



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 (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

Reference No.:	20241122-GVGIO
Fee:	Extra Large (C2) - US\$3,100 per year
Fees Paid:	USD \$3,100 (1 year – December, 2024 to November, 2025)
Addressee:	GMIN Ventures Guyana Inc. Suite 404, 4 th floor, Pegasus Suites and Corporate Centre, Seawall Road Kingston, Georgetown.
Activity:	Construction of Gold Mining Service Facilities

GMIN Ventures Guyana Inc., 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 undertake Construction of Gold Mining Service Facilities at Cuyuni Mining District, Region #7, hereinafter referred to as the “Project”, in the manner indicated in the Application for Environmental Authorisation submitted on October 22, 2024, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein and any existing 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.

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

1.0 INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1.1 Notify the Agency in writing and obtain its approval for **ANY** proposed changes in construction activities as proposed in the Project Summary 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.

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- 1.2 Utilise the land in accordance with the information submitted to the Agency via the Environmental Authorisation Application and the supporting documentation dated October 22, 2024.
- 1.3 All specifications of location, pathways, reserve and boundary lines must be adhered to for the **construction of the Process Plant, Barge Landing Facility, Airstrip, Access Roads, Offices and Accommodation Buildings, Fuel Storage Facility, Power Generation Plant, Water Treatment Plant, Water treatment Plant, and Communication Tower**, unless otherwise authorised..
- 1.4 Avoid construction works between 23:00 h and 06:00 h on any day.
- 1.5 Identify suitable areas for material stockpile and equipment during construction.
- 1.6 Ensure that all materials stored in tiers are stacked, racked, blocked, interlocked, or otherwise secured to prevent sliding, falling or collapse.
- 1.7 Remove all construction tools, equipment, machinery, and waste material from site on the completion of construction works.
- 1.8 During the course of construction, alteration, or repairs, form and scrap lumber with protruding nails, and all other debris, shall be kept cleared from work areas, passageways, and stairs, in and around buildings or other structures.
- 1.9 Maintain a good drainage system at the facility and ensure that the land is level and appropriately built up to avoid floods and contamination of the receiving waters.
- 1.10 Ensure that all trucks used to transport construction materials to the site are covered.
- 1.11 Ensure that in every building or structure, exits are arranged and maintained as to provide free and unobstructed egress from all parts of the building or structure, at all times, when it is occupied. No lock or fastening to prevent free escape from the inside of any building shall be installed.
- 1.12 Ensure all enclosed workplaces are constructed, equipped, and maintained, as far as reasonably practicable, to prevent the entrance or harborage of rodents, insects, and other vermin. A continuing and effective extermination program shall be instituted where their presence is detected.
- 1.13 Ensure the control of all electrical installations, removal, repairs, or modifications on the construction site is designated to a certified and competent electrician at all times and is authorized in writing by the Company.
- 1.14 Ensure that all visitors to the construction site (s) undergo health and safety induction pertaining to the hazards prevalent on the site and that such visitors have

the necessary personal protective equipment.
1.15 Ensure that all construction vehicles and mobile plants are:

- 1.15.1 Always maintained in a good working order;
- 1.15.2 Used in accordance with their design and the intentions for which they were designed;
- 1.15.3 Are operated by a person who has received appropriate training, is certified and in possession of proof of competency and is authorized in writing to operate those equipment; and
- 1.15.4 Are inspected by the authorized operator or driver on a daily basis using a relevant checklist prior to use and the findings of such inspection are recorded in a register which should be available upon request by Officers.

2.0 EMPLOYEES, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 2.1 Ensure that employees are well equipped with appropriate protective gear during construction such as protective head gear, respirators, safety vests, construction boots, etc. Employees should at all times be well-protected.
- 2.2 Provide a well-equipped first aid kit at all primary work sites and ensure that functional communication and transportation systems are in place to respond to emergencies.
- 2.3 Eradicate all vector breeding conditions especially in cases where malaria and other vector-borne disease would be/are prevalent.
- 2.4 Institute a transparent and accessible grievance mechanism for employees to relate and address any work-related concerns or problems which may arise and affect the well-being or performance of the workers.
- 2.5 Adhere to the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act to ensure that employees' health and safety are protected.
- 2.6 Ensure proper signage and security measures are erected to keep unauthorized persons from accessing restricted areas.
- 2.7 Practice the use of caution signs to warn against potential hazards or to caution against unsafe practices.
- 2.8 Use accident prevention tags as a temporary means of warning employees of an existing hazard, such as defective tools, equipment, etc. such tags shall not be used in place of, or as a substitute for, accident prevention signs.

