



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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Environmental Permit (Interim)

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

Reference No.:	20240711 -AGEME
Fee:	Extra Large (C2) – US\$3,100 (2 years) i.e., US\$3100 per year
Fees Paid:	US\$6,200 (November, 2024 - October, 2026) -Two (2) year
Addressee(s):	Ms. Elaine Ellingham Chief Executive Officer Avalon Gold Exploration Inc. Lot C Sheriff and Enachu Streets, Section N, Campbellville Georgetown, Guyana.
Activity:	Dewatering of Mine Pits

Avalon Gold Exploration Inc., hereinafter referred to as the “Permit Holder”, is hereby authorised in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05, Law of Guyana, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000, to undertake Dewatering activities at PL#:02/2024-GS14 A-1009/000/24, Confluence of the Essequibo River and Seballi River- Omai, Potaro Mining District 2, Region #7, hereinafter referred to as the “Project” in the manner indicated in the Application for Environmental Authorisation dated July 11, 2024, and 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 any applicable laws, guidelines, standards and best practices relevant to this project.

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

1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 Make an application to the Agency to vary this Environmental Permit (Interim) in instances where it becomes necessary to:
- a) change the construction, operation, structure, or layout of the facility and all associated buildings;
 - b) change equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility;
 - c) change the position and design of any outlet at the point or points of discharge of effluents;
 - d) or effect any other change outlined in 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.
- 1.2 Maintain demarcated boundary limits for the site claim. Further, ensure proper signage and security measures to keep unauthorized persons from accessing restricted and high-risk areas are in place at all times.
- 1.3 At all times, undertake all phases of the dewatering activity in a manner that will minimize adverse impacts on public health and the environment.
- 1.4 Adhere to the stipulations within the **Mining Act, No. 20 of 1989**, the **Mining Regulations including the Mining (Amendment) Regulations, 2005**.
- 1.5 Limit surface disturbance in the areas identified for the dewatering process only.
- 1.6 Actively discourage the influx of persons not employed by the Company into the dewatering area and do not allow outsiders to settle on the periphery.

2.0 EMPLOYEES & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 2.1 Operate in accordance with the **Occupational Safety and Health Act No. 32 of 1997**.
- 2.2 Ensure all employees and third-party contractors are equipped with the necessary protective equipment relevant to the occupational tasks during operation. These Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must include but not be limited to:
- a) Safety helmets;

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- b) Protective respiratory devices
- c) Safety boots with ankle support;
- d) Gloves with reinforced palms and fingers; and
- e) Safety goggles.

(Employees shall at all times be well protected)

- 2.3 Make all employees aware of the Conditions of the Environmental Permit (Interim), and provide training on good Environmental Management Practices, occupational health and safety, and of their obligations under this Permit.
- 2.4 Ensure that all foods, raw and refrigerated, are stored in accordance with the World Health Organisation (WHO) International Food Standards (Codex Alimentarius) as outlined by Environmental Health Unit of the Ministry of Health.
- 2.5 Ensure that proper prophylactic or other acceptable measures are implemented to protect workers and other persons from malaria and other harmful diseases at the Project Site.
- 2.6 Prepare and maintain an employee and third-party contractors' log of distribution of Personal Protective Equipment, which should be available upon request to Officers of the Agency during an inspection.
- 2.7 Display signs indicating the symbol for the type of protective gear to be worn at appropriate locations through the area of operation(s).
- 2.8 Prepare and maintain training files for all employees and third-party contractors. Records shall be made available upon the Agency's request.

