



Environmental Protection Agency

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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.:	20200102-TLCIC
Fee:	Medium (C1) –US\$ 500 per year
Fees Paid:	US\$2500 for five (5) years (February 2020 to February 2025)

Addressee(s): Mr. Telford Layne
217 BB Eccles
East Bank Demerara



Activity: Operation of a Loam Mine

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, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000, respectively, to establish and operate a Loam Mine situated at Block L-94/MP/000 – Silver Hill, Linden/Soesdyke Highway, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in the manner indicated in the Application submitted on January 02, 2020, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein and any forthcoming regulations and standards relevant to this project.

Terms and Conditions for Establishment and Operation:

1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 Notify and obtain approval from the EPA of plans to change the facility or operation in any way that may impact the environment, positively, that is, adding value or negatively. To allow for timely approval, the Agency must be notified before implementation of the change, including but not limited to the following at least **fourteen (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 Permit has been made and the Application contains a description of the proposed change. In this condition '**change in operation**' means a change

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- in the nature or functioning, or an extension, of the installation, which may have consequences for the environment including but not limited to the following:
- i. Changes in construction, structure, or layout of the facility and all associated buildings.
 - ii. Installation of new and/or changes to equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility.
 - iii. Any technology used or installed at the facility from which effluent may be discharged.
- 1.2 Operate **only** within the description of the block granted by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) as is described herein: **Point A**, located at geographical coordinates of longitude **58°12'43"N**, thence at true bearing of **133°**, for a distance of approximately **411 yards**, to **Point B**, located at geographical coordinates of longitude **58°12'0"W** and latitude **6°28'35"N**, thence at a true bearing of **270°**, for a distance of approximately **297 yards**, to **Point C**, located at geographical coordinates of longitude **58°12'9"W** and latitude **6°28'35"N**, thence at true bearing of **181°**, for a distance of approximately **255 yards**, to **Point D**, located at geographical coordinates of longitude **58°12'9"W** and latitude **6°28'28"N**, thence at a true bearing of **214°**, for a distance of approximately **735 yards**, to **Point E**, located at geographical coordinates of longitude **58°12'21"W** and latitude **6°28'10"N**, thence at a true bearing of **330°**, for a distance of approximately **294 yards**, to **Point F**, located at geographical coordinates of longitude **58°12'25"W** and latitude **6°28'17"N**, thence at true bearing of **35°**, for a distance of approximately **69 yards**, to **Point G**, located at geographical coordinates of longitude **58°12'24"W** and latitude **6°28'19"N**, thence at a true bearing of **32°**, for a distance of approximately **954 yards**, to **Point H**, located at geographical coordinates of longitude **58°12'9"W** and latitude **6°28'43"N**, thence at true bearing of **31°**, for a distance of approximately **24 yards**, to the point of commencement at **Point A**.
- 1.3 Demarcate and maintain boundary limits for the Loam Mine and ensure proper signage and security measures are in effect to keep unauthorized persons from accessing restricted and high-concern areas.
- 1.4 Adhere to the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission's (GGMC) ***Code of Practice for Sand and Loam Mining***.
- 1.5 Maintain good housekeeping, sanitary and hygienic practices, and the aesthetic quality of your surroundings at all times.
- 1.6 Submit to the Agency, a copy of the **Mining License** from the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) within **one (1) month** of issuance of this Operation Permit.

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- 1.7 Adhere to the terms and conditions outlined in sections **5.0, 6.0 and 7.0 of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) Draft Code of Practice for Sand and Saprolite Mining** at all times.

2.0 EMPLOYEES

- 2.1 Adhere to the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act Cap. 99:01, Laws of Guyana to ensure that employee' health and safety are protected.
- 2.2 Provide a well-equipped first aid kit at the work site and ensure that functional communication and transportation systems are in place to respond to emergencies.
- 2.3 Ensure all employees and third party contractors are aware of applicable conditions within Operation Permit Ref. No. 20190102-TLSMO, and provide training on good environmental management practices.
- 2.4 Provide employees with the necessary protective equipment to fit their job specification such as: hi-visibility vests, hard hats, gloves, and appropriate footwear and ensure appropriate utilisation of these gears. Prepare and maintain an employee log of distribution of Personal Protective Equipment.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 Load loam between **06:00 h to 18:00 h** to avoid disturbance to residents. Further, do not operate any noise-making equipment beyond the hours stipulated.

