



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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Environmental Permit (Renewed)

(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.:	20140503-WYSSM
Fee:	Small (C2)- US\$175 per year
Fees Paid:	US\$ 175: (One (1) year (October, 2021 - September, 2022))

Addressee(s): Ms Pamela Browne
63, Soesdyke
East Bank Demerara.

Activity: Operation of a Sand Mine

Ms. Pamela Browne, 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 Sand Mine within the confines of designated Block Number: Y-13/MP 000, located at the Confluence of the Madewini River and Yarrowkabra Creek, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in the manner indicated in the Renewed Application submitted on March 30, 2020, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, existing and/or forthcoming regulations made under the said Act, and/or applicable laws, best practices, guidelines and standards relevant to this project.

This is a Renewal of the Operation Permit, Reference # 20140503-WYSSM issued on May, 2019 and expired on April, 2020.

The Permit Holder, His Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractors shall comply with the following Terms and Conditions for Operation:

1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1 Make an application to the Agency to vary this Environmental 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.
- 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° 14' 0" W** and latitude **6° 32' 9" N**, thence at true bearing of **126 degrees**, for a distance of approximately **1591 yards**, to **Point B**, located at geographical coordinates of longitude **58° 13' 22" W** and latitude **6° 31' 41" N**, thence at true bearing of **208 degree**, for a distance of approximately **44 yards**, to **Point C**, located at geographical coordinates of longitude **58° 13' 23" W** and latitude **6° 31' 40" N**, thence at a true bearing of **306 degree**, for a distance of approximately **1593 yards**, to **Point D**, located at geographical coordinates of longitude **58° 14' 1" W** and latitude **6° 32' 8" N**, thence at true bearing of **30 degrees**, for a distance of approximately **41 yards**, to the point of commencement at **Point A**.
- 1.3 Maintain all demarcated boundary limits for the site claim and the periphery of the concession as prescribed by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), using signage, fences or other means.
- 1.4 Maintain demarcated boundary limits for the mine sites and a non-extractable, vegetated buffer zone at least 20 m wide as follows:
- i. Between your mining blocks and other different contiguous land-use activities;
 - ii. Around the mine site; and
 - iii. Around the property boundary.

2.0 EMPLOYEES, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 2.1 Adhere to the requirements of **the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws of Guyana**.
- 2.2 Employees shall at all times be well protected and equipped with Personal Protective Equipment relevant to the occupational tasks during operation. These Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must include but not be limited to:
- i. Safety helmets;
 - ii. Protective respiratory devices
 - iii. Safety boots with ankle support;
 - iv. Gloves with reinforced palms and fingers; and

v. Tightly fitted safety goggles.

- 2.3 Prepare and maintain an employee log of distribution of Personal Protective Equipment.
- 2.4 Ensure all employees/third party contractors are aware of the Conditions of this Operation Permit (Renewed) (20140503 - WYSSM) and provide training on the requirements of the Permit and good environmental management practices.
- 2.5 Prepare and maintain a training file of all employees/Contractors of training completed. This list should be available upon Officers request during Compliance Inspection of the Sand Mining operation.

3.0 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 Implement practical measures including but not limited to constructing siltation fences, sedimentation berms or other sediment control structures in erosion prone areas to prevent pollution of the Hubudebu River, Labba Creek or any other natural water ways that may be found within or adjacent to your mining concession.
- 3.2 At all times, avoid water contamination from fuel, grease and waste oils.
- 3.3 Store overburden stockpiles away from drainage systems and beyond **200 meters** away from any waterway, creek or drainage system.
- 3.4 Consider the weather pattern before initiating major earthworks e.g., road maintenance, topsoil excavation. Monitor areas of exposed soil during periods of heavy rainfall.
- 3.5 Conduct site clearing of any mine expansion panels in a gradual and phased manner to minimize sediment discharge.
- 3.6 No sand mining pit shall be operated within **two hundred (200) meters** of any surface water body e.g., river, spring, creeks etc., located within or around the allocated Mining Block without first obtaining approval from the EPA and the implementation of adequate mitigation measures to reduce/eliminate any adverse Environmental impacts.
- 3.7 Use benchmarks to determine depth achieved during mining operations.
- 3.8 Determine and demarcate the 'high' ground water depth. Conduct excavation to a depth that leaves five (5) meters above the water table. No mining is allowed at or below the water table.

- 3.9 Design and maintain a well-established drainage network to limit surface run off into these sensitive water bodies.

