



## Environmental Protection Agency

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# Environmental 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.:	20221102-BMGIM
Fee:	Medium (C2) i.e., US\$ 1,100 per year
Fee Paid:	US \$ 5,500 for 5 years (December, 2023 – November, 2028)
Addressee:	Mr. Elliott Lincoln President Guyana Industrial Mineral Inc. Suite 403 Fourth Floor, Pegasus Corporate Centre, Seawall Road
Activity:	Exploitation of Sand and Commercial Clays

Guyana Industrial Minerals Inc., hereinafter referred to as the “Permit Holder”, is hereby authorised in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, No. Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000, to undertake the Exploitation of Sand and Commercial Clays at the Bonasika, One, Two, Five, Six and Seven Deposits situated between the Right Bank Essequibo River and the Left Bank of the Demerara River, hereinafter referred to as the “Project”, in a manner indicated in the Application submitted on November 02, 2022, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, existing and forthcoming regulations made under the said Act and/or any other applicable laws, best practices, guidelines and standards relevant to this project.

**Terms and Conditions for Operation to be adhered to by Permit Holder, His Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractor(s):**

### 1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1. Comply with the approved Environment Impact Assessment dated May, 2001, the Environmental Impact Assessment Addendum dated May, 2010, the revised

**Environmental Permit Ref. No. 20221102-BMGIM**

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

Environmental Management Plan, dated February 26, 2020, and EMP addendum dated June, 2020, for the Sand Mining which is a byproduct of the Bauxite Mine.

- 1.2. Notify the Agency in writing and obtain its approval for **ANY** proposed changes in operation of Sand mining 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 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, layout of the facility;
  - ii) Installation of new and/or changes to equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility or operation; and
  - iii) Any technology installed at the facility from which effluent may be discharged.
- 1.3. Adhere to the stipulations within the **Mining Act, No. 20 of 1989**, and the **Mining Regulations including the Mining (Amendment) Regulations, 2005**.
- 1.4. Continue to maintain all demarcated boundary limits of the Mining Licence (ML) for Bonasika **One, Two, Five, Six and Seven** deposits as prescribed by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC).
- 1.5. Within the legal powers of the Company, ensure proper signage and security measures are maintained to discourage the influx of people and keep unauthorized persons from accessing restricted and high-risk areas that are under operation by Guyana Industrial Minerals Inc.
- 1.6. Ensure that records of all maintenance activities of equipment are maintained and placed at visible locations.
- 1.7. As far as possible, maintain the following non-extractable, vegetated buffer zone at least 20 m wide as follows:
  - Between your mining blocks and other different contiguous land-use activities.  
Around the Mine Site.
  - Around the property boundary.
  - Around any water source/spring located on the property.

**Environmental Permit Ref. No. 20221102-BMGIM**

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In instances where 20m vegetative buffer zones cannot be maintained and operations have the potential to impact other contiguous activities, then adequate mitigation measures need to be implemented.

**2.0 EMPLOYEES, CUUPATIONAL 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 their 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 Environmental Permit (**20221102-BMGIM**) 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.
- 2.6 Provide well-equipped first aid and snake bite kits at the work site.
- 2.7 Ensure that communication and transportation systems are in place to respond to emergencies.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 Within the legal powers of the Company, discourage the influx of people into the Mining Concession and do not allow outsiders to settle on its periphery.
- 2.10 Provide employees and third-party contractors with training on good

**Environmental Permit Ref. No. 20221102-BMGIM**

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environmental management practices, occupational health and safety and of their obligations under this Permit on a regular basis.

- 2.11 Prepare and maintain a training file for all employees and third-party contractors, which should be available upon Officers' request during Compliance Inspections and at any other time.
- 2.12 Ensure that adequate fire protection such as fire extinguishers, sand buckets, fire pumps are provided and placed at visible locations on site, in accordance with guidelines established by the Guyana Fire Service.
- 2.13 Ensure all firefighting equipment are maintained and serviced in accordance with guidelines established by the Guyana Fire Service.
- 2.14 Establish and regularly update the Company's evacuation plan which must be posted in conspicuous location (s).
- 2.15 Maintain an alarm system and ensure that all employees are trained and aware of the emergency response protocol and their duties and responsibilities according to the evacuation plan.
- 2.16 Maintain employment of an Environmental Officer or an Environmental Unit that would be responsible for coordinating Environmental Management, implementing the conditions of this Permit, ensuring employees are trained in environmental management and Emergency Response Procedures and capable of monitoring for compliance with this Permit.
- 2.17 Institute a transparent and accessible grievance mechanism for employees to relate and address any environmental and work-related concerns or problems which may arise and affect the well-being or performance of the workers. Employees must be notified of the agreed mechanism during recruitment.

