



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

Ganges Street, Sophia,
Georgetown, GUYANA.
Tel.: (592)-225-5467 / 5468 / 5469
Fax: (592) 225-5481
Email: epa@epaguyana.org
Website: www.epaguyana.org

Environmental Permit

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

Reference No.:	20230713-DVAPC
Fees:	Small (C1) US\$500 (5 years) i.e., US\$ 100 per year
Fees Paid:	US\$ 500 (February, 2024 – January 2029)
Addressee (s):	Dr. Vanita Ally Medical Director Phoenix Clinicare Inc Lot 107, Marigold Street Springlands, Corriverton Berbice
Activity:	Construction and Operation of a Medical Facility

Phoenix Clinicare Inc., hereinafter referred to as the “Permit Holder”, is hereby authorised in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, for the Construction and Operation of a Medical Facility at Lot 6, Springlands, Corriverton, Berbice, hereinafter referred to as the “Project”, in a manner indicated in the Application for Environmental Authorisation submitted on July 13, 2023 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.

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. Change the construction, operation, structure, or layout of the facility, plant, or building;

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- ii. Change and/or install new equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system, or technology serving the facility or operation;
- 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 (Authorisation) Regulations.

1.2 Operations shall adhere to the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws of Guyana.

- 1.3 All employees and third parties under the Project's direction shall be made aware of the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation.
- 1.4 The project shall provide employees and third parties training on good environmental practices. Training records shall be maintained on-site and made available to the EPA upon request.
- 1.5 All chemicals within the Clinic shall be stored and handled in accordance with their respective Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) so as to minimize and/or avoid cross-contamination.
- 1.6 Material and Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)/Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all chemicals used at the Clinic shall be stored at a central location.
- 1.7 Construction works shall not be executed between 18:00 hrs. to 6:00 hrs., on any day, close to communal areas unless, approval is sought from the EPA. This requirement does not apply to large concrete pours or asphalt laying and earth removal where work in the early morning and late evening is required.
- 1.8 All equipment used shall be monitored and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. A maintenance schedule shall be made available to the EPA upon request.
- 1.9 Upon completion of the works remove all barriers, equipment/materials staging areas, and all support infrastructure, facilities, and equipment in accordance with documents and plans submitted to the Agency.

2.0 RADIATION

- 2.1 Signage to indicate the use of radiation-emitting devices shall be placed in or around areas where such devices are operated, for identification, safety, and security.

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- 2.2 Occupational radiation exposures shall be recorded via personal dosimeters. Dosimeters can be supplied and processed through a commercial dosimeter service.
- 2.3 Occupational radiation exposure shall not exceed an annual dose of 20 mSv (millisievert) as recommended by the International Atomic Energy Agency.
- 2.4 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as leaded aprons; leaded glasses and protective gloves shall be provided for all employees working in Radiology.
- 2.5 X-ray equipment shall be correctly used and maintained according to Manufacturer's specifications, by competently trained personnel.

3.0 WATER QUALITY AND SOIL MANAGEMENT

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

- 3.1 Direct discharge of untreated effluent including biohazardous waste such as bodily fluids into the environment is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**
- 3.2 Only non-radioactive decontaminated/non-infectious liquids that have been treated shall be disposed of into the environment.
- 3.3 Solid waste shall not be disposed of in the surface drain. All surrounding drains shall be maintained to ensure the free flow of water.
- 3.4 Radioactive decontaminated or infectious liquids shall not be disposed of in the waterways.
- 3.5 Chemicals used in the treatment of wastewater shall be properly stored. Additionally, such chemicals shall be used in the recommended quantity to prevent excess discharge into the waterways.
- 3.6 Avoid erosion, siltation, and sedimentation of existing water bodies within the vicinity of the project site. Do not discharge wastewater from washout and/or cleanout of concrete, paint, and other construction materials into waterways unless appropriately treated.
- 3.7 Construct and maintain drainage capable of handling the probable maximum precipitation event
- 3.8 Avoid soil and water contamination from fuel, grease, waste oils, and other petroleum products that might be used at the facility.

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4.0 AIR QUALITY

Strictly comply with the **Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000**

- 4.1 All staff whose functions could impact air emissions from activities on their functions shall be trained in the following:
- i. Awareness of their responsibilities under this Permit.
 - ii. Necessary steps to minimise emissions into the environment.
 - iii. Actions to be taken when there are abnormal conditions or accidents that could, if not controlled, result in emissions.
- 4.2 Maintenance of the generator and air conditioning units shall be conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications to control the release of fugitive air emissions.
- 4.3 The exhaust stack for the generator shall be at least 2 meters above the tallest building.
- 4.4 Best Available Practices shall be implemented to manage odour nuisances.
- 4.5 Refrigerant (CFC) gases shall be handled in accordance with the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) during installation, maintenance, and decommissioning to protect the ozone layer.

5.0 NOISE MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Guidelines for Noise Emission into the Environment*, not exceeding the limits at a distance of 15 metres (50 feet) from the source or property boundary, whichever is closer.

During Construction:

Construction Limits: **80 dB during the daytime (06:00 h – 18:00 h)**
65 dB during the night-time (18:00 h – 06:00 h)

During Operation:

Residential Limits: **75 dB during the daytime (06:00 h – 18:00 h)**
60 dB during the night-time (18:00 h – 06:00 h)

- 5.2 All sound-making devices, such as generators, shall be enclosed within structures made of good insulation materials (e.g., hollow concrete blocks, insulation boards, solid clay bricks, etc.) and equipped with silencers or mufflers to reduce the noise level.

