



Environmental Protection Agency

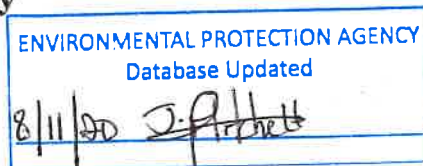
Ganges Street, Sophia,
Georgetown, GUYANA
Tel.: (592)-225-0506
Fax: (592) - 225- 5481
Email: epa@epaguyana.org
Website: <http://www.epaguyana.org>

Operation 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.:	20151120-CICLM
Fee:	Small (C2) – US\$ 875 (5 years) i.e. US\$ 175 per year
Fees Paid:	US \$ 875 (January, 2019 to December, 2023)

Addressee(s): Mr. Telford Layne
Proprietor
Connection International Company
3264, Lamaha Place
South Ruimveldt Park
Georgetown, Guyana.



Activity: Operation of a Loam Mine

Mr Telford Layne, trading and operating under the name, Connection International Company, 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, to operate a Loam Mine within Block: C-1000/MP/000, located at Moblissa, Eastern Side of the Soesdyke/Linden Highway, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in the manner indicated in the Application submitted on November 20, 2015, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein and any forthcoming regulations made under the said Environmental Protection Act and/or any other applicable laws, best practices, guidelines and standards relevant to this project.

Terms and Conditions for the Operation to be adhered to by the Permit Holder:

1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 Notify the Agency in writing of any proposed changes in operation of the Loam Mine at least **14 days before** making the change. The notification shall contain a **description of the proposed change in operation**. It is not necessary to make such a notification if **an Application to vary** this

Operation Permit - Ref. No.: 20151120-CICLM

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.

permit has been made and the Application contains a description of the proposed change. In this condition '**change in operation**' means a change in the nature or functioning, or an extension, of the installation, which may have consequences for the environment.

- 1.2 Not undertake any development activity which may significantly affect the environment other than those activities covered by this Permit without prior approval by the EPA.
- 1.3 Ensure proper signage and security measures to keep unauthorized persons from accessing restricted and high-risk areas.
- 1.4 Ensure that trucks are equipped with the necessary reflecting signage to warn the public of impending danger of parked/moving trucks on the public thoroughfare.
- 1.5 Provide adequate fire protection measures, in accordance with guidelines established by the Guyana Fire Service.

2.0 EMPLOYEES, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 2.1 Provide employees with the necessary protective equipment to job specification such as: hi-visibility vests, respirator, hard hats, gloves, and appropriate footwear and ensure appropriate utilization of these gears. Prepare and maintain an employee log of distribution of Personal Protective Equipment.
- 2.2 Strictly ensure that no employee operates under unsafe conditions and prevent unstable mine faces so as to avoid the risks of collapse and subsidence of earth.
- 2.3 Provide well-equipped first aid kit at the work site and ensure that functional communication and transportation systems are in place to respond to emergencies.
- 2.4 Adhere to the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act to ensure that employees' health and safety are protected.
- 2.5 Ensure all employees/third party contractors are aware of the Conditions of this Operation Permit and provide training on good environmental management practices. Prepare and maintain a training file for employees which should be available upon Officers request during Compliance Inspection.

Operation Permit - Ref. No.: 20151120-CICLM

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.

- 2.6 Ensure that the prohibition of capture, trading and removal of wildlife be a term of employment for all third party contractors and employees.
- 2.7 Ensure proper signage and security measures to keep unauthorized persons from accessing restricted areas.

3.0 ROADS

- 3.1 Utilize only one access road/trail to the loam mine from the main access road.
- 3.2 Ensure that all measures such as grading and compacting of the access roads be carried out as necessary to maintain road.
- 3.3 Maintain the active road/trail so as to provide for good drainage and dust management. The running surface of the road should be crowned with a compacted layer and have good drainage on both sides to catch and direct water to local drainage system. In addition, the road should be wet as needed to meet ambient dust conditions.
- 3.4 Ensure that adequate and appropriate **road signage** is installed with provisions for safe line of site along all access road.

4.0 VEGETATION CLEARING AND TOP SOIL STRIPPING

- 4.1 Ensure vegetative debris is incorporated and stored with top soil to keep active for reuse in reclamation. In addition, practical measures, such as growing of vegetation such as shrubs and grasses on stockpiles of topsoil should be employed to reduce erosion.
- 4.2 Where possible, topsoil should be placed directly onto an area being rehabilitated to reduce double handling of soil.
- 4.3 Stockpile topsoil in suitable storage sites, where reuse can be accomplished easily. Stockpiles should not be stored within 3 m of natural vegetation boundary or mine face.