3.0 DRAINAGE AND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 Comply with the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000**.
- 3.2 Adhere to the Water Quality Monitoring Plan submitted and outlined in the in Application for Environmental Authorisation dated July 11, 2024.
- 3.3 Treated effluent from the permitted discharge points shall be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards Interim *Guidelines for Industrial Effluent Discharge into the Environment*, US EPA *National Recommended Water Quality Criteria for Priority Toxic Pollutants*, World Bank Water Quality Standards (IFC) and the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC). The following maximum allowable limits should not be exceeded for the following parameters:

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- i. pH 5.0 – 9.0; (GNBS Industrial Effluent Guidelines).
- ii. Total Suspended Solids (TSS) <50mg/L;(GNBS Industrial Effluent Guidelines).
- iii. Oil and Grease <10 mg/L; (IFC Mining Guidelines).
- iv. Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) <150 mg/L;(IFC Mining Guidelines)
- v. Temperature <40 °C; ;(GNBS Industrial Effluent Guidelines).
- vi. Turbidity <50 mg/L; (Guyana Geology & Mines Commission).
- vii. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) <50 mg/L; (GNBS Industrial Effluent Guidelines).
- viii. Ammonia <10 mg/L; (IFC General Guidelines).
- ix. Phosphorous (P) <2 mg/L; (IFC General Guidelines).
- x. Iron total (Fe) <2.0 mg/L; (IFC Mining Guidelines).
- xi. Arsenic (As) <0.1 mg/L; (IFC Mining Guidelines).
- xii. Zinc (Zn) <0.5 mg/L; (IFC Mining Guidelines).
- xiii. Lead (Pb) <0.2 mg/L; (IFC Mining Guidelines).
- xiv. Nickel (Ni) <0.5 mg/L; (IFC Mining Guidelines).
- xv. Cadmium (Cd) <0.05 mg/L; (IFC Mining Guidelines).
- xvi. Copper (Cu) <0.3 mg/L; and (IFC Mining Guidelines).
- xvii. Chromium (CrO₄²⁻) <0.1 mg/L; (IFC Mining Guidelines).

3.4 Ensure discharges from the Pond/s do not exceed fifty (50) mg/l of Total Suspended Solids without dilution, at least 95 % of the time that the pumps or unit is operating, to be calculated as a proportion of annual operating hours.

3.5 Submit monitoring results for surface water from discharge points sampling in accordance with the Project Summary submitted on July 11, 2024. Samples shall be collected at the approved sample locations identified in the Project Summary. The data shall be recorded and included in Environmental Annual Report.

3.6 Ensure the following standards for cyanide discharge into the environment are adhered to:

- a) Free Cyanide - 0.1 mg/l
- b) Total Cyanide – 1.0 mg/l
- c) Weak acid dissociable – 0.5 mg/l

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- 3.7 Engineer drainage systems to minimize disturbances to natural drainage patterns. Drainage systems should be capable of handling the probable maximum precipitation within the dewatering area.
- 3.8 Install where necessary sediment control structures such as sediment traps and screens to prevent the inflow of sediments to surface water.
- 3.9 Install where necessary erosion control measures such as erosion control blankets, geotextile fabric, and seeding.
- 3.10 Install where necessary diversionary structures/diversion of unimpacted surface water around dewatering area so as to maintain hydrological base flows in Essequibo River.
- 3.11 Collect flow data on the Essequibo River, streams as part of the hydrological monitoring programme, to be undertaken during operation. The data shall be recorded and included in Environmental Annual Report.
- 3.12 Ensure discharges from the dewatering site do not exceed fifty (50) mg/l of Total Suspended Solids without dilution, at least 95 % of the time that the dewatering pumps is operating, to be calculated as a proportion of annual operating hours.

4.0 BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

- 4.1 Adhere to the requirements of the **Wildlife Management and Conservation Act, 2016**.
- 4.2 Report all occurrences of illegal wildlife trapping and trading within your Mining Concession to the EPA and Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission.
- 4.3 Communicate to employees and third-party contractors through trainings, signage and other practicable means, that the capture, trading and/or removal of endangered and vulnerable wildlife species from the project area and surrounding areas is forbidden, in accordance with the **Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2016**, and any of its applicable forthcoming Regulations.
- 4.4 Where necessary maintain all water crossings (culvert or bridges) to enable the free movement of aquatic species.
- 4.5 Ensure channels are lined with grass and/or riprap, where necessary to minimize erosion.

