



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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Environmental Permit (Interim)

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.:	20240730-PRASM
Fee:	Small (C2) i.e., US \$ 175 Per Year
Fee Paid:	US\$ 175 for One (1) Year (September 2024- August 2025)
Addressee:	Mr Persaram Ramdat General Manager AGROSOL Central Rupununi Lethem
Activity:	Interim Environmental Permit for Storage of Mercury

AGROSOL 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, for the Storage of Mercury at Lot 18, Mon Repos North, East Coast Demerara, hereinafter referred to as the “Project”, in a manner indicated in the Application for Environmental Authorisation submitted on July 30, 2024, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, existing and/or forthcoming Regulations made under the said Act, and/or any applicable 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

- 1.1 This Interim Permit is issued pursuant to Regulation 18(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations 2000, for a period of one (1) year commencing September 2024 and ending August 2025.
- 1.2 The Permit Holder is required to 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.
- 1.3 The Agency may cancel, suspend, or modify this Permit, in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, for any reason thereunder, or as included herein.

- 1.4 **Any modification, suspension, or cancellation of the aforementioned approvals in Condition 1.2 relevant to the execution of the Project, may result in the modification, suspension, or cancellation of this Interim Environmental Permit by the Agency. Any such modification, suspension, and/or cancellation of any of these approvals shall be communicated in writing to the Agency within three (3) days of receipt by the Permit Holder.**
- 1.5 **Failure to submit the data, and such further environmental information referred to in this Interim Permit, or required by the EPA after its issuance, within the timelines stipulated herein or by the EPA, may result in the modification, suspension or cancellation of this Interim Environmental Permit by the Agency.**
- 1.6 **Upon expiration of this Permit or its cancellation by the Agency, activities may only commence or resume upon the issuance of a full, valid Environmental Permit by the Agency, subject to the procedures stipulated by Section 11 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, for which the Agency provides no guarantees or assurances.**
- 1.7 **All activities outlined under this Interim Environmental Permit shall be conducted by qualified experts utilizing calibrated equipment where applicable.**
- 1.8 **The Permit Holder accepts, concedes, and agrees unequivocally that under no circumstances whatsoever shall the Agency assume any liability for expenses incurred, loss of revenues, delays, or any other losses or damages whatsoever, related to the activities undertaken by the Permit Holder hereunder, and that the Agency provides no guarantees or assurances that a full valid Environmental Permit will be issued upon the expiry or cancellation of this Interim Permit. The Permit Holder agrees to indemnify the Agency against any and all liabilities, including but not limited to judgements, costs, and legal fees, and proceeds with this Project in accordance with this Interim Permit in full acknowledgement and agreement with the foregoing.**

2.0 BASELINE DATA

The Permit Holder shall provide the following within **three (3) months** of the issuance of this Interim Environmental Permit.

- 2.1 A detailed description of the Project including but not limited to:
 - I. Features of the mercury storage area, including any forms of secondary containment such as bund walls; the material used to construct the base of the storage area; and measures to secure the area.
 - II. Purpose for which mercury is being stored e.g., retail etc.



- III. How mercury is being stored, including the type and number of containers; stacking, stack height and base.
- IV. Method used to transport mercury.
- V. Potential impacts from the project operations.

3.0 MAPS

- 3.1 The Permit Holder shall submit within three (3) Months after issuance of this Interim Environmental Permit, a detailed map showing the layout of the operation

4.0 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

The Permit Holder shall provide the following within **three (3) months** of the issuance of this Interim Environmental Permit.

- 4.1 The Permit Holder shall submit an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for the Storage of Mercury to the Agency for approval, which shall include but not be limited to the following areas: -
 - i. Safety codes in the mercury storage area;
 - ii. Labeling;
 - iii. Inspection;
 - iv. Inventory
 - v. Mercury Spill Kit
- 4.2 The ERP shall clearly outline and identify Mechanisms, protocols and implementation schedules, responsibilities, and associated costs. The safety policy for this refinery must be clearly articulated by the company.

5.0 OPERATION

- 5.1 Adhere to the requirements of the **Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws, of Guyana.**
- 5.2 Obtain approval for the use and management of toxic chemicals shall be obtained from the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board. A copy of this Approval shall be kept on-site and made available to the EPA upon request.
- 5.3 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.

- 5.4 Emergency spill clean-up kits shall be maintained at the Project for response to spills. Kits must contain absorbent materials, drain seals, and other appropriate tools for clean-up. Kits must be readily available and identified at the Project.
- 5.5 The Safety Data Sheet for Mercury shall be located on-site and easily accessible to staff and other officials visiting the site.
- 5.6 The Mercury Storage area shall be marked with warning signs containing the following information:
- “Warning: Toxic Mercury Storage Area”**
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 Where indoor air is vented outside, particularly from the storage and handling area, such venting shall be done via activated carbon or other mercury capture systems.
- 5.9 A register of the quantities of mercury stored on site shall be maintained. The registered information shall be kept on-site and made available to the EPA upon request.
- 5.10 Flasks within which mercury is stored shall meet the following criteria:
- Must not be damaged from any materials previously stored in them or have contained materials that could adversely react with mercury;
 - Must not be excessively corroded;
 - Must have a protective coating (paint) to prevent corrosion;
 - Must be gas and liquid-tight.
- 5.11 Storage flask labels shall include the following information:
- The names of the suppliers of the mercury;
 - The level and purity of the mercury;
 - The gross and net weight;
 - The date when the mercury was injected into the flask;
 - A “corrosives” label indicating that the container contains corrosive materials.
- 5.12. 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.

6.0 WATER QUALITY

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

6.2 Stormwater discharge shall be directed away from the Mercury Storage Area.

6.3 Any **mercury spills** occurring during handling and loading of these materials, **shall be** immediately cleaned and disposed of as guided by the respective Safety Data Sheet.

6.4 Mercury shall not be stored outside to prevent the release of mercury into soil, surface water or groundwater.

6.5 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.

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 upon impervious bases at strategic locations, both within and outside the facility.

7.2 Solid waste shall not be burnt on site. All solid waste shall be disposed by an EPA Authorised Waste Disposal Company.

7.3 Good housekeeping, sanitary, and hygienic practices shall be maintained at all times.

7.4 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).

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 the 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 the 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 Report to the Agency on 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.
- 8.7 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.
- 8.8 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.
- 8.9 Obtain an Export Permit for each shipment of Used Lead Acid Batteries under the Basel Convention for Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.
- 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 11.3 and 11.4 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.
- 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

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terms and conditions contained herein.

- 9.13 **This Interim Permit is not the final consent. All relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.**
- 9.14 The Environmental Permit (Interim) is effective for the period stipulated herein from **September 2024 to August 2025.**
- 9.15 This Interim Permit shall remain valid until **August 31, 2025**, 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 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 *Shanifah Kayash* on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Kemraj Parsram
Executive Director
Executive Director

Date 2024.08.23

I hereby accept the above terms and conditions upon which this Environmental Permit (Interim) 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	<i>Aaron Ramroop for Persaram Ramdof</i>
DATE	<i>23-08-2024</i>
SIGNATURE	<i>[Signature]</i>
DESIGNATION	<i>Supervisor</i>