- 2.9 Protect employees from excavated or other materials or equipment that could pose a hazard by falling or rolling into excavations. Protection shall be provided by placing and keeping such materials or equipment at least 2 feet from the edge of excavations, or by the use of retaining devices that are sufficient to prevent materials or equipment from falling or rolling into excavations, or by a combination of both if necessary.
- 2.10 Provide adequate washing facilities for employees engaged in the application of paints, coating, herbicides, or insecticides, or in other operations where contaminants may be harmful to the employees. Such facilities shall be in near proximity to the worksite and shall be so equipped as to enable employees to remove such substances.
- 2.11 Ensure all employees/third party contractors are aware of the Conditions of this Construction Permit and provide training on good environmental management practices. Prepare and maintain a training file for employees which should be available upon request by Officers of the Agency during a Compliance Inspection.

3.0 ROAD DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 Road camber should be constructed to allow for maximum surface drainage of road.
- 3.2 Ensure designs locate culvert structures in areas that minimize impacts to riparian vegetation and associated wildlife.
- 3.3 Prevent erosion of inlets and outlets of culverts by reinforcing the structures with riprap or other appropriate measures.
- 3.4 Locate borrow pits out of the visible corridor; ensuring pits are well-drained and rehabilitated when completed.
- 3.5 Rehabilitate and reclaim both avoidable and non-avoidable disturbed areas along the road perimeter to equivalent conditions prior to construction activities.
- 3.6 Avoid road traffic hazards or unnecessary inconveniences to the general public through appropriate planning and management of the construction site.
- 3.7 Maintain all active roads/trails leading to the construction site. Fill in ruts and holes that develop during road/trail use with suitable material (such as compacted fill), as possible to reduce the potential for erosion.
- 3.8 Ensure that the road has the capacity to withstand the transportation of construction materials. Otherwise, roads should be upgraded and improved to withstand foreseeable transport capacities and magnitude.
- 3.9 Ensure that trucks are equipped with the necessary signage to reflect warning of

impending danger of parked/moving trucks with construction materials.

- 3.10 Ensure that impassable road conditions during the wet seasons are monitored and alleviated to disallow further degradation of road conditions (e.g. rutting). The frequencies and magnitude of trucking activities or any other heavy machinery should be planned consistent with benign climatic characteristics of the location.

4.0 WATER AND SOIL QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Protect susceptible sloped surfaces with suitable revetment and appropriate cover to ensure stability of slopes and avoid erosion.
- 4.2 Avoid soil and water contamination from fuel, grease, waste oils and other petroleum products that might be used at the Construction Site. Ensure to store all oils, fuel, paints and chemicals in a designated area, away from all watercourses and drainage channels.
- 4.3 Conduct equipment refueling, maintenance and placement on an impervious base to prevent fuel spills/leaks. Oil spills should be cleaned-up by the best practicable means, to prevent runoff into any watercourse within the project's area of influence.
- 4.4 Surface runoff from vehicle service areas should be channelled to oil-water separators. All water from the oil/water separators should be skimmed prior to discharge.
- 4.5 Adequately store and/or cover temporary stockpiles of construction materials, excavated waste and fuel in a secured designated area to prevent accidental release into the wider environment, especially in rainy conditions. The designated area should not be placed within 10 m of any water courses or sloping surfaces.
- 4.6 Construction works in and immediately around fragile areas and ecosystems should be avoided at all cost where possible. Alternative areas and routes in cases of road development should be duly considered.
- 4.7 Inspect surface drains regularly for any debris which can hinder the free flow of storm water.
- 4.8 Protect susceptible sloped surfaces with mulch and re-vegetate with appropriate cover to ensure stability of vulnerable slopes and avoid erosion.
- 4.9 Limit the removal of vegetation to the extent necessary for works to proceed. In areas where soils are not to be removed, the grassed vegetation layer shall be maintained, where possible, to protect the soil from erosion and compaction.

5.0 NOISE ABATEMENT AND AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

5.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000** and the **Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000**.

5.2 Comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Guidelines for Noise Emissions into the Environment*. Sound levels from noise-making devices should not exceed the limits below, at a distance of 15 meters (50 ft) from the source or property boundary, whichever is closer.

- **Construction Limits: 90 dB** during the daytime (06:00 h - 18:00 h)

5.3 Ensure that all construction activities are done in such a manner to prevent/avoid adverse noise nuisance to the surrounding environment.

5.4 Ensure that all sound-making devices, such as generators, are suitably 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 and are placed on a foundation properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations. Additionally, ensure adequate equipment maintenance is provided and obsolete tools and equipment are replaced.

