



## **Environmental Protection Agency**

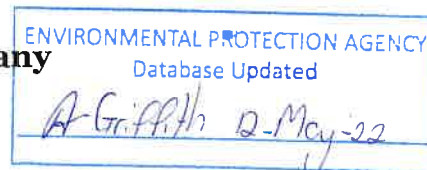
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# **Operation Permit (Renewed)**

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

Reference No.:	20130917-CICSO
Fee:	Small (C2) – US\$ 875 i.e. US\$ 175 per year
Fees Paid:	US\$ 875 five (5) years (July 2021- June 2026)

Addressee(s): Mr. Telford Layne  
Chief Executive Officer  
Connection International Company  
217, BB Eccles  
East Bank Demerara



**Activity:** Operation of a Sand 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, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisation) Regulations, 2000, to operate a Sand Mine located within Block C-88/MP/001, at the confluence of the Madewini River and Yarrowkabra Creek, Linden Soesdyke Highway, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in a manner indicated in the Renewal Application submitted on January 02, 2020, 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.

This is a Renewal of the Environmental Permit, Reference#20130917-CICSO, issued on December 17, 2013 and expired on November 30, 2018, in accordance with the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

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

**1.0 OPERATION**

1.1 Notify the Agency in writing and obtain its approval for **ANY** proposed changes to the operation **at least fourteen (14) days** prior to 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 in the nature or functioning, or an extension, or any additional installation, which may have consequences for the environment. Changes to operation may include but not limited to the following:

- Changes in construction, structure, or layout of the facility, plant or building;
- Installation of new and/or changes to equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility or operation; or
- Any technology used or installed at the facility from which effluent may be discharged.

1.2 Ensure mining activities do not occur outside the boundaries of Point A, located at geographical coordinates of longitude 58°13'7"W and latitude 6°29'22"N, thence at true bearing of 124°, for a distance of approximately 973 yards to Point B, located geographical coordinates of longitude 58°12'43"W and latitude 6°29'6"N, thence at true bearing of 216°, for a distance of approximately 525 yards to Point C, located at geographical coordinates of longitude 58°12'52"W and latitude 6°28'53"N, thence at true bearing of 350°, for a distance of approximately 275 yards, to Point D, located at geographical coordinates of longitude 58°12'54"W and latitude 6°29'1"N, thence at true bearing of 321°, for a distance of approximately 311 yards, to Point E, located at geographical coordinates of longitude 58°13'0"W and latitude 6°29'8"N, thence at true bearing of 308°, for a distance of approximately 186 yards, to Point F, located at geographical coordinates of longitude 58°13'4"W and latitude 6°29'12"N, thence at true bearing of 332°, for a distance of approximately 193 yards, to Point G, located at geographical coordinates of longitude 58°13'7"W and latitude 6°29'17"N, thence at true bearing of 313°, for a distance of approximately 111 yards, to Point H, located at geographical coordinates of longitude 58°13'9"W and latitude 6°29'19"N, thence at true bearing of 36°, for a distance of approximately 117 yards to the point of commencement at Point A.

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- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Ensure proper signage and security measures are in place to keep unauthorised persons from accessing restricted and high-risk areas.
- 1.5 Use visible benchmarks to determine depth achieved progressively during excavation of merchantable sand to the point described at Condition 1.6.
- 1.6 Conduct excavation to a depth that leaves 2 m above the water table. No mining is allowed at or below the water table.
- 1.7 Adhere to the terms and conditions outlined in the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) Draft Code of Practice for Sand and Sapolite Mining at all times.

**2.0 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 2.1 Provide adequate fire protection measures, in accordance with guidelines established by the Guyana Fire Service.
- 2.2 Adhere to the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act to ensure that employees' health and safety are protected.
- 2.3 Ensure all employees are aware of the Conditions of this Operation Permit (Renewed) and provide training on good environmental management practices. Documentation of such training should be available upon request by Officers of the Agency.

**3.0 VEGETATION CLEARING AND TOP SOIL STRIPPING**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 Where possible, topsoil should be placed directly onto an area being rehabilitated to reduce double handling of soil.
- 3.3 Stockpile topsoil in suitable storage sites, where reuse can be accomplished easily.
- 3.4 Conduct progressive reclamation activities at the mined out sites/pits, in accordance with the stipulations of the Environmental Codes of Practice for Sand

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and Loam Mining (*Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, Environmental Management Codes of Practice 2010, Mining Amendment Regulations, 2005*).

- 3.5 Progressively rehabilitate the site, allocating at least one metre of the top soil to be used as backfill material. Rehabilitation will include reduction of slopes to prevent landslides and/or erosion and re-vegetation.

