected into the flask;
 - 1.14.5 A "corrosives" label indicates that the container contains corrosive materials.
- 1.15 Mercury shall be transported by an EPA-authorised transportation provider. Personnel who are transporting mercury shall be trained in emergency response as well as mercury handling and transport.

2.0 WATER QUALITY

- 2.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000**.
- 2.2 The stormwater discharge shall be directed away from the Mercury Storage Area.
- 2.3 Any **mercury spills** occurring during the handling and loading of these materials **shall be** immediately cleaned and disposed of as guided by the Safety Data Sheet.

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- 2.4 Mercury shall not be stored outside to prevent the release of mercury into the soil, surface water, or groundwater.
- 2.5 Mercury storage area shall be properly secured and have restrictive access.
- 2.6 Storage area floors shall not be penetrated by any drains or plumbing to avoid trapping mercury in unwanted areas and to facilitate the collection of spills.

3.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 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 bases at strategic locations, both within and outside the facility.
- 3.2 Solid waste shall not be burnt on site. All solid waste shall be disposed of by an EPA Authorised Waste Disposal Company.
- 3.3 Good housekeeping, sanitary, and hygienic practices shall be maintained at all times.
- 3.4 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).

4.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 4.1 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).
- 4.2 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 Notify the Agency **within twenty-one (21) days** in the event of death, bankruptcy, liquidation or receivership of the Permit Holder or if the Company becomes a party to an amalgamation.
- 4.5 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).
- 4.6 Submit an **Annual Report** to the EPA on the progress of the operation and compliance

with the conditions under which this Permit was granted on **or before March 31, each year.**

- 4.7 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 Authorisation 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.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 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.

5.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/ LIABILITIES

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 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, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 5.5 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of contravening conditions 5.3 and 5.4 of this Environmental Permit pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.

Environmental Permit (Renewed) – 20191029 - MASMD

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- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 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.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 The EPA has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 5.13 **This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.**
- 5.14 This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is effective for the period stipulated herein; **(December 2024 – November 2029).**

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

- 5.15 This Environmental Permit (Renewed) shall remain valid until **November 30, 2029**, 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.
- 5.16 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 **May 31, 2029**.
- 5.17 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.
- 5.18 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.

Signed by



on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency

Date


7-1-25

Handwritten signature and date: 2/10/2025

Environmental Permit (Renewed) – 20191029 - MASMD

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 (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 forthcoming regulations, guidelines, best practices, and standards made under this Act.

NAME	DAVID ALI
DATE	21 st Feb 2025
SIGNATURE	
DESIGNATION	Assessor