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6.0 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The Permit Holder shall obtain and maintain fire prevention and control equipment in accordance with the Guyana Fire Service Approval and shall be submitted a copy of maintenance records as a component of the Annual Report. Further,
- 6.1.1 Maintain adequate fire protection measures such as the placement of fighting equipment e.g. fire extinguishers and sand buckets, at visible locations on site, in accordance with the guidelines established by the Guyana Fire Service.
 - 6.1.2 All firefighting equipment **MUST** be regularly maintained and/or serviced and training, on the use of all equipment, **MUST** be provided to all employees.
- 6.2 Submit to the Agency, within **thirty 30 working days** of issuance of this Permit, a written Emergency Evacuation Plan for the constructed building.
- 6.3 Maintain an updated **evacuation plan** for the Clinic. The evacuation floor plan **MUST** be posted on each floor of the facility in a conspicuous location.
- 6.4 Install an alarm system and ensure that all employees are aware of the emergency response protocol and their duties and responsibilities according to the evacuation plan.
- 6.5 The fire escape routes shall be clearly defined and emergency lighting shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of the Guyana Fire Service.

7.0 BIO-HAZARDOUS AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

All operations shall adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations 2000**.

- 7.1 Waste shall be segregated at the point of generation. Infectious and hazardous wastes should be segregated according to their respective category using a color-coded system.
- 7.2 The disposal of sharps shall not incorporate; cutting, breaking, bending, or any other manipulation.
- 7.3 Used sharps shall be placed in containers that meet the following requirements:
- i. Rigid;
 - ii. Puncture resistant;
 - iii. Impervious to moisture, leak, and shatterproof;

- iv. Displays the universal biohazard 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 from removing sharps from the container.
- 7.4 Procedures and mechanisms to govern the separation of urine, faeces, blood, vomit, and other wastes from patients treated with genotoxic drugs shall be maintained and recorded. Records shall be made available to the EPA upon Request.
- 7.5 A storage area shall be provided for the storage of packaged hazardous waste. The following design and operation considerations should be implemented for the waste storage facility:
 - i. The area should be located within the Clinic and sized to hold the anticipated quantities of waste generated.
 - ii. The area must be secure and access restricted to authorised personnel only.
 - iii. Warning signs and biohazard symbols must be posted on the facility.
 - iv. The area should have a hard, impermeable floor with drainage, and be designed to withstand cleaning/disinfection, without cracking, breaking, or other damage which would prevent effective disinfection.
 - v. The area should have easy access to waste collection vehicles.
 - vi. The area must be protected from contamination and contact with water, rain, wind, and animals. Measures should be taken to ensure the area does not become a breeding ground for vermin.
- 7.6 Personal Protective Equipment shall be provided for persons involved in waste management including overalls/industrial aprons, leg protectors, boots, heavy-duty gloves, helmets, visors/face masks, and eye protection and respirators in accordance with the functional duties of the employees.
- 7.7 The use of digital medical devices (e.g., thermometers and blood pressure devices) shall be given preference over mercury-based devices. In instances where mercury waste is generated, the waste shall be segregated for disposal as approved by the EPA.
- 7.8 Good sanitation and solid waste disposal practices shall be promoted on-site; covered garbage receptacles must be placed at strategic locations, both within and outside the facility. Wastes must be collected and disposed of at an approved waste disposal facility.
- 7.9 Waste streams shall be segregated as follows and disposal records shall be submitted as a component of the Annual Report:
 - 7.9.1 Laboratory/hazardous waste shall be disposed of by an EPA-
authorised facility.

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8.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 8.1 Notify the Environmental Protection Agency within **one (1) hour** of the discovery of the occurrence of 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). Notification as prescribed by Section 19(3)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act, shall be submitted to the EPA within **twenty-four (24) hours** of discovery of the incident occurring.
- 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 Environmental Permit on or before **March 31, each year**.
- 8.7 Report to the Agency of non-compliance 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

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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 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 7.3 and 7.4 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 wilful 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.

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- 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 activities as part of its monitoring and enforcement requirements under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05, 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 is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.**
- 9.14 The Environmental Permit (Modified) is effective for the period stipulated herein from **February 2024 to January 2029**.
- 9.15 This Environmental Permit (Modified) shall remain valid until **January 31, 2028**, unless otherwise suspended, cancelled, modified, or varied in accordance with the provisions of this Permit or the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 9.16 This Permit shall be renewed by submitting a completed Application Form for Environmental Authorisation (Environmental Permit) to the Agency at least six months before this Permit expires, that is, no later than **July 31, 2028**.
- 9.17 Any late submission of renewal application(s) 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 (\$2,000.00) per day for every day late**, until such renewal application is submitted to the Agency, without prejudice to any other

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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 *Kemraj Parsram* on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Kemraj Parsram
Executive Director

Executive Director

Date

2024-02-07

I hereby accept the above terms and conditions upon which this Environmental Permit is granted and agree to abide by the Environmental Protection Act, 1996, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000, and any forthcoming regulations and standards made under this Act.

NAME	VANITA ALLY
DESTINATION	MEDICAL DIRECTOR
SIGNATURE	<i>Vanita Ally</i>
DATE	28/03/2024