**4.0 ROADS AND BUFFER ZONE MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 Utilise only one access road to the sand mine from the main access road.
- 4.2 Ensure that all measures such as grading and compacting of the access road are carried out as is necessary to maintain the road.
- 4.3 Maintain the access road 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 wetted as needed to meet ambient dust conditions.
- 4.4 Ensure that transportation to and from the operation does not impede Road traffic.
- 4.5 Demarcate and maintain boundary limits for the sand mine. Ensure proper signage and security measures are in effect to keep unauthorised persons from accessing restricted and high-concern areas.
- 4.6 Maintain a non-extractable, vegetated buffer zone of at least 20 m wide around any water source/spring located within the property.
- 4.7 Re-vegetate and maintain a non-extractable vegetated buffer zone 20 m wide from the access road junction towards the mine.
- 4.8 Use benchmarks to determine depth achieved during mining operations.
- 4.9 Conduct excavation to a depth that leaves 2 m above the water table. No mining is allowed at or below the water table.

**5.0 FUEL, AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000**.

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- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 Ensure that care is taken during refuelling in the fields. 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.
- 5.4 Waste oil generated on site should be stored in closed containers and disposed in a manner approved by the EPA.
- 5.5 Take the necessary precautionary measures during the transport and use of fuel and other chemicals/hazardous materials.

## **6.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 **Comply with the Environmental Protection (Litter Prevention) Regulations, 2013.**
- 6.2 Promote proper solid waste management and disposal practices at your facility. Waste shall not be disposed of in or near the waterways. Reduction and reuse of waste should be promoted.
- 6.3 Ensure that solid waste pits are located at least one hundred (100) metres away from watercourses, or habitation. The waste sites should be constructed above the ground water table and lined to the floor with an impervious earthen or other material to prevent leaching to ground water.
- 6.4 Maintain good house-keeping, sanitary and hygienic practices and the aesthetic quality of the surroundings at all times.
- 6.5 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.

## **7.0 DUST AND NOISE MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 **Comply with the Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000, and the Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000.**



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- 7.2 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))

- 7.3 Take all necessary precautions to reduce any instances of air emissions into the environment from the operation.
- 7.4 Ensure that all equipment and machinery are placed on foundations properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations.
- 7.5 Maintain and observe maintenance schedules of all equipment/machinery.
- 7.6 Employ all practical measures along access and public roads to reduce fugitive dust. Dust suppression methods such as watering should be used during dry periods and as deemed necessary.
- 7.7 Ensure that all hauling trucks are covered to prevent release of fugitive dust.

## **8.0 WATER QUALITY**

- 8.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000**.
- 8.2 Ensure that the Yarrowkabra Creek specifically in the vicinity of the project site is kept free of solid wastes such as food boxes, plastic bottles, etc.
- 8.3 Install monitoring stations at strategic points along the Yarrowkabra Creek to monitor the creek's condition.

## **9.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING**

- 9.1 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** each year (Please see attached, the *Guidelines for the preparation of Environmental Annual Reports*).
- 9.2 Submit to the EPA, the Mining License from GGMC within **one (1) month** from the issuance of the finalised Permit.

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- 9.3 Implement relevant measures/agreements to avoid conflicts with other land users/communities. Conflicts should be reported to the relevant authorities if they occur.
- 9.4 Notify the Agency of non-compliance with this Permit upon becoming aware of violation.
- 9.5 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 9.6 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.
- 9.7 Inform the Agency prior to or within **thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 9.8 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.
- 9.9 Notify the EPA within **twenty-four (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.
- 9.10 Report to the Agency of non-compliance with the Operation Permit:
  - 9.10.1 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.
  - 9.10.2 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.

**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)

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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 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.
- 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 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.
- 10.6 This Operation Permit is not the final consent; all relevant permission must be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 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.



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- 10.11 Where it appears to the Agency (EPA) that the Permit Holder is engage 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 **July 2021 to June 2026.**
- 10.13 This Operation Permit (Renewed) shall remain valid until **June 30, 2026**, 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 **December 31, 2025.**
- 10.15 Any late submission of renewal application(s) after the specified date as stated above, the agency 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 (\$2,000.00) 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.

**Kemraj Parsram**  
Executive Director


Date:

23 July 2021

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**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 (Authorisation) Regulations, 2000, respectively and any forthcoming regulations, guidelines, best practices, and standards made under this Act.**

<b>NAME</b>	Connection International Company
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	CEO
<b>SIGNATURE</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	23rd July 2021

