



Environmental Protection Agency

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Operation 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 :	20140826-TRFSO
Fee:	Small (C1) - US\$500 (5 years), i.e. US\$100 per year
Fees Paid:	USD 500 (October, 2018 – September, 2023)
Addressee:	Ms Thakurmattie Ramnarine T. Ramnarine General Store CZ 14, Lesbeholden South Black Bush Polder Corentyne Berbice
Activity:	Operation of a Gas Station



Thakurmattie Ramnarine, trading and operating under the name T. Ramnarine General Store, 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 Gas Station, at CZ 14, Lesbeholden South, Black Bush Polder, Corentyne, Berbice, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in a manner indicated in the Application submitted on August 26, 2014, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein and any forthcoming regulations, best practices, guidelines and standards relevant to this project.

Terms and Conditions for Operation by the Permit Holder:

1.0 Infrastructure

- 1.1 Notify the Agency in writing of any proposed changes to the operation **at least 14 days** prior to making the change. The notification shall contain a description of the proposed change in operation. It is not necessary to make such a notification if an application to vary this permit has been made and the application contains a description of the proposed change. In this condition 'change in operation' means a change in the nature or functioning, or an extension, or any additional installation, which may have consequences for the environment. Changes to operation may include but not limited to the following:
 - Changes in construction, structure, or layout of the facility, plant or building;

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- Installation of new and/or changes to equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility or operation; or
 - Any technology used or installed at the facility from which effluent may be discharged.
- 1.2 Adopt and comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Guidelines for the Design, Construction, Modification, and Maintenance of Petrol Filling Stations*, and any forthcoming code of practice/guidelines pertaining to the operation of gas stations.
- 1.3 Store all fuel away from ignition sources and have 'No Smoking' signs posted where fuel is handled or stored.
- 1.4 Store any contaminated fuel in closed leak proof containers and label slop tanks "Used Fuel".
- 1.5 Maintain good house-keeping, sanitary and hygienic practices and aesthetic quality of the surroundings at all times.
- 1.6 Maintain a sump below the fuel dispensers to capture any spillage that may occur.
- 1.7 Ensure that pipe entries under the sumps are sealed to prevent fuel leakage into ground and surface water
- 1.8 Ensure that pipelines from tanks to offset filling points, dispensing equipment and vent pipes below the ground surface are well maintained. Pipelines should not be located under buildings. Ensure free access to the pipelines.
- 1.9 Maintain leak detection mechanisms. At least two (2) of the following measures should be taken: overflow alarms on tanks; gauging system; dipstick measurements; sensors on walls of tanks and electric shut down buttons.
- 1.10 Ensure that corrosion control measures are in place to prevent the corrosion of underground steel tanks and pipe work.

2.0 Water Quality

- 2.1 Not discharge waste water effluent directly into receiving waters without prior treatment. Maintain oil-water separator on site, through which all effluent must pass before final discharge.
- 2.2 Maintain an interceptor drain, which must be adequately sloped to collect storm flow.
- 2.3 Maintain the Integrity of the existing waterways at all times. Discharges into the environment should be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of

Standards (GNBS) Interim Guidelines for Industrial Effluent Discharge into the Environment. The following are the allowable limits for a Service Station and should not be exceeded:

- pH 5.0-9.0;
- Temperature < 40 °C;
- Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) < 50 mg/L;
- Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) < 250 mg/L;
- Total Suspended Solid (TSS) < 100 mg/L;
- Oil and Grease < 20 mg/L; and
- Total Dissolved Solid (TDS) < 40 mg/L.

3.0 Noise Abatement


- 3.1 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 metres (50 ft) from the source or property boundary, whichever is closer.

Residential Limits: **75 dB** during the daytime (06:00 h - 18:00 h)
 60 dB during the night-time (18:00 h - 06:00 h)

- 3.2 Ensure that 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.
- 3.3 Ensure that the exhaust stacks of the generator (s) are at least two (2) metres above the tallest building nearby, to minimise adverse fumes/soot impacts to the contiguous areas.
- 3.4 Ensure no recreational activities are conducted on site (i.e. bar-b-ques, limes, public gatherings, etc.).

4.0 Waste Management

- 4.1 Promote good sanitation and solid waste disposal practices on site. Covered garbage receptacles must be placed at strategic locations at the facility. Wastes must be collected and disposed of at an approved waste disposal facility.
- 4.2 Promote waste minimisation and the reuse and/or recycling of waste material and other suitable materials when practical.
- 4.3 Maintain a septic tank system on site. 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*

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Secondary Treatment and Disposal Systems.