4.0 BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

- 4.1 Report any occurrences of illegal wildlife trapping and trading in the project area to the EPA and Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission.
- 4.2 Prohibit the hunting, trapping, trading and removal of wildlife that is found within the Mining Site by employees.
- 4.3 Avoid or minimise the creation of barriers that would impede the movement of wildlife or cause a threat to their migration.
- 4.4 Site access routes and facilities in locations that avoid impacts to critical terrestrial habitats, and plan construction activities to avoid sensitive times of the year.

5.0 BUFFER ZONES MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Maintain demarcated boundary limits for the site claim. Utilize proper signage and security measures throughout the mining concession to keep unauthorised persons from accessing restricted and high-risk areas.
- 5.2 Establish and maintain a non-extractable, vegetative buffer zone of at least **one hundred and fifty (150) meters wide** between Sand Mining pit and adjoining areas with different land uses such as farms and settlements to buffer noise and fugitive dust emissions.
- 5.3 Ensure to re-contour mined-out areas within your concession to address the effects such as erosion, wildlife movement, landslide and Occupational Health and Safety hazards.
- 5.4 Conduct all mining related activities at least **two hundred (200) meters** away from nearby Communities/ residential settlements.

6.0 VEGETATION CLEARING, TOP SOIL STRIPPING AND RECLAMATION

- 6.1 Where possible, place topsoil directly onto an area being rehabilitated to reduce double handling of soil.

- 6.2 Conduct reclamation activities at mined-out sites/pits, in accordance with the stipulations of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission Environmental Codes of Practice for Sand Mining.

6.2.1 Progressively rehabilitate the site allocating at least one metre (1 m) of the topsoil (including all vegetation cleared from the site) to be used as backfill material. Rehabilitation will include reduction of slopes to prevent landslides and/or erosion, and re-vegetation.

- 6.3 Not store topsoil (overburden) within **three (3) metres** of natural vegetation or mine face. Top soil and vegetation should be carefully stripped and stockpiled in an allocated area marked by a sign, so that it can be used for reclamation and re-vegetation as mining finishes.

- 6.4 Keep top soil alive by covering and allowing vegetative growth.

7.0 ROADS

- 7.1 Design and construct mine access road(s) to limit erosion. The running surface of the road should be crowned with a compacted layer and should have sufficient diversion drains and culverts to direct storm water away from surface water bodies.
- 7.2 Establish and maintain a non-extractable vegetative buffer zone of **one hundred (100) meters** between the mine/pit parallel and all major public/ private roadways and power lines.
- 7.3 Minimise soil erosion by sloping roads and constructing berms with compacted material on both sides to impede the flow of runoff into surface water bodies.
- 7.4 Frequently maintain access road by measures such as but not limited to grading, compacting, and wetting to restore road's driving surface.
- 7.5 Equip trucks with the necessary reflecting signage to warn the public of impending danger of parked/moving trucks on the public thoroughfare.
- 7.6 Install adequate safety signs along roads informing users of dangerous bends, crossing of haul trucks, speed limits, etc.
- 7.7 Ensure that activities of the operation do not impede road traffic.
- 7.8 Ensure that activities as they relate to use and maintenance of the Ideal Access Road are done in accordance with the "Ideal Access Road Agreement between the Waikabra Community and developers utilizing the road at a meeting held on May 25, 2011, which includes the following:

- i. Assist with recapping of the road with sand/loam, as is available to maintain the road structure;
- ii. Ensure a speed limit of 15 km is maintained by all trucks to and from your operation; and
- iii. Ensure that trucks operate within the agreed working hours so as to reduce dust emissions within the Waikabra Community as follows:
 - **Weekdays** 05:00 h – 18:00 h
 - **Saturdays** 05:00 h – 14:00 h

8.0 NOISE QUALITY MANAGEMENT

8.1 Comply with the **Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulation, 2000.**

8.2 Comply with *Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Guidelines Noise Emissions into the Environment*, not exceeding the limits below at a distance of 15 meters (50 feet) from the source or property boundary, whichever is closer.

- Industrial Limits: **100 dB** [Daytime Limits (06:00 h-18:00 h)]
80 dB [Night-time Limits (18:00 h – 06:00h)]

8.3 Ensure all significant noise-producing equipment, e.g., generators etc. are equipped with appropriate silencers or mufflers and/or are enclosed in suitable acoustic enclosures where necessary to reduce noise levels impacting the surrounding environment to achieve compliance with GNBS requirement.

8.4 Operate all mechanical equipment in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All mechanical equipment, vehicles, should be regularly maintained and operated at their optimal levels to ensure efficiency and reduce the noise levels produced.