5.5 Ensure that fugitive dust emissions are arrested by utilizing dust suppression techniques such as wetting of stockpiles, using all-weather surfaces, loading and discharging dusty materials at minimum height of fall etc., so as to minimize the impacts to surrounding receptors inclusive of employees and the general environment. Mitigation strategies provided in the Project Summary should be followed.

5.6 Ensure that appropriate measures are in place to minimize the impacts of air borne emissions from vehicles offloading and/or loading building materials.

5.7 Operate all mechanical equipment in accordance to manufacturer's specifications. Additionally, ensure that all mechanical equipment and vehicles are regularly maintained and operated at their optimal levels to minimize atmospheric emissions.

5.8 Ensure that the exhaust stacks of the generator (s) are at least 2 meters above the tallest building nearby, to minimize adverse fumes/soot impacts to the contiguous areas.

5.9 Comply with the *World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality Guidelines for Particulate Matter in the Environment*, not exceeding the limits below:

PM_{2.5}: 10 µg/m³ annual mean
25 µg/m³ 24-hour mean

PM₁₀: 20 µg/m³ annual mean
50 µg/m³ 24-hour mean

6.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Comply with the **Environmental Protection (Litter Prevention) Regulations, 2013.**
- 6.2 At all times, utilize the best practicable means of handling, storing and disposing of all waste materials.
- 6.3 Strictly disallow burning of waste materials on site. All non-reusable wastes should be disposed at an approved disposal area described in Condition **6.4 and 6.5.**
- 6.4 Promote proper solid waste management and disposal practices at the site. In particular, dispose of waste at the nearest designated waste management site. Ensure that garbage receptacles are covered and placed at strategic locations at all facilities under administration.
- 6.5 Construct a Solid Waste Pit at least 100 meters away from waterways, above the water table and line it with at least 1.5 meters of clay/loam material to avoid leachate entering the ground water.
 - 6.5.1 Storm water should be diverted from the Waste Pit. Pits should be maintained and covered on a regular basis to avoid fly and rodent infestations as well as mal-odor from leachate.
 - 6.5.2 When the maximum capacity is reached, the Waste Pit should be covered with at least 0.3 meters of soil and a suitable site determined for another.
- 6.6 Submit to the Agency for approval, a plan and design of any proposed burning facility prior to construction and implementation.
- 6.7 Reuse excavated land-filling material for the revetment of the general compound surroundings. However, this must be done in an aesthetically acceptable and controlled manner.
- 6.8 Ensure that materials which are no longer required for use, do not accumulate on and are removed from the site at appropriate intervals.
- 6.9 Construct and maintain a septic tank system at all appropriate facilities. The septic tank should 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.*

- 6.10 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.

7.0 HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000**, as follows.
- 7.2 There shall be no release of any pollutants (i.e. fuel, waste oil, wood preservatives) to ground water or soil from permitted installation. Accidental release of pollutants to soil and ground water should be recorded and be reported within 24 hrs to the Agency for further investigation.
- 7.3 In the event that fuel is stored onsite during the construction phase 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.
- 7.4 Take the necessary precautionary measures such as the use of leak - proof and tightly closed containers during the transport of fuel to the designated storage site. Appropriate measures should also be taken and during the handling and use of all Hazardous Waste at the construction site.
- 7.5 Store all used oil in lightly covered drums or barrels to avoid spillage. It is an offence to drain fuel/lubricants including used oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground, drains or water ways.
- 7.6 Promote the reuse of waste oil, for example lubrication of equipment, where practical.
- 7.7 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 authorized dealer.
- 7.8 Where applicable, prepare and submit to the Agency no later than **forty-five (45) days** after the end of the operating year, a report relating to the activities for the previous year. The report shall include:
- a) The identification information of the facility.
 - b) Type and quantities of hazardous waste generated.
 - c) Data concerning off-site shipments of waste.
 - d) Any applied treatment standards.
 - e) A summary of any accidents that may have occurred and any action taken.
 - f) Any waste minimization efforts undertaken by the generator.

g) Any other matter the Agency may require.

The Agency considers all materials listed in Schedules I and II of the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Wastes Management) Regulations, 2000, to be hazardous. Please see attached list of Hazardous Wastes to be controlled.

7.9 Ensure a Spill Containment Kit is always kept on site.

8.0 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 Obtain approval from the Guyana Fire Service and provide fire protection measures such as fire extinguishers and sand buckets in accordance with this approval.
- 8.2 Ensure the Fire Safety Certificate is renewed yearly and all firefighting equipment are maintained and serviced regularly. The Fire Safety Certificate should be submitted to officers of the Agency upon request, during a compliance inspection and in the Annual Report.
- 8.3 Ensure all employees are trained in the use of firefighting equipment such as fire extinguishers and understand the firefighting protocol.
- 8.4 Ensure an Evacuation Plan is maintained and posted at strategic locations.
- 8.5 Ensure all employees are aware of the emergency response plan and their duties and responsibilities according to the plan.