5.0 BUFFER ZONES AND SITE ACCESS MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Maintain demarcated boundary limits for the site claim. Ensure proper signage and security measures are in effect to keep unauthorized persons from accessing restricted and high-risk areas.

Operation Permit - Ref. No.: 20151120-CICLM

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.

- 5.2 Maintain a non-extractable, vegetated buffer zone at least 20 m wide between your loam mine and other different contiguous land use existing around your operation.
- 5.3 Establish and maintain a vegetated buffer zone of 15 m wide from the centre line of the access road to the edge of the pit.
- 5.4 Ensure to re-contour mined-out areas within your concession to address the effects such as erosion, wildlife movement, landslides and Occupational Health and Safety hazards.
- 5.5 Use benchmarks to determine depth achieved during mining operations.
- 5.6 Determine and demarcate the 'high' ground water depth. Conduct excavation to a depth that leaves two (2) m above the water table. No mining is allowed at or below the water table.

6.0 FUEL, AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Establish and maintain a designated area for refuelling and oil changes. The designated area should be surfaced with an impervious material such as concrete and so designed as to allow for easy cleanup of accidental fuel and oil spills.
- 6.2 Waste oil generated on site should be stored in closed containers and disposed of in a manner approved by the EPA.
- 6.3 Take the necessary precautionary measures during the transport and use of fuel and other chemicals/hazardous materials. In addition, implement a programme to ensure regular and preventative maintenance of machinery and equipment to prevent leaks and minimize air emissions and hydrocarbon releases.

7.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Maintain good sanitary and hygienic practices and the aesthetic quality of your surroundings at all times.
- 7.2 Promote proper solid waste management and disposal practices at your facility. Provide covered garbage receptacles at strategic locations, and ensure that all solid waste materials are appropriately stored until such time of disposal. Waste shall not be disposed of in or near the waterways. Further, adequately reuse, recycle and compost waste materials.

Operation Permit - Ref. No.: 20151120-CICLM

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.

- 7.3 Ensure that garbage receptacles are placed in strategic locations within the project site. Have separate bins to facilitate the collection and sorting of waste according to liquid and solids; organic and inorganic; degradable and non-degradable. Used tyres and batteries should be re-used or disposed of in a manner approved by the EPA.
- 7.4 At all times, the environs for receptacles should be cleaned and maintained on a regular basis, to prevent the fall or flow of garbage in the surrounding environment and/or attraction of rodents and other vermin.
- 7.5 Strictly prohibit all persons, both employees and general public, from disposing all garbage matter at mining site. Appropriate signage must be erected communicating such prohibition.
- 7.6 A Solid Waste Pit should be constructed at least 100 metres away from waterways and above the water table.
- 7.6.1 Storm water should be diverted from the waste pit. Pits should be maintained and covered on a regular basis to avoid fly and rodent infestations as well as mal-odour from leachate.
- 7.6.2 When the maximum capacity is reached, the solid waste pit should be covered with at least 0.3 metres of soil and a suitable site determined for another.
- 7.7 Construct and maintain a Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrine according to the following requirements:
- 7.7.1 The environs of the latrine should be kept clean, in a hygienic manner and maintained both internally and externally. The latrine should be:
- Built with suitable materials such as hardwood or concrete materials;
 - Properly vented with a tall ventilation pipe located on the windward side;
 - Fitted with a fly screen on top of the vent to prevent the passage of flies and mosquitoes; The meshed apertures (holes) of the fly screen must not exceed 1.5 millimeters, made with corrosion resistant material to withstand intense rainfall, high temperatures and strong sunlight;
- 7.7.2 Positioned at least thirty (30) metres away from surface and ground water sources, creeks, wells or springs.

Operation Permit - Ref. No.: 20151120-CICLM

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.

- 7.7.3 Dug at least 0.6 metres above the average ground water table and at least four (4) metres away from any dwelling (such as camps, and any sleeping and living quarters, etc.).
- 7.7.4 Easily reached during bad weather and will not cause odour.
- 7.7.5 When the maximum capacity is reached latrine should be covered with at least 0.3 metres of soil and a suitable site determined for another.

8.0 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 Comply with the *Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Interim Guidelines for the Measurement and Assessment of Noise into the Environment*, not exceeding the limits below at a distance of 15 m (50 ft) from the source or property boundary, whichever is closer.

Industrial Limits	100 dB (Day-time (06:00-18:00 h))
	80 dB (Night –time (18:00-06:00 h))

- 8.2 Take all necessary precautions to reduce any instances of air emissions into the environment from the operation.
- 8.3 Reduce speed limit for hauling trucks. Further, all hauling trucks should be covered to prevent release of fugitive dust.
- 8.4 Continue to operate and service all mechanical equipment in accordance with manufacturer's specifications at all times. Additionally, ensure that mechanical equipment and vehicles are regularly maintained and work at their optimal levels to minimize atmospheric emissions.

