



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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Environmental Permit

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.:	20231024_SJMHH
Fee:	Medium (C2) i.e., US\$500 per year
Fee to be Paid:	US \$ 2500 for Five (5) Years (June 2024 to May 2029)
Addressee:	St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Mr. Col.(ref) Enoch W. Gaskin 130-132 Parade Street, Kingston, Georgetown, Guyana.
Activity:	Management of Medical Waste

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital 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 Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, for the Management of Medical Waste at 130-132 Parade Street, Kingston, Georgetown hereinafter referred to as the “Project”, in the manner indicated in the Application for Environmental Authorisation submitted on October 24, 2023, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, existing and/or forthcoming regulations made under the said Act, and/or any other 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 OPERATION

- 1.1 An application shall be made to the Agency to vary this Permit in instances where it becomes necessary to:
- change the construction, operation, structure, or layout of the facility and all associated buildings;
 - change equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility;
 - change the position and design of any outlet at the point or points of discharge of effluents; or
 - effect any other change outlined in 20(3) of the Environmental Protection

(Authorisations) Regulations.

- 1.2 All employees and third parties under the Project's direction shall be made aware of the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation.
- 1.3 A register of the types and quantities of chemical reagents managed at the Project shall be established and maintained. The registered information shall be summarized and made available for inspection by the EPA upon request.
- 1.4 Chemical Reagents shall be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's directions or Safety Data Sheet (SDS) instructions.
- 1.5 Safety Data Sheets for all Chemical Reagents shall be readily available and easily accessible at all times at the Project.
- 1.6 **The Permit Holder shall submit to the Agency upon receipt, Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA) approval for the Operation of a Hospital.**
- 1.7 Emergency spill cleanup kits for spills of chemical reagents shall be maintained at the facility. Kits shall contain absorbent materials and other appropriate tools for clean-up.
- 1.8 The Guyana Fire Service approval shall be maintained and fire protection measures such as fire extinguishers and sand buckets shall be provided and service in accordance with this approval.
- 1.9 Adhere to the requirements of the **Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:06, 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 mixed or contaminated with medical waste shall be treated as bio-hazardous waste.
- 2.3 An Occupational Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Training Schedule for staff involved in the collection, storage, and handling of bio-hazardous waste shall be maintained and made available for inspection by the EPA upon request.
- 2.4 Bio-hazardous wastes shall be identified and segregated according to category, at the point of generation.
- 2.5 Bio-hazardous wastes shall be properly labeled and color-coded. Labelling can include words such as **"Infectious Substances", "Bio Hazardous Waste" and "Bio Hazard"**.

- 2.6 Putrescible medical waste shall be refrigerated at **40 °F (4° C)** or below.
- 2.7 Disposal of sharps shall **NOT** incorporate cutting, breaking, bending, or any other manipulation.
- 2.8 Staff are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** from washing/cleaning sharps before disposal.
- 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 shatterproof;
 - iv. Displays 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 from removing sharps from the container.
- 2.10 The use of mercury-based medical devices (e.g., thermometers and blood pressure devices) should be avoided and replace with digital alternatives. In instances where mercury waste is generated, the waste shall be segregated for disposal.
- 2.11 Bio-hazardous waste containers shall adhere to the following particulars of appropriate labelling:
- i. Name (location);
 - ii. Date;
 - iii. Type of Waste;
 - iv. List of Content; and
 - v. Quantity.
- 2.12 Storage of Bio-hazardous waste shall **not exceed thirty (30) days**. The thirty-day period commences when the first item is placed into the designated storage container.
- 2.13 All bio-hazardous waste shall be collected, treated, and disposed of by an EPA authorised facility.
- 2.14 The Project shall retain a signed copy of the **Waste Manifest Form**, submitted by the Hazardous Waste Transporter, for a period of three years. The copies shall be maintained on-site, and an annual summary of these records shall be submitted to the EPA as a component of the **Annual Report**.
- 2.15 All Bio-hazardous Waste Storage areas shall be clearly labeled, secured, and well-illuminated when not in use. The following warning signs shall be clearly posted:
- i. "Biohazardous Waste Storage Area"
 - ii. Danger- "Authorized Personnel Only"
 - iii. No Smoking
 - iv. No Eating or Drinking

- 2.16 The Bio-hazardous waste storage area shall be maintained in accordance with the following conditions:
- 2.16.1 The collection and storage of liquid bio-hazardous is **strictly prohibited**;
 - 2.16.2 The area shall be secure and access restricted to authorized personnel only;
 - 2.16.3 Warning signs and biohazard symbols shall be posted on the facility;
 - 2.16.4 The area shall have a hard, impermeable floor with drainage and designed to withstand cleaning/disinfection without cracking, breaking, or other damage that would prevent effective disinfection;
 - 2.16.5 The area shall have easy access to waste collection vehicles and,
 - 2.16.6 The area shall be protected from contamination and contact with water, rain, wind, and animals. Measures shall be taken to ensure the area does not become a breeding ground for vermin.