5.0 SOIL AND LAND MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Ensure all factors that may destabilize soils and induce mass movements are assessed using a standard procedure, before initiating major earthworks.
- 5.2 As far as practical, ensure that natural vegetative cover is maintained at all times. Re-vegetate areas from which vegetation was removed. Retain vegetation in the vicinity of steep slopes.
- 5.3 Take necessary precautions and implement measures as far as possible to avoid soil rutting, erosion, siltation and sedimentation during operation.
- 5.4 Employ best management practices to avoid contamination of soil by oil, grease, heavy metals and chemicals.

6.0 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Utilise Best Available Control Technology to control/reduce air emissions into the environment from the operation.
- 6.2 Maintain auxiliary ventilation system regularly to reduce fumes diesel exhaust to a safe concentration to sustain acceptable working conditions and to replace the oxygen used up by the workers and diesel equipment.
- 6.3 Use low sulphur diesel where possible to reduce vehicle emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and particulate matter (PM).

7.0 NOISE QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000.
- 7.2 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 minimize noise emissions.
- 7.3 Limit idling of equipment or vehicles, as far as practical, idling should be limited to five (5) minutes or less or equipment/ vehicles switched off when not in use.
- 7.4 Ensure that all sound-making devices such as generators, etc. are suitable, enclosed and constructed with materials of good insulation properties (e.g., hollow concrete blocks, insulation boards solid clay bricks, etc.) and are equipped with silencers or mufflers to reduce the noise level. Service all vehicles regularly to control any exhaust emissions and prevent nuisance or objectionable odours/fumes.

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- 7.5 Comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards' (GNBS) *Guidelines for Noise Emission into the Environment*, not exceeding the limits 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))
80B (Nighttime Limits (18:00 h- 06:00 h))

8.0 FUEL HANDLING AND STORAGE

- 8.1 Adopt and comply with the National Standard "Guidance for the Design, Construction, Modification, and Maintenance of Petrol Filling Stations" and any forthcoming code of practice/guidelines pertaining to the operation of fuel storage.
- 8.2 Fuel shall at all times be stored above-ground, in a cool, dry place and away from ignition sources. 'No Smoking' signs shall be posted where fuel is handled or stored.
- 8.3 The Fuel Storage Facility shall maintain fire prevention and control equipment in accordance with the Guyana Fire Service Approval. This may include a smoke detection and alarm system, fire extinguishers, fire hydrants or sprinkler systems as appropriate.
- 8.4 Ensure an impervious secondary containment wall around fuel storage tanks, creating a temporary holding area in the event of accidental spillage. The containment wall for areas with multiple tanks shall have the capacity to provide at least 110% containment of the largest tank.
- 8.5 Existing secondary containment around the fuel tanks shall be inspected monthly for cracks and breakage to ensure they are liquid tight to withstand hydrostatic pressure of any contained liquid when full.
- 8.6 All secondary containment shall remain sealed and all piping must enter or exit the containment over the wall. Secondary containment shall provide total containment, and no part of the tank infrastructure (e.g., dispenser, filling hoses and valves) shall protrude outside the containment.
- 8.7 All fuel storage tanks shall be tested by competent persons to verify their integrity. All tests should be documented including a clear indication of the scope, type and results of the tests.
- 8.8 Protection measures for fuel storage tanks such as painting and coating shall be maintained to minimize corrosion of fuel tanks.

- 8.9 Maintenance and/ or repair of fittings, pipes and hoses shall be conducted monthly and in accordance to manufacturer's specifications.
- 8.10 Overfill protection shall be installed and maintained on all fuel tanks. This may include an automatic shut off device or an audible or visible overfill alarm.
- 8.11 The safe fill level shall be clearly identified on the gauge and set at 90% to prevent overfilling. In the event of overfilling, all discharges shall be released and contained in the containment bund.
- 8.12 Leak detection systems shall be installed on all fuel tanks. At least two (2) of the following measures should be implemented:
- (a) Overflow alarms on tanks;
 - (b) Gauging system;
 - (c) Dipstick measurements;
 - (d) Sensors on walls of tanks; or
 - (e) Electric shut down buttons.
- 8.13 The Best Available Technology/ Technique (BAT) shall be employed to capture fuel lost during the unloading of fuel to storage tanks and refueling of equipment.
- 8.14 Secondary containment, drip trays or other overflow and drip containment measures shall be installed and maintained at connection points or other possible overflow points.
- 9.0 MANAGEMENT OF WASTE DISPOSAL SITE/WASTE MANAGEMENT**
- 9.1 Ensure good house-keeping, sanitary and hygienic practices and the aesthetic quality of the surroundings at all times.
- 9.2 Promote proper solid waste management and disposal practices at your facility. Reduction and reuse of waste shall be promoted.
- 9.3 Construct a waste disposal site, which shall be lined to the floor with earthen or geotextile material to prevent leaching to ground water.
- 9.4 Organic waste **(with the exception of food leftovers)** shall not be disposed of in the waste disposal site. Undertake composting of, organic waste and reuse organic materials as fertilizer for re-vegetation of reclaimed areas.