5.0 Hazardous Waste / Materials Management

- 5.1 Comply with the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Wastes Management) Regulations, 2000.
- 5.2 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 (please see attached form). The report shall include:
- a) the name, location and type of facility;
 - b) types and quantities (in metric units) of hazardous waste generated;
 - c) manner of storage, use, any applied treatment standards/methods and disposal of these substances;
 - d) data concerning off-site shipments of waste, i.e. local disposal facility utilized, country to which hazardous waste is shipped, purpose of shipment and amount of waste shipped;
 - e) a summary of any accidents that may have occurred and any action taken;
 - f) any waste minimization efforts undertaken by your facility for hazardous material/waste; and
 - g) any other matter the Agency may require.

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

- 5.3 Ensure that oil/fuel containment absorbent materials are appropriately stored in slop tanks.
- 5.4 Store used oil in a covered, bunded area to minimise adverse impacts to the environment in the event of spillage. The bunded area must be able to provide containment for the maximum volume of used oil stored on site.
- 5.5 Ensure all pumps and dispensers are inspected regularly for leak detection.
- 5.6 Ensure that an appropriate spill containment kit is located at the site. The kit should contain absorbent material to absorb spilt oil and other spilt liquids.
- 5.7 Maintain an impervious secondary containment wall that should have the capacity to provide at least 110% containment around each fuel storage tank, creating a temporary holding area in the event of accidentally spillage.

6.0 Compliance Monitoring and Reporting

- 6.1 Notify the Environmental Protection Agency within **24 hours** of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies (e.g. oil spills, accidental discharge of hazardous materials/wastes, chemicals, etc.).

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- 6.2 Notify the Agency in writing of any change of name or ownership of the Permit Holder's facility within **thirty (30) days** after the change occurs.
- 6.3 Make all employees, and third parties under your direction, aware of the conditions of the Permit and provide training on good environmental practices.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 Maintain and submit to the Agency records of the type, composition and quantity of contaminant released (i.e. any solid, liquid, gas, odour, sound, vibration, radiation, heat or combination of any of them).
- 6.6 Report to the Agency of non-compliance with the Operation Permit:
 - I. 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.
 - II. 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.
 - III. 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.
- 6.7 Submit **Annual Reports** to the EPA on the progress of the operation and compliance with the conditions under which this Permit was granted on or before **March 31** of each year. Please see attached Guidelines for the Preparation of Environmental Annual Reports.
- 6.8 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.
- 6.9 Obtain approval from the Guyana Fire Service and provide fire protection measures such as fire extinguishers and sand buckets in accordance with this approval.
- 6.10 Ensure all firefighting equipment are maintained and serviced regularly.

7.0 Institutional Authorities/Liabilities

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 The EPA reserves the right to review and /or 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.
- 7.4 The EPA shall have the right to cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 7.5 The Permit Holder shall be strictly liable for any loss or damage to the environment through any act caused intentionally or recklessly, through the adverse effect of any discharge or release, or cause to permit the entry of pollution, contaminant in any amount, concentration or level in excess of that prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by any environmental authorization which are attributed to the Project. S. 19(1) EP Act, Cap. 20:05.
- 7.6 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.”
- 7.7 The Permit Holder shall be liable to any gross negligence or willful misconduct caused by the Permit Holder, his Servants and/ or Agents, to the marine environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release or discharge, spill, contaminant fluids, oil or lubricants from the fuel storage.
- 7.8 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.
- 7.9 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).
- 7.10 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

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result of the Permit Holder lack of due care and diligence.

- 7.11 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.
- 7.12 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 (EPA) shall issue to the Permit Holder a Prohibition Notice Order to immediately cease the offending activity. S. 27 EP Act, Cap. 20:05.
- 7.13 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Permit shall render the Permit Holder liable to prosecution and to penalties prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 7.14 The Permit Holder is obligated to ensure that the Gas Station is permitted by other relevant authorities.
- 7.15 The EPA reserves the right to review and /or 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.
- 7.16 The Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein **(October, 2018 to September, 2023)**.
- 7.17 This Operation Permit shall remain valid until **September 30, 2023**, 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.
- 7.18 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 **April 30, 2023**.

Signed by  on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr Vincent Adams
Executive Director

Date

18/10/2018

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

NAME	Thakurmattie Ramnarine
SIGNATURE	Thakurmattie Ramnarine
DESIGNATION	Owner.
DATE	24 th October 2018



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