**3.0 VEGETATION CLEARING, TOPSOIL STRIPPING AND RECLAMATION**

- 3.1 Where possible, place topsoil directly onto an area being rehabilitated to reduce double handling of soil.
- 3.2 Conduct reclamation activities at mined-out sites/pits, in accordance with the stipulations set forth in the approved Environmental Management Plan (EMP) dated February 26, 2020, and EMP addendum dated June, 2020 that was developed for the Mining of Bauxite.
- 3.3 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.

**Environmental Permit Ref. No. 20221102-BMGIM**

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Rehabilitation must include reduction of slopes to prevent landslides and/or erosion, and re-vegetation.

- 3.4 Not store topsoil (overburden) within **three (3) metres** of natural vegetation or mine's 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.
- 3.5 Keep top soil alive by covering and allowing vegetative growth.
- 3.6 Erect silt fences or other sediment control devices in drainage lines/around the mine in erosion prone areas.
- 3.7 Employ practical measures such as growing of vegetation e.g., shrubs and grasses on stockpiles of topsoil, to reduce erosion and dust disturbances to surrounding ecosystems.

#### **4.0 WATER QUALITY AND DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000.**
- 4.2 Implement practical measures where applicable to prevent pollution of creeks or any other streams and natural water ways that may be found within or adjacent to your mining concession. This should include the establishment of siltation fences, sedimentation berms or other sediment control structures in erosion prone areas.
- 4.3 Engineer and maintain surface drainage systems to minimise disturbances to natural drainage patterns.
- 4.4 Drainage systems should be capable of handling the probable maximum precipitation within the mines and ancillary facilities. Discharge should be directed into a settling pond before releasing into the environment.
- 4.5 As far as possible, divert surface water runoff from higher mine benches to prevent it from reaching lower workings. Where possible, strategically place low permeability materials to restrict water flow into mining areas.
- 4.6 Install silt traps where necessary to avoid siltation and sedimentation of waterways during operation and maintenance.
- 4.7 Clean drains and sediment traps as necessary.



**Environmental Permit Ref. No. 20221102-BMGIM**

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- 4.8 Consider the weather pattern before initiating major earthworks e.g., road maintenance, topsoil excavation. Monitor areas of exposed soil during periods of heavy rainfall.
- 4.9 Store overburden stockpiles away from drainage systems and beyond 100 meters of any water course.
- 4.10 Conduct site clearing of any mine expansion panels in a gradual and phased manner to minimise sediment discharge.

**5.0 HAUL ROADS**

- 5.1 Designate routes for heavy equipment traffic will be utilised to reduce the area potentially impacted by compaction of soils. If ponding is observed due to compaction and poses a risk (e.g., inadequate drainage, erosion potential), it may be necessary to scarify the compacted surface to increase infiltration.
- 5.2 Maintain a 15 m wide vegetative buffer between the mines, roads and residences.
- 5.3 Ensure the 21 km road between the Bonasika mine leading to Sand Hills is constantly maintained and constructed of laterite or other suitable road construction material to accommodate the heavy-duty machinery and is used in a manner to minimise dust nuisance to the environment.
- 5.4 Ensure the running surface of the haul road is crowned with a compacted layer and equipped with good drainage on both sides of the road shoulder to catch and direct stormwater to the local drainage system and to prevent erosion of roads.
- 5.5 Minimise the clearing of vegetation during road construction by restricting the width of road corridors as much as possible.
- 5.6 Ensure that culverts are installed at points of low elevation along new roadways to maintain local drainage patterns and sized to handle wet season flood flows.
- 5.7 Ensure all reasonable and practical measures such as the provision of turnout drains at regular intervals are implemented to prevent erosion of roads.
- 5.8 Ensure adequate safety signs are erected along all roads informing users of dangerous bends, crossing of haul trucks, speed limits, etc.

**6.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013.**
- 6.2 Construct the waste disposal sites at least 100 meters away from watercourses, residences or farmland and above the highest ground water table level of the area.