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- 9.5 Ensure personnel trained in the recognition of hazardous and other unacceptable wastes, visually inspect all incoming waste loads to verify that no wastes other than those allowed by this permit are disposed of at the solid waste disposal site.
- 9.6 Solid waste and cover material shall be compacted monthly to the smallest practicable volume, to conserve on disposal capacity, and to minimize moisture infiltration and settlement.
- 9.7 Cover material shall be applied as is needed over the entire working face or more often if necessary to minimize fire hazards, infiltration of precipitation, odour, blowing of litter and fugitive dust. Sources of cover material shall be accessible on all operating days. The thickness of the compacted cover shall be sufficient, with a minimum of 6 inches, so that waste material does not protrude nor becomes visible.
- 9.8 Final cover shall be applied on each area as it is completed; or if the area is to remain idle for over one (1) year. The thickness of the compacted final cover shall not be less than 2 feet. Final cover shall be vegetated to minimize against erosion.
- 9.9 Solid waste handling equipment must be capable of spreading the solid waste in layers no more than two (2) feet thick, and must be able to compact the spread solid wastes to the smallest practicable volume. Substitute equipment shall be available to provide uninterrupted service during routine equipment maintenance periods, or equipment breakdowns.
- 9.10 Intentional burning of waste is strictly prohibited. All accidental fires shall be extinguished immediately.
- 9.11 Waste transported to the disposal site shall be adequately secured to prevent spilling of litter and dust onto the road. Wastes that are easily moved by wind shall be controlled as necessary to prevent their becoming airborne and scattered.
- 9.12 On-site vegetation shall be cleared only as necessary. Natural windbreaks such as green belts, shall be maintained where they will improve the appearance and operation of the disposal site.
- 9.13 Operate the Waste Disposal Site, so that unauthorized entry to the facility is restricted. The site shall be accessible only when operating personnel are on duty, except in emergency situations.

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- 9.14 Place the final cover on the waste disposal site prior to closure. The GPS coordinates of this area shall be recorded. Visible signs shall be erected identifying the boundaries of the waste disposal site.
- 9.15 Maintain a septic system on site at all times. The septic tank shall not be located within 1.5 m of a building or property boundary and should be accessible for cleaning and de-sludging. Any modification to the septic tanks must be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Code of Practice for the Design and Construction of Septic Tanks and Associated Secondary Treatment and Disposal Systems.
- 9.16 Construct waste disposal sites above the highest ground water table. Disposal sites should be lined with earthen or geotextile material to prevent leachate from contaminating ground water.
- 9.17 Where possible and practical, compost organic matter and reuse organic materials as fertilizer for re-vegetation of reclaimed areas.

10.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 10.1 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by employees and all other third parties under your direction.
- 10.2 Submit Annual Environmental Reports to the EPA on or before **March 31** of every year of environmental management activities; status of the project, monitoring activities, as well as compliance with the conditions of this Permit.
- 10.3 Maintain and submit to the Agency annual records of the type, composition and quantity of contaminant released (i.e., any solid, liquid, gas, odour, sound, vibration, radiation, heat or a combination of any of them).
- 10.4 Keep all records of environmental monitoring, malfunctions, pollution of the environment, and any failure to comply with requirements as stated in this Permit in an acceptable format for a period of five (5) years, which should be made available to the EPA upon request.
- 10.5 Within twenty-four (24) hours notify the EPA of any environmental emergencies, for example mine collapse, fires, an accidental release of fuel or oil in excess of 50 gallons, an unplanned release of reagents in excess of 100 gallons, any unplanned release of contaminants or incidence of pollution that creates an impact to 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.