2.17 Cadavers and waste contaminated by cadavers shall be disposed of via incineration. Records of disposal via incineration shall be maintained and made available to the EPA upon request.

2.18 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**.

3.0 STORAGE & USE OF RADIOACTIVE DEVICES

3.1 Adhere to “**Part IV Diagnostic Imaging Facilities**” of **Guyana’s Health Facilities Regulations**.

3.2 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.

3.3 Occupational radiation exposures shall be recorded via personal dosimeters. Dosimeters can be supplied and processed through a commercial dosimeter service.

3.4 Occupational radiation exposure shall not exceed an annual dose of 20 mSv (millisievert) as recommended by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

~~3.5 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as leaded aprons, leaded glasses and protective gloves shall be provided for all employees working in Radiology.~~

3.6 X-ray equipment shall be correctly used and maintained according to Manufacturer’s specifications, by competently trained personnel.

4.0 FUEL HANDLING AND STORAGE (DIESEL ONLY)

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 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.

- 4.3 Existing secondary containment around the fuel tanks shall be inspected monthly for cracks and breakage to ensure they are liquid-tight to withstand hydrostatic pressure of any contained liquid when full. A summarized inspection report shall be kept and provided to the EPA upon request.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 Fuel storage tanks shall be visually inspected to verify their integrity. A summarised inspection report shall be kept and provided to the EPA upon request.
- 4.6 Protection measures for fuel storage tanks such as painting and coating shall be maintained to minimise corrosion of fuel tanks.
- 4.7 Maintenance and/ or repair of fittings, pipes, and hoses shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. A summarised inspection report shall be kept and submitted to the EPA upon request.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 The safe fill level shall be clearly identified on the gauge and set at 90% to prevent overfilling. In the event of overfilling, all discharges shall be released into the containment bund.

5.0 NOISE MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000.**
- 5.2 All significant noise-producing equipment, such as generators, shall be equipped with silencers or mufflers and/or be 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.
- 5.3 Noise emissions from the operation shall be monitored at the property boundary to determine compliance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Guidelines for Noise Emission into the Environment.

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

6.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 In accordance with the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013**, promote good sanitation and solid waste disposal practices at the Funeral Parlour; covered garbage receptacles must be placed at strategic locations at the facility.
- 6.2 Burning of solid waste **is strictly prohibited**. All solid waste shall be disposed of by an EPA-Authorised Waste Disposal Company.
- 6.3 Good housekeeping, sanitary, and hygienic practices shall be maintained at all times. The facility's drains and surroundings shall be kept free of vegetation and litter.
- 6.4 Promote waste minimization and the reuse and/or recycling of waste and other materials where practical.
- 6.5 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).
- 6.6 The Permit Holder shall maintain a septic tank system on site in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Code of Practice for the Design and Construction of Septic Tanks and Associated Secondary Treatment and Disposal Systems*:
- i) The septic tank shall not be located within 1.5 meters of a building or property boundary;
 - ii) septic tanks shall be installed with a sand and charcoal filter bed or other appropriate design for further treatment; and
 - iii) shall be accessible for cleaning and de-sludging.
- 6.7 Any modification to the Septic tank shall be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Code of Practice for the Design and Construction of Septic Tanks and Associated Secondary Treatment and Disposal Systems*

7.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 7.1 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).
- 7.2 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 7.3 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.


- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 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).
- 7.6 Submit an **Annual Report** to the EPA on your compliance with this Permit on or before **March 31, of each year**.
- 7.7 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.
- 7.8 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.
- 7.9 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.

8.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/ LIABILITIES

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 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.

- 8.4** 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.
- 8.5** The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of contravening conditions 8.4 and 8.5 of this Environmental Permit, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 8.6** 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, of 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.
- 8.7** The Permit Holder shall be liable for 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.
- 8.8** Shall 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.
- 8.9** 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.
- 8.10** 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.
- 8.11** 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 offense 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.

- 8.12** The EPA has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 8.13** **This Environmental Permit is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions shall be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.**
- 8.14** This Environmental Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein; **June 2024 to May 2029.**
- 8.15** This Environmental Permit shall remain valid until **May 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.
- 8.16** This Permit shall 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 **November 30, 2028.**
- 8.17** 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.
- 8.18** 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  on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.
Kemraj Parsram
Executive Director

Date 2024.06.07

I hereby accept the above terms and conditions upon which this Environmental Permit is granted and agree to abide by the Environmental Protection Act, 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:	DAVID JOHNSON
DATE:	26/06/2024
SIGNATURE:	D. Johnson
DESIGNATION:	OFFICE ASSISTANT

