

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Decision Storage of Agro-Chemicals and Automotive Lubricants

1 SUMMARY OF THE EXISTING PROJECT

Massy Motors Guyana Ltd. is an importer of automotive lubricants and agro chemicals which are stored at Lot 3 Strand, New Amsterdam, Berbice. The agro-chemicals are liquid in form and 75% are classified as toxic and eco-toxic (poisonous) to the aquatic environment if used inappropriately in significant concentrations/amounts. Further, they are heavily utilized in the agriculture industry as insecticides and herbicides. The lubricants pose minimal risk to flammability since they have a flash point of above 199.5°F (93 °C).

The project has the capacity to store approximately 500,000 liters of lubricants and over 32, 000 liters of agro-chemicals. The project occupies approximately 2.04 acres of land, bounded to the east by the Strand Main Road, to the west by the Berbice River, north by Kissoons Furniture and south-east by a commercial building. The area surrounding the project is mixed with commercial, industrial, and residential activities, with the closest resident being approximately 8 meters south of the project location.

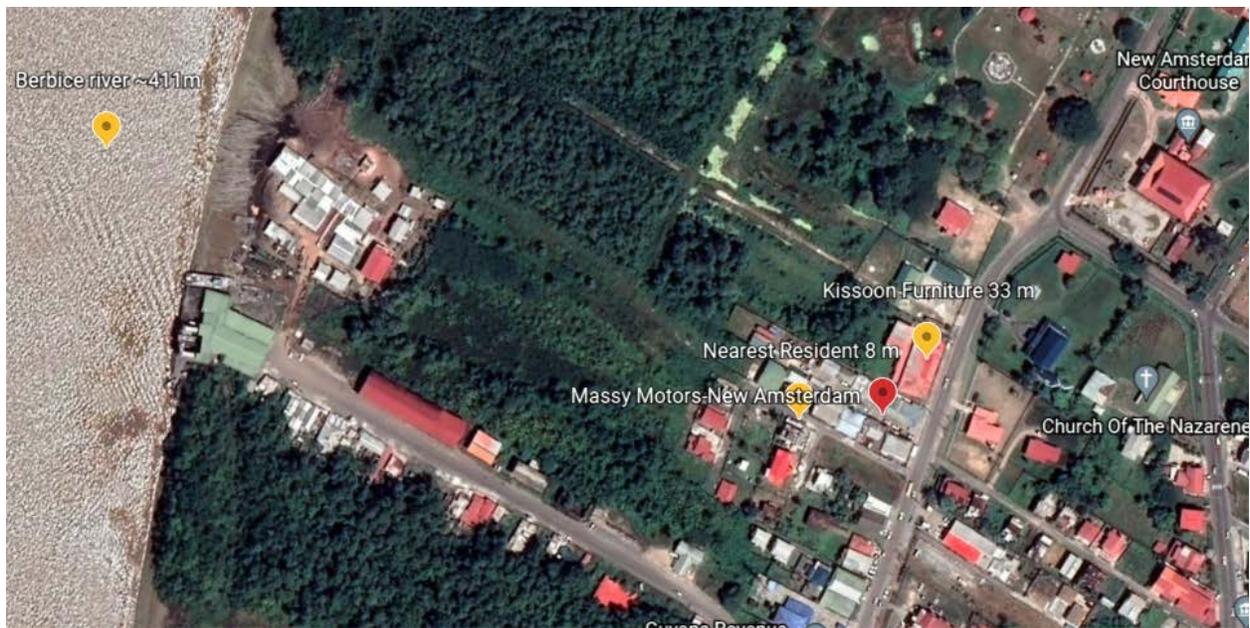


Figure 1: Massy Motors Guyana Ltd-New Amsterdam Location



2 POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS AND SCREENING DECISION

The EPA based on existing data, its technical review, observations/field inspections and exercise of its discretion has determined the following:

✓ Spills and Accidents Impacting Surface Water and Soil

The main potential impact to surface water and soil is direct contamination from spills or accidental release of agro-chemicals and lubricants. This potential impact to surface water is specifically applicable to immediate surrounding surface water and environment of the project. If this impact was to occur, the magnitude may be minor as a result of the nature of the agro-chemicals and lubricants and can affect fauna and flora and water quality.

This impact however is not expected to be continuous and is expected to be short term, and with a functional recovery in short duration given the proposed management measures (see below).

Further, while the impact may occur, the likelihood of occurrence is unlikely given the following:

1. Chemicals and Lubricants will be segregated and stored based on the hazardous composition and in keeping with the Safety Data Sheets
2. Both the agro-chemicals and the automotive lubricants will be stored within secondary banded areas, with a capacity to store 110% of the largest volume contained therein.
3. Agro chemicals and lubricants will be stored in containers appropriate for the respective hazardous compound and storage will not exceed the maximum capacity of the project.
4. Management and mitigation measures being utilized include an established Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to address any spill
5. Storage sites are outfitted with spill kits and the respective chemical and lubricant Safety Data Sheet (SDS)
6. Staff are trained in hazardous material management and to respond to accidental release of chemicals.
7. Lubricant contaminated water will pass through an oil water separator prior to discharge into the environment.

Conclusion and recommendations

The overall significance of environmental impacts of this project is considered to be low (minor magnitude and unlikely to occur) and appropriate management measures and emergency response capabilities are in place. Therefore, this existing project is exempt from the conduct of an Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), as set out in section 11(2) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.