3.0 ROADS AND BUFFER ZONE MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 Maintain the access road leading to the Loam Mine and ensure that the road surface is crowned with a compacted layer. All measures such as grading and compacting should be carried out as is necessary to maintain the road.
- 3.2 Maintain a non-extractable, vegetated buffer zone at least **20 m** at the boundaries of the site, from the access road junction towards the mine.
- 3.3 Conduct excavation to a depth that leaves 2 m above the water table. No mining is allowed at or below the water table. Use benchmarks to determine depth achieved during construction/excavation of loam pits.

- 3.4 Install adequate safety signs along the access road informing users of dangerous bends, crossing of sand trucks, speed limits, etc. Ensure that transportation to and from the operation do not impede road traffic.

4.0 VEGETATION CLEARING AND TOP SOIL STRIPPING

- 4.1 Practice alternative methods of vegetation clearing rather than burning, such as manual or mechanical felling or bulldozing.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 Stockpile topsoil and vegetative debris in suitable storage sites, where reuse can be accomplished easily. Overburden stockpile should be protected, especially during rainy seasons.
- 4.4 Conduct reclamation activities at mined-out pits, in accordance with the stipulations of the Environmental Codes of Practice for Sand and Loam Mining (*Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, Environmental Management Codes of Practice 2010, Mining Amendment Regulations, 2005*).

5.0 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000.**
- 5.2 Operate all mechanical equipment in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All mechanical equipment and vehicles should be regularly maintained and operated at their optimal levels to minimise atmospheric emissions.
- 5.3 Employ dust suppression methods such as water soaking to control dust emissions from material stockpiles and other components that would generate dust as necessary especially during dry seasons.
- 5.4 Take all necessary precautions to reduce any instances of air emissions into the environment from the operation.
- 5.5 Stipulate and demarcate reduced speed limit for sand trucks. Further, all sand trucks should be covered to prevent release of fugitive dust.

6.0 NOISE MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000.**
- 6.2 Comply with Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Guidelines for Noise Emissions into the Environment*, not exceeding the limits below, at a distance of 15 metres (50 feet) from the source or property boundary, whichever is closer.
 - Industrial Limits: **100 dB** [Daytime Limits (06:00 h-18:00 h)]
- 6.3 Ensure all significant noise-producing equipment e.g. front-end loaders, are equipped with appropriate silencers and mufflers where necessary, to reduce noise levels impacting the surrounding environment, to achieve compliance with the *National Bureau of Standards* GNBS requirements.

7.0 HAZARDOUS WASTE/ MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Wastes Management) Regulations, 2000.**
- 7.2 Ensure that care is taken during refuelling of vehicles in the field. Adequate equipment such as hand pumps and drip pans should be provided and used. Additionally, refuelling points should be located in well drained areas that are excluded from mining, away from buffer zones and at least 100 m from any water course.
- 7.3 Prohibit storage of any quantity of fuel or waste oil on earthen surfaces at mining site. Fuel drums/containers should be stored in contained concrete structures.

8.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013.**
- 8.2 Ensure that at least one garbage receptacle is placed at a strategic location within the project site. Both employees and general public is strictly prohibited from disposing any garbage, of any quantity and type, within the mining site. Erect appropriate signage to communicate prohibition against open garbage disposal at strategic locations within the mining site.
- 8.3 Construct and maintain a solid waste disposal pit at the Mining Site. The Pit should be located at least one hundred (100) meters away from watercourses, or

habitation and be covered when the maximum capacity is reached, to avoid fly and rodent infestation, as well as mal-odour from leachate.