9.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.

Operation Permit - Ref. No.: 20151120-CICLM

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.

- 9.3 Submit to the EPA, the **Environmental Annual Reports** on the status of the project, progress of the implementation of the monitoring activities and compliance with the conditions contained herein by **March 31** every year (Please see attached, the *Guidelines for the preparation of Environmental Annual Reports*).
- 9.4 Submit to the EPA, the Mining License from GGMC within **one (1) month** from the issuance of the finalized Permit.
- 9.5 Inform the Agency prior to or within **30 days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 9.6 Notify the Agency within **21 days** in event of death, bankruptcy, liquidation or receivership of the Permit Holder or if the Company becomes a party to an amalgamation.
- 9.7 Notify the EPA within **24 hours** of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies such as a sudden onset disaster, accident, natural, technological or human induced factors that cause or threaten to cause severe environmental damage as well as harm to human health or livelihood.
- 9.8 Report to the Agency of non-compliance with the Operation Permit:
 - 9.8.1 Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Operation Permit becomes aware of the non-compliance, the anticipated manner in which it may endanger human health or the environment.
 - 9.8.2 Within **seventy-two (72) hours**, submit to the Agency a written report containing a description of the non-compliance, its cause and the period of non-compliance including exact dates and time.
 - 9.8.3 Submit a report to the Agency indicating the reasons and the anticipated time it is expected to continue if the non-compliance has not been corrected.
- 9.9 Report all occurrences of illegal wildlife trapping and trading to the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission and EPA. The Permit Holder shall discourage the trading, hunting and use of wildlife by its staff.

10.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND LIABILITIES

- 10.1 The EPA reserves the right to conduct regular inspections of the Permit Holder's operation as part of its monitoring and enforcement requirements

Operation Permit - Ref. No.: 20151120-CICLM

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.


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


- 10.2 The EPA reserves the right to review and/or amend the conditions and fees attached to this Permit, which also includes the review and/or amendment of Permit Fees in consideration of any changes in fee structure as determined by the Agency for projects of this nature.
- 10.3 The EPA shall have the right to cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 10.4 The Permit Holder 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.
- 10.5 This Operation Permit is not the final consent; all relevant permission should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 10.6 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Permit shall render the Permit Holder liable to prosecution and to penalties prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, including civil penalties and injunctive relief.
- 10.7 The Permit Holder shall be strictly liable for any loss or damage to the environment through any act caused intentionally or recklessly, through the adverse effect of any discharge or release, or cause or permit the entry of pollution, contaminant in any amount, concentration or level in excess of that prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by any Operation Permit which are attributed to the Project, s. 19 (1) Environmental Protection (EP) Act, Cap. 20:05.
- 10.8 The Permit Holder shall compensate any Party who suffers any loss or damage as a result of the attributed Project (Part V, s. 19 (3) (e)) EP Act, Cap. 20:05.
- 10.9 The Permit Holder shall be responsible for the payment of all costs related to the assessment of damage and costs for the independent assessor (s).
- 10.10 The Agency (EPA) shall notify the Permit Holder immediately of any written claim or notice sent by any complainant seeking loss or damage for negligence as a result of the Permit Holder lack of due care and diligence.

Operation Permit - Ref. No.: 20151120-CICLM

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.

- 10.11 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 marine environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release or discharge, spill, contaminant fluids, oil or lubricants from the fuel storage.
- 10.12 The Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein **January, 2019 to December, 2023**. This Operation Permit shall remain valid until **December 31, 2023**, unless otherwise suspended or revoked in accordance with the provisions of this Permit or the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisation) Regulations, 2000.
- 10.13 This Permit must be renewed by submitting a completed *Application Form for Renewal of Environmental Authorisation* to the Agency at least six months before this Permit expires, that is, no later than **July 31, 2023**.
- 10.14 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Permit shall render the Permit Holder liable to prosecution and to penalties prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisation) Regulations, 2000, respectively.

Signed By:  on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.
Dr Vincent Adams
Executive Director




Date: January 28, 2019

Operation Permit - Ref. No.: 20151120-CICLM

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.

I hereby accept the terms and conditions upon which this Operation Permit is granted and agree to abide by the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, and any forthcoming regulations, best practices, guidelines and standards made under this Act.

NAME	TELFORD LAYNE Connection International Corp.
DESIGNATION	CEO
SIGNATURE	
DATE	28TH JANUARY 2018

