



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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Operation Permit (Renewed)

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.	20040524-PGLPO
Fees:	Small (C1) - US\$175 per year
Fees Paid:	US\$875: Five (5) years (July, 2021 – June, 2026)
Addressee:	Mr. David Coates, Proprietor Lam's Service Station 15, Barrack Street, Lethem, Region No. 9.
Activity:	Operation of a Gas Station

Mr. David Coates, trading and operating under the name Lam's Service Station, 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, located at 15, Barrack Street, Lethem, Rupununi, Region No. 9, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in a manner indicated in the Application for Renewal of Environmental Authorisation submitted on June 24, 2021, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, existing and/or forthcoming regulations made under the said Act, and/or any applicable laws, guidelines, best practices and standards relevant to this project.

This is a Renewal of the Operation Permit, Reference No. 20040524-PGLPO, issued on March 17, 2016, which expired on February 28, 2021. The Operation Permit-Renewed is issued pursuant to the Environmental Protection (Authorisation) Regulations, 2000.

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

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1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1 Notify the Agency in writing and obtain its approval for **ANY** proposed changes in operation of the Gas Station, **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 submitted to the EPA, 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; and
- 1.2 Notify the Agency in writing and obtain its approval at least **fourteen (14) days** before any replacement of underground storage tanks. The underground storage tanks **must** be changed to double walls tanks, and the specification **must** be submitted to the Agency.
- 1.3 Adopt and comply with the Guyana National Bureau of 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 the Service Stations.
- 1.4 Maintain a sump below each fuel dispenser to capture any spillage that may occur.
- 1.5 Ensure that pipe entries under the pump sumps are sealed to prevent fuel leaks.
- 1.6 Route pipelines from tanks to offset filling points, dispensing equipment and vent pipes below the ground surface. Pipelines should not be located under buildings. Ensure free access to the pipeline system for easy maintenance.
- 1.7 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 should have the capacity to provide at least 110% containment of the largest tank. The containment wall for areas with solitary tanks should have the capacity to provide 110% containment of each fuel tank. The containment wall **MUST** be fully sealed to prevent spillage

into the receiving drainage system.

- 1.8 An electronic shut down system shall be installed as a primary leak detection mechanism, along with any one or more of the following:
 1. A gauging system;
 2. An overflow alarm on tanks;
 3. Dipstick measurements; or
 4. Sensors installed on walls of tank.
- 1.9 Ensure that corrosion control measures are in place to prevent the corrosion of underground steel tanks and pipe work.
- 1.10 Ensure all relevant employees are trained in good environmental management practices and of their obligations under this permit.
- 1.11 Maintain a drainage system around the fuel dispensers. The drain should be at least 2 meters from the dispensers and leading to the oil-water separator.
- 1.12 The Gas station shall be provided with adequate fire prevention and control equipment. This may include a smoke detection and alarm system, access to fire extinguishers, fire hydrants or sprinkler systems as appropriate.
- 1.13 Install a **minimum of three (3) groundwater monitoring wells** around the storage facility within **six (6) months of issuance of this permit**. The groundwater monitoring wells shall be inspected to assess any potential leaks and impacts to groundwater. Submit a groundwater monitoring plan including location and design of wells for review and approval by the Agency.
- 1.14 The groundwater monitoring wells shall be installