



## 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.:	20190213- TPZYL
Actual Fee:	Medium (C1)- US\$ 500 per year
Fee Paid:	US\$ 2500(5 years – December 2019 - November 2024)
Addressee(s):	Mr. Zheng You Liu Proprietor Guyana Soft Touch Inc. Parcel 539- 542, Garden of Eden, East Bank Demerara.
Activity:	Operation of a Fuel Storage Facility to support the Manufacturing of Toilet Paper

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
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Mr. Zheng You Liu, operating as Guyana Soft Touch 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 Regulations, 2000, to operate a Fuel Storage Facility to support the Manufacturing of Toilet Paper, at Parcel 539- 542, Garden of Eden, East Bank Demerara, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in a manner indicated in the Application submitted on February 13, 2019, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein 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.

### Terms and Conditions for Operation to be adhered to by Permit Holder

#### 1.0 OPERATION OF FUEL STORAGE FACILITY – DIESEL ONLY

- 1.1 Notify the Agency in writing and obtain its approval for **ANY** proposed changes in the operation of the facility **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 an extension, of the installation, which may have consequences for the environment, including but not limited to the following:

*[Handwritten signature and initials]*

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
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- (i) Changes in construction, structure, or layout of the facility and all associated buildings.
- (ii) Installation of new and/or changes to equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility.
- (iii) Any technology used or installed at the facility from which effluent may be discharge.

- 1.2 Ensure that good house-keeping, sanitary and hygienic practices and the aesthetic quality of your surroundings are maintained at all times.
- 1.3 Keep all work area floors and walkways clean and clear at all times to prevent tripping and other hazards.
- 1.4 Ensure that employees are well equipped with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's) such as gloves, face masks, overalls, etc. during operating hours. Employees should at all times be well protected.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 Establish and maintain a register of the quantities of Fuel held onsite. Registered information shall be submitted to the Agency as part submission of the required **Annual Report** referred to at Monitoring and Compliance.
- 1.7 Fuel shall 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.
- 1.8 Fuel storage tanks shall be located where they can be inspected externally for corrosion or leaks and suitably protected against corrosion for the duration of their operating life.
- 1.9 Conduct monthly inspections of fuel storage tanks. Establish and maintain a record of inspections. **The inspection records shall be submitted with the annual report requested at condition 7.11.**
- 1.10 Ensure that corrosion control measures are in place to prevent the corrosion of steel tanks and pipe work.
- 1.11 Conduct monthly maintenance and repairs of the generator, and other fittings, pipes and hoses in order to detect leaks, and/ or spillage. Establish and maintain a maintenance register. **This register shall be submitted with the annual**



**report requested at condition 7.11.**

- 1.12 Pipelines from tanks to dispensing equipment shall be well maintained.
- 1.13 Construct and maintain 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. The containment wall for areas with a solitary tank should have the capacity to provide 110% containment of the fuel tank.
- 1.14 Install a 4ft x 6ft rolled-curved loading pad on the outer section of the containment bund to contain spills when delivery trucks are unloading and containers or equipments are being filled. Loading pad must be connected to a pipe with a valve that remains closed when not in use and connected to the containment bund which is connected to the oil and water separator.
- 1.15 All firefighting equipment shall be maintained and serviced regularly.
- 1.16 An emergency spill cleanup kit shall be maintained on site for response to potential spills. Kits shall contain absorbent materials, drain seals and other appropriate tools for clean-up.
- 1.17 Obtain and submit to the EPA approval from the Guyana Energy Agency for storage of fuel, within **thirty(30) days** of issuance of this permit.

**2.0 EQUIPMENT USE AND MAINTENANCE**

- 2.1 Conduct regular cleaning, inspection and maintenance of the all equipment and machinery including the cutting machine, rewinding machine, etc. to avoid mechanical failures and to ensure equipment operate at optimal levels. The manufacturer's instructions should be taken into account when maintenance is carried out.
- 2.2 All employees who operate machinery such as the cutting machine; rewinding machine, etc. shall be properly trained on operational and safety procedures for these equipment.
- 2.3 Equipment shall only be operated by trained employees. All other employees and sub-contractors shall have restrictive access to these equipment.
- 2.4 Employees shall not wear loose clothing, jewelry, or long hair around the rewinding machine, cutting machine or other equipment during operation.

**3.0 WATER QUALITY**

- 3.1 Adhere to the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000.**

- 3.2 Conduct refueling on an impervious base or implement the use of drip pans to prevent fuel contamination of soil/water.
- 3.3 Install and maintain oil water separator(s) at the final discharge point of drains influenced by the fuel tank containment areas or refueling areas through which all effluent must pass before final discharge. This must be installed within three (3) months of issuance of this permit.
- 3.4 Discharges from the fuel bund(s) should flow through the oil water separator(s) and 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 should not be exceeded:
- pH 5.0-9.0;
  - Temperature < 40 °C;
  - Total Suspended Solid (TSS) < 100 mg/L;
  - Oil and Grease < 10 mg/L;
  - Total Dissolved Solid (TDS) < 40 mg/L;
  - Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) <40 mg/L
- 3.5 Monitor the parameters listed in **condition 3.4** on an annual basis at the point of discharge from the oil/water separators and submit the results to the Agency as a component of the Annual Environmental Report required in **condition 7.11**.
- 3.6 Oil spills shall be cleaned-up immediately to prevent runoff into the waterways.
- 3.7 Refrain from draining fuel/lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground or into waterways.
- 3.8 Do not discharge or dispose solid waste, oil, or other materials generated by the operation into the canal located along the property boundary line west of the facility or any drainage system on site.
- 3.9 Ensure that all the drainage systems are kept flowing and free of materials and vegetation. Regular cleaning of the drainage network and the immediate environment must be maintained.
- 3.10 Should there be any contamination of any watercourse or drain during operation, procedures for the removal, reversal and clearing of these impacts shall be implemented.



#### 4.0 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Adhere to the **Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000** and the **Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000**.
- 4.2 Operate all mechanical equipment in accordance with manufacturer's specifications at all times. Additionally, ensure that mechanical equipment work at their optimal levels to minimise atmospheric emissions and abnormal noise pollution.
- 4.3 Comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Guidelines for Noise Emissions into the Environment*, not exceeding the Industrial Limits at a distance of 15 m (50 ft) from the source or at the property boundary, whichever is closer.
- **Commercial Limits**      **80 dB** Day-time (06:00 h - 18:00 h)  
   **65 dB** Night- time (18:00h – 06:00h)
- 4.4 All significant noise-producing equipment, e.g. rewinding machine, cutting machine, generator etc. shall be equipped with appropriate silencers or mufflers and/or are enclosed in suitable acoustic enclosures where necessary to reduce noise levels impacting the surrounding environment to achieve compliance with GNBS requirement.
- 4.5 All equipment and machinery shall be placed on foundations properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations.
- 4.6 The exhaust stack of the generator shall not be less than two (2) meters above the tallest building nearby, to minimize adverse fumes/soot impacts to the contiguous areas.

#### 5.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 At all times utilise the best practicable means of handling, storing and disposing of all waste materials.
- 5.2 In accordance with the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013**, promote good sanitation and solid waste disposal practices on site; covered garbage receptacles must be placed at strategic locations at the facility. Waste must be collected and disposed of at an approved waste disposal facility.
- 5.3 Waste materials **shall not be burnt on-site**.
- 5.4 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 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.* If Portable toilets are utilized, ensure regular emptying of its content to avoid mal-odour or overflow.

## **6.0 HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT**

6.1 Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations 2000.

6.2 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 minimisation efforts undertaken by your facility for hazardous material/waste; and any other matter the Agency may require.

6.3 In the event that waste oil (recovered from oil-water separator or from servicing of generators) is stored on site, it should be stored in a covered, bunded area to minimize adverse impacts to the environment in the event of spillage. The bunded area must be labeled and must be able to provide containment for the maximum volume of waste oil on site.