**Environmental Permit Ref. No. 20221102-BMGIM**

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- 6.3 Divert storm water from the waste pit.
- 6.4 Solid waste pit should be maintained and covered on a regular basis to avoid fly and rodent infestations as well as mal-odour from leachate.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 Waste shall not be disposed of in or near waterways.
- 6.7 **Burning of waste is strictly prohibited** unless otherwise pre – approved by the EPA.
- 6.8 Promote the reduction and reuse of waste generated from your facility.
- 6.9 Maintain a septic system on site at all times. The septic tank should not be located within 1.5 m of a building or property boundary and should be accessible for cleaning and desludging. 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.***

**7.0 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000.**
- 7.2 Develop and maintain an inventory of all emission sources onsite.
- 7.3 Take all necessary precautions to reduce any instances of particulates released into the environment from the operation.
- 7.4 Employ all practical measures along roads, at material stockpiles, and other sensitive areas to control and prevent fugitive dust impacts during the operation phases. Utilise dust suppression methods such as watering on a regular basis throughout the facility within and around the Mine Site, and the haul road from Bonasika to Sand Hills.
- 7.5 Operate all mechanical equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Additionally, ensure that all mechanical equipment and vehicles are regularly maintained and operated at their optimal levels to minimize **atmospheric emissions.**

## **8.0 NOISE MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 Adhere to the **Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000** and the Noise Management measures outlined in the revised Environmental Management Plan (pending approval).
- 8.2 Implement all possible measures to mitigate adverse noise impacts from heavy machinery and generators on the environment. Ensure all significant noise producing equipment, e.g., generators etc. are equipped with appropriate silencers or mufflers or are enclosed in suitable acoustic enclosures where necessary to reduce noise levels to achieve compliance with the GNBS requirements.
- 8.3 Comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) ***Guidelines for Noise Emission into the Environment*** at a distance of 15 m (50 ft) from the source or at the property boundary, whichever is closer.

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

- 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.
- 8.5 Develop and maintain an inventory of noise producing equipment on site.

## **9.0 FUEL, WASTE OIL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT**

- 9.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000**.
- 9.2 There shall be no release of any pollutants (i.e., fuel, waste oil, etc.) to ground water or soil from permitted installation. Accidental release of pollutants to soil and ground water should be recorded and be reported within twenty-four (24) hours to the Agency for further investigation.
- 9.3 In the event that fuel is stored onsite, ensure that the fuel containment bund has a 110% percent containment capacity of the largest storage tank/container, which must have an impervious surface for the handling of all oils, lubricants and fuels.



**Environmental Permit Ref. No. 20221102-BMGIM**

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- 9.4 Take the necessary precautionary measures such as the use of leak - proof and tightly closed lid containers during the transport of fuel from the site. Appropriate measures should also be taken and during the handling and use of all Hazardous Waste on site.
- 9.5 Store all used oil in tightly covered drums or barrels to avoid spillage. Drums should be stored on an impervious base or in a bunded area. It is an offence to drain fuel/lubricants including used oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground, drains or water ways.
- 9.6 Label and store in a containment bund which must have an impervious surface all waste oil, used batteries, oily rags, filters and oil containers before being reused or sold to an authorised dealer.
- 9.7 Waste oils should be stored on-site until it is ready for reuse. Disposal of waste oils shall be done in a manner approved by the EPA.
- 9.8 Not undertake any fueling activity inside of the pit. All fueling must be done away from mining pit and on a concrete/ impervious surface.

**10.0 BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION**

- 10.1 Maintain vegetation around production facilities and along access and haul roads to mitigate the impact on terrestrial resources.
- 10.2 Prohibit employees from the capturing, killing and trading of all Wildlife from the project area in accordance with the **Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2016**.
- 10.3 Record observances of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity and submit quarterly reports to the EPA.
- 10.4 Prohibit the capture, trade and removal of wildlife from the mining area by employees.
- 10.5 Report any occurrences of illegal wildlife trapping and trading in the project area to the EPA and Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission.

#### **11.0 BUFFER ZONES MANAGEMENT**

- 11.1 Maintain demarcated boundary limits for the site claim. Ensure proper signage and security measures are utilised throughout the mining concession to keep unauthorised persons from accessing restricted and high-risk areas.
- 11.2 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 to buffer noise and fugitive dust emissions.
- 11.3 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.
- 11.4 Ensure suitable buffers are in place to mitigate potential impacts to Farms and settlements that maybe located nearby.