8.4 Construct and maintain a Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrine at the permitted location according to the following requirements:

- 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 fly screen must have meshed apertures (holes) not exceeding 1.5 millimeters and be made with corrosion resistant material to withstand intense rainfall, high temperatures and strong sunlight;
- Positioned at least thirty (30) metres away from surface and ground water sources, creeks, wells or springs;
- 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.);
- Easily reached during bad weather and will not cause odour;
- Covered with at least 0.3 metres of soil when the maximum capacity is reached latrine and a suitable site determined for another latrine; and
- Kept in a clean, hygienic manner and maintained both internally and externally;

9.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 9.1 Submit **Environmental Annual Reports** on the progress of the operation and compliance with the conditions under which this Authorisation was granted on or before **March 31** each year (Please see attached, the *Guidelines for the preparation of Environmental Annual Reports*).
- 9.2 Implement relevant measures/agreements to avoid conflicts with other land users/communities. Conflicts should be reported to the relevant authorities if they occur.

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- 9.3 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 9.4 Immediately notify the EPA within **twenty (24) hours** of any accidental release of contaminants or incidence of pollution into the environment. The Permit Holder shall provide the financial, equipment and technical capacity to adequately respond to any emergency that may occur on site and emergency response shall be immediate.
- 9.5 Inform the Agency prior to or within **thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 9.6 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.
- 9.7 Report to the Agency of non-compliance with the Operation Permit:
- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.

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 under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisation) Regulations, 2000, respectively.
- 10.2 The EPA reserves the right to review/amend the conditions and permit fees attached to this Permit in consideration of any changes in fee structure as determined by the Agency for projects of this nature.
- 10.3 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. Pursuant to s.38 of the Environmental

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Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, it is an offence to assault, obstruct or hinder an authorized 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.

- 10.4 The EPA shall have the right to cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 10.5 This Operation Permit is not the final consent; all relevant permission must be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 10.6 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 to permit the entry of pollution, contaminant in any amount, concentration or level in excess of that prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by any environmental authorization which are attributed to the Project. S. 19(1) EP Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 10.7 The Permit Holder shall be guilty of any offence in accordance with s. 39(1), (2), (3), (4) of the EP Act, Cap. 20:05, which states respectively –“every person who causes material or serious environmental harm by polluting the environment intentionally or recklessly and with the knowledge that material and/or serious environmental harm will or might result is guilty of an offence and shall be liable to the penalties prescribed under the Act.”
- 10.8 The Permit Holder shall compensate any Party who suffers any loss or damage as a result of the attributed project. (s. 19(3)(e)) EP Act Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 10.9 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, his Servants and/or Agents lack of due care and diligence.
- 10.10 Should the Permit Holder contravene or is likely to contravene any condition of this Permit, the Agency (EPA) may serve him an Enforcement Notice in accordance with s. 26 of the EP Act Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 10.11 Where it appears to the Agency (EPA) that the Permit Holder is engaged in any activity that may pose serious threat to natural resources or serious pollution of the Environment or any damage to public health, issue to the Permit Holder a Prohibition Notice Order to immediately cease the offending activity. S. 27 EP Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 10.12 The Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein **February 2020 to February 2025.**

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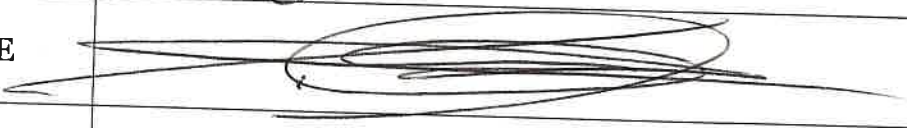
Issued under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

- 10.13 This Operation Permit shall remain valid until **February 28, 2025**, unless otherwise varied, cancelled, suspended or modified 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.
- 10.14 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, 2024**.
- 10.15 Any late submission of renewal application (s) after the specified date as stated above, shall require the Permit Holder to pay, in addition to renewal fee, a late penalty fee (accruing at the time such obligation was first owed for renewal) at a rate of **two thousand dollars (GYD\$2000.00) per day** for every day late, until such renewal application is submitted to the Agency, without prejudice to any other rights of the Permit Holder in connection therewith.
- 10.16 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: February 28, 2020

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

NAME	Telford Haynes
DESIGNATION	C. E.O
SIGNATURE	
DATE	13th May 2020