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- 10.6 Comply with any lawful 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.
- 10.7 Inform the National Trust and Walter Roth Museum and the Ministry of Culture if any artifacts of archaeological and anthropological significance are unearthed during operations.
- 10.8 Foster good corporate relations involving the Regional Council and other stakeholders by holding regular community and agency meetings, where general information can be shared and major concerns or complaints resolved.
- 10.9 Inform the Agency prior to or within **30 days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 10.10 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.
- 10.11 Conform to all terms and conditions under which this Permit is granted and be liable for any loss or damage which arises from the project as a result of the Permit Holder's activities or breach of any term or condition of this Permit.
- 10.12 Report to the Agency any non-compliance with the Environmental Permit (Interim):
 - a) Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the environmental authorisation becomes aware of the non-compliance, the anticipated manner in which it may endanger human health or the environment.
 - b) 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, the anticipated impacts on the environment, and anticipated time during which it is expected to continue if not remedied.
 - c) 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.

19.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

- 19.1 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, 1996, the Environmental Protection

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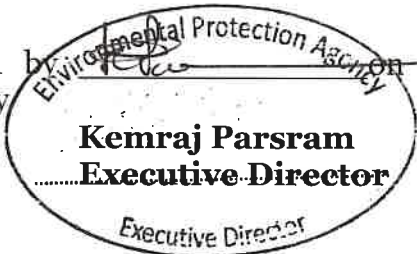
- 19.2 The EPA reserves the right to review/ amend the conditions and fees attached to this Permit (Interim) in consideration of any changes in fee structure as determined by the Agency for projects of this nature.
- 19.3 The Permit Holder shall, at all times, allow entry to the permitted facility to any Officer designated by the EPA for the purposes of conducting inspections or any other legitimate business of the Agency.
- 19.4 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's lack of due care and diligence.
- 19.5 Shall the Permit Holder contravene or is likely to contravene any condition of this Permit, the Agency (EPA) may serve on him an enforcement notice in accordance with s. 26 of the EP Act Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 19.6 The EPA shall have the right to or suspend this Permit (Interim) for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 19.7 This Environmental Permit (Interim) is not the final consent; all relevant permissions shall be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 19.8 Please ensure all other regulatory authorisations are obtained.
- 19.9 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, the Agency may 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.
- 19.10 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Permit (Interim) shall render the Permit Holder liable to prosecution and to penalties prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, 1996, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000, including civil penalties and injunctive relief.
- 19.11 This Environmental Permit (Interim) is valid for the period stipulated herein **(November, 2024 to October, 2026)**.
- 19.12 This Environmental Permit (Interim) shall remain valid until **November 30, 2026**, unless otherwise suspended or revoked in accordance with the provisions

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of this Permit or the Environmental Protection Act, No. 11 of 1996, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000.

- 19.13 This Permit must be renewed by submitting a completed Form *Application Form for Renewal of Environmental Authorisation* to the Agency at least six months before this Permit expires, that is, no later than **May 31, 2026**.
- 19.14 Any late submission of renewal Application(s) after the specified date as stated above, 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 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.
- 19.15 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: 20.11.2024

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I hereby accept the above Terms and Conditions upon which this Environmental Permit (Interim) 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:	NADYA SMITH
DESIGNATION:	Director Controller
SIGNATURE:	<i>msmith</i>
DATE:	Nov 28, 2024



CB 2024.11.26

(Tnutt 2024-392)

Rate 210.45



Environmental Protection Agency

File Copy

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Date: 2024.11.27

No. 29708

Received From: Hikalon Gold Mining Inc

The Sum of: One Million Three hundred four thousand, Seven hundred & Ninety dollars \$1,304,790

For: Environmental Permit (Interim) - Dewatering of mine pits (Nov 2024 - Oct 2026)

PAID

Cash Cheques

☐☐

Wire Transfer

☒

Balance due

Amt. \$ -

Signature: [Signature]