9.0 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

9.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000.**

9.2 Trucks transporting mined material should be covered with a tarpaulin at all times.

- 9.3 Minimise dust generation on the road by adhering to the established speed limit and prevent dust nuisances to farms and settlements by soaking road as needed.
- 9.4 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.
- 9.5 Employ dust suppression methods such as watering, erecting dust screens/fences to control dust emissions from material stockpiles and other components that would generate dust.
- 9.6 Maintain an inventory of all sources of air contaminants e.g., Generators, Heavy duty equipment, trucks etc. on site. The Inventory should be submitted in the Project's Environmental annual report.

10.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 10.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013.**
- 10.2 Maintain good sanitary and hygienic practices and the aesthetic quality of your surroundings at all times.
- 10.3 Do **not** dispose waste in or near the waterways (Hubudebu River and Labba Creek, etc.).
- 10.4 Provide covered garbage receptacles at strategic locations, at the project site, which should be emptied, cleaned and maintained.
- 10.5 Reduce, reuse, recycling and/or compost waste materials.
- 10.6 Dispose of solid waste at an approved landfill or in a solid waste pit. Solid waste pits shall be located away from all mineral reserves allocated for mining and dwellings, and at least **one hundred (100) meters** away from any watercourses, or sensitive habitation that may be found within the Mining Concession. 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.
- 10.7 Burning is prohibited at all time unless otherwise approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

- 10.8 Implement waste control measures to minimise odour and loss of visual aesthetics around the solid waste pit.
- 10.9 Construct and maintain **new or existing** pit latrine(s) in accordance with the *Guyana Bureau of Standard (GNBS) Code of Practice for the Design and Construction of Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines*.

11.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 11.1 Comply with any directions given by the EPA from time-to-time in furtherance of the implementation of any international or other obligations for the environmental protection of Guyana.
- 11.2 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*).
- 11.3 Inform the Agency prior to or within **thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 11.4 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.
- 11.5 Notify the EPA **within one (1) hour** 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.
- 11.6 Report to the Agency any non-compliances with the Operation Permit (Renewed):
 - 11.6.1 Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Operation Permit (Renewed) becomes aware of the non-compliance, the anticipated manner in which it may endanger human health or the environment;
 - 11.6.2 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; and
 - 11.6.3 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.

- 11.7 Prepare and submit a detailed Reclamation Plan for approval six (6) months before the actual reclamation process commences.
- 11.8 Submit to the Agency a detailed Project Closure Plan for review and approval two (2) years prior to closure. Thereafter, the closure plan will be updated and reviewed at a frequency agreed to with the Agency.
- 11.9 Submit to the EPA, the Mining License from the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GG&MC) **within one (1) week** of its issuance.
- 11.10 Notify the EPA once the roads are constructed in order for an assessment to be conducted before the expiration of the Permit.

12.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/ LIABILITIES

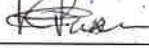
- 12.1 The EPA reserves the right to review and/or amend the conditions and fees attached to this Permit, which also includes the review and/or amendment of Permit Fees in consideration of any changes in fee structure as determined by the Agency for projects of this nature.
- 12.2 The EPA shall have the right to cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 12.3 The Permit Holder, His Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractors 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.
- 12.4 This Operation Permit (Renewed) is not the final consent; all relevant permission should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 12.5 The Permit Holder, his Servants and/or Agents 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) and (2) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.

Environmental Permit (Renewed)- Ref. No. 20140503 - WYSSM

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- 12.6 The Permit Holder, his Servants and/or Agents 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.”
- 12.7 The Permit Holder shall be liable to any gross negligence or wilful misconduct caused by the Permit Holder, his Servants and/ or Agents, to the marine environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat.
- 12.8 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, Laws of Guyana.
- 12.9 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.
- 12.10 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.
- 12.11 This Operation Permit (Renewed) is valid for the period stipulated herein **October, 2021 to September, 2022.**
- 12.12 This Operation Permit (Renewed) shall remain valid until **September 30, 2022**, 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 (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 12.13 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 **March 31, 2022.**
- 12.14 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 (GY\$2,000.00) per day for every business day late**, until such renewal application is submitted to the Agency, without prejudice to any other rights of the Permit Holder in connection therewith.

- 12.15 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Permit shall render the Permit Holder liable to prosecution and to civil penalties and/or injunctive reliefs prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, including under any existing and forthcoming regulations made under the said Act or any other applicable Laws of Guyana.

Signed by  on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Kemraj Parsram
Executive Director

Date: 6.10.2021

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

NAME:	PAMELA BROWNE
DESIGNATION:	DEVELOPER
SIGNATURE:	Pamela Browne
DATE:	25.10.2021