#### **12.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING**

- 12.1 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.
- 12.2 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*).
- 12.3 Inform the Agency prior to or within **thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 12.4 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.
- 12.5 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.

**Environmental Permit Ref. No. 20221102-BMGIM**

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**12.6 Report to the Agency any non-compliances with the Environmental Permit**

12.6.1 Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Environmental Permit becomes aware of the non-compliance, the anticipated manner in which it may endanger human health or the environment.

12.6.2 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.

12.6.3 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.

12.7 Prepare and submit a detailed Reclamation Plan for approval **six (6) months** before the actual reclamation process commences.

12.8 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.

12.9 Submit to the EPA, the **Mining License** from the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) **within three (3) months** of its issuance by the GGMC.

12.10 Notify the EPA once the roads are constructed in order for an assessment to be conducted before the expiration of the Permit.

**13.0 LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION FOR POLLUTION DAMAGE**

13.1 The Permit Holder, his Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractor(s) shall be strictly liable for any loss and / 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 those prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by any environmental authorisation, which are attributed to the Project. (s.19 (1) EP Act).

13.2 Where the Permit Holder in accordance with s. 19(3) is found liable for the contaminant or for the process involving the contaminant or who causes or permits a discharge as aforementioned in relation to above, shall:

(a) immediately notify the Agency of –

(i) the discharge;

**Environmental Permit Ref. No. 20221102-BMGIM**

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

- (ii) the concentration and amount contaminant
  - (iii) the circumstances of the discharge;
  - (iv) what action the person has taken or intends to take to restore the natural environment;
- (b) be liable to pay for the cost of an independent investigation into the discharge.
- 13.3 The Permit Holder, His Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractor(s) shall be guilty of any offence in accordance with s. 39 (1), (2), (3), (4) of the EP Act, Laws of Guyana, which states 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 said Act.
- 13.4 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)).
- 13.5 To the extent permitted by Law, the Permit Holder shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Agency (EPA) from liability including all claims and losses, and all related costs, and expenses (including reasonable attorney's fees and costs of investigation, litigation, settlement, judgments, interest and penalties) resulting to any person, firm or corporation that may be injured or damaged as a result of the Permit Holder in the performance of the said project, that are attributed to the negligence or tortious acts of the Permit Holder or any of its sub – contractors and / or by anyone else for whose acts any of them may be liable.
- 13.6 The Permit Holder shall not be indemnified by the Agency for any activity that causes or is likely to cause pollution to the environment, resulting from adverse effects through the discharge, any contaminant in any amount, concentration, ultra-hazardous substances, chemicals or otherwise, and shall be rendered liable to prosecution and to penalties prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act and Regulations.

#### **14.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY**

- 14.1 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 Regulations, 2000.
- 14.2 The EPA reserves the right to review / amend the conditions 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. 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 be liable to penalties prescribed under paragraph (c) of the Fifth Schedule for doing so.
- 14.3 The EPA shall have the right to cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 14.4 This **Environmental Permit** is not the final consent; all relevant permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 14.5 Should 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 Environmental Protection Act Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 14.6 Where it appears to the Agency 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.
- 14.7 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.
- 14.8 **This Environmental Permit** is effective for the period stipulated herein **(November, 2023 to October, 2028).**
- 14.9 **This Environmental Permit** shall remain valid until **December 31, 2028**, unless otherwise suspended, cancelled, modified or varied, in accordance with the provisions of this Permit or the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the



**Environmental Permit Ref. No. 20221102-BMGIM**

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

Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

- 14.10 This **Environmental Permit** must be renewed by submitting a completed Application Form for Renewal of Environmental Authorisation to the Agency **at least six (6) months** before this Permit expires, that is, no later than **July 31, 2028**.
- 14.11 Any late submission of renewal application(s) after the specified date as stated above, shall 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 day late, until such renewal application is submitted to the Agency, without prejudice to any other rights of the Permit Holder in connection therewith.
- 14.12 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, Laws of Guyana, 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.


Date

11. 12. 2023

**Environmental Permit Ref. No. 20221102-BMGIM**

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I hereby accept the above terms and conditions upon which this Environmental 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, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000, and any forthcoming regulations, best practices, guidelines and standards made under this Act.

NAME	ELLIOTT LINCOLN
DESIGNATION	CSO & DIRECTOR
SIGNATURE	
DATE	11/12/23



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