6.4 Dispose of all waste oil in accordance with the Environmental Guidelines, 2011 for the 'Removal, Treatment and Disposal of Oily Sludge' (attached) or reuse waste oil as lubricant for chainsaw or other equipment\machinery.

6.5 Ensure that oil/fuel contaminated absorbent materials are appropriately stored and disposed of by double wrapping in heavy duty garbage bags and dispose of at an approved waste disposal facility. Hazardous contaminated absorbent pads can be disposed of by an authorised Hazardous Waste Disposal company.

## **7.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING & REPORTING**

7.1 Notify the Environmental Protection Agency **within 24 hours** of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies (e.g. oil spills, hazardous materials/wastes,



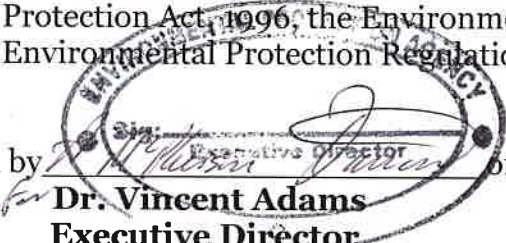
chemicals sudden onset disaster, natural, technological or human- induced factors that cause or threaten to cause severe environmental damage as well as harm to human health or livelihood).

- 7.2 Make all employees, and third parties under your direction, aware of the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and provide training on good environmental practices.
- 7.3 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 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.
- 7.6 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).
- 7.7 Report to the Agency of non-compliance with the Operation Permit:
- 7.8 Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Environmental Authorisation for Operation becomes aware of the non-compliance, the anticipated manner in which it may endanger human health or the environment.
- 7.9 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.
- 7.10 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.
- 7.11 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** each year. (Please see attached, the *Guidelines for the preparation of Environmental Annual Reports*).
- 7.12 It is the responsibility of the Permit Holder to ensure the permitted activity and premises are secured and that all practicable steps necessary to prevent fires, explosions, leaks or suspected leaks and spills at the permitted premises are taken.

## 8.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

- 8.1 The Permit Holder shall be liable for any loss or damage which may arise from the project as a result of the Permit holder's activities or breach of any term or condition of this Permit.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 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 (Authorizations) Regulations, 2000.
- 8.4 The Permit Holder shall at all times allow entry to the Permitted Facility to any Officer designated by the EPA for 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 authorised person in the execution of his/her duty under the said Act or its regulations and the Permit holder shall be liable to penalties prescribes under paragraph (c) of the Fifth Schedule for doing so.
- 8.5 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.
- 8.6 Compensate any affected party for any loss or damage to the Environment that arises from the operation of this Facility.
- 8.7 Should the Permit Holder contravene or be likely to contravene any condition of this Permit, the Agency (EPA) may issue an enforcement notice to him, in accordance with s. 26 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 8.8 The EPA shall have the right to cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 8.9 This Permit is not the final development consent. Permission should be obtained from other relevant regulatory bodies prior to project implementation.

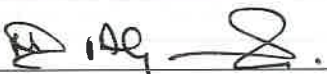
- 8.10 This Operation Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein **December 2019 to November 2024**.
- 8.11 This Operation Permit shall remain valid until **November 30, 2024** unless otherwise suspended, cancelled, modified or varied in accordance with the provisions of this Permit or the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000.
- 8.12 This 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 of Environmental Authorisation expires, that is, no later than **June 30, 2024**.
- 8.13 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 (\$ 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.
- 8.14 Failure to comply with any or all the provisions of this Permit 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.

Signed by  on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.  
**Dr. Vincent Adams**  
**Executive Director**

Date

December 05, 2019

**I hereby accept the above terms and conditions upon which this Operation Permit is granted and agree to abide by the Environmental Protection Act, 1996, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000, and any forthcoming regulations and standards made under this Act.**

<b>NAME</b>	MICHELLE D'ACRUAR
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	GENERAL MANAGER.
<b>SIGNATURE</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	05 <sup>th</sup> Dec, 2019.