9.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 9.1 Comply with any lawful directions given by the EPA from time-to-time in furtherance of the implementation of any international or other obligation for the environmental protection of Guyana.
- 9.2 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Environmental Permit (Interim), insofar as they involve adherence by employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 9.3 Conform to all terms and conditions under which this Permit is granted and shall 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.
- 9.4 Report to the Agency of non-compliance with the **Environmental Permit (Interim)**:

- 9.4.1. Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Construction Permit (Renewed) becomes aware of the non-compliance, the anticipated manner in which it may endanger human health or the environment.
- 9.4.2 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.
- 10.4.3 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.
- 9.5 Submit **Environmental Annual Report** to the EPA on or before **March 31** every year on your compliance with this Permit (Please see attached, *Guidelines for the Preparation of Environmental Annual Reports*).
- 9.6 Notify the EPA within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies such as a sudden onset of 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.
- 9.7 Notify the EPA of non-compliance with this Permit upon becoming aware of violation.
- 9.8 Inform the Agency prior to or within **thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 9.9 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.

10.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

- 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, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 10.2 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.
- 10.3 The EPA shall have the right to cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.




- 10.4 The Permit Holder shall, at all times, allow entry to the permitted facility to any Officer designated by the EPA for the purposes of conducting inspections or any other legitimate business of the Agency. Pursuant to s.38 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, it is an offence to assault, obstruct or hinder an authorized person in the execution of his/her duty under the said Act or its Regulations and the Permit Holder shall be liable to penalties prescribed under paragraph (c) of the Fifth Schedule for doing so.
- 10.5 This **Environmental Permit (Interim)** is not the final consent; all relevant permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 10.6 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, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorizations) Regulations, 2000, including civil penalties and injunctive relief.
- 10.7 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 or 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 Authorisation which are attributed to the Project, s. 19(1) EP Act, Cap. 20:05.
- 10.8 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.”
- 10.9 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.
- 10.10 The Permit Holder shall be responsible for the payment of all costs related to the assessment of damage and costs for the independent assessor (s).
- 10.11 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 EP Act Cap. 20:05.
- 10.12 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.

- 10.13 Where it appears to the Agency (EPA) that the Permit Holder is engaged in any activity that may pose serious threat to natural resources or serious pollution of the Environment or any damage to public health, issue to the Permit Holder a Prohibition Notice Order to immediately cease the offending activity. S. 27 EP Act, Cap. 20:05.
- 10.14 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:
- Immediately notify the Agency of the discharge;
 - Concentration and amount of contaminant;
 - Circumstances of the discharge; and
 - What action he/she has taken or intends to take to restore the natural environment; and
 - Be liable to pay for the cost of an independent investigation into the discharge.
- 10.15 This Environmental Permit (Interim) is valid for the period stipulated herein **(December, 2024 to November, 2025)**.
- 10.16 This Environmental Permit (Interim) shall remain valid until **November 30, 2025**, unless otherwise suspended, modified cancelled or varied 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.
- 10.17 This Construction Permit (Renewed) 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 **May 30, 2025**.
- 10.18 Any late submission of renewal application (s) after the specified date as stated above, shall require the Permit Holder to pay, in addition to renewal fee, a late penalty fee (accruing at the time such obligation was first owed for renewal) at a rate of **two thousand dollars (\$2000.00) per day** for every day late, until such renewal application is submitted to the Agency, without prejudice to any other rights of the Permit Holder in connection therewith.
- 10.19 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, Law 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.

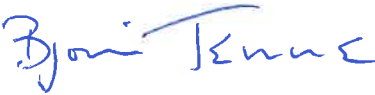
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Signed by  on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.
Kemraj Parsram
Executive Director

Date: 17.12.2024

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 existing and forthcoming regulations, best practices, guidelines and standards made under this Act.

NAME:	BJORN TEUNE
SIGNATURE:	
DESIGNATION:	Country Manager
DATE:	17 th December, 2024



Wire transfer rec. on 18/12/2024

Ref: 210-45



Environmental Protection Agency

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Date:

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No. 29842

Received From: GTH Ventures Guyana Inc.

The Sum of: Six Hundred Fifty Thousand and Forty Five Dollars \$652,545.00

For: Environmental Permit (Interim) & Construction of gold mining service facilities (Dec: 2024 - Nov. 2025)

PAID

Cash	Cheques	Wire Transfer	Balance due
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

 Amt. \$

Signature: [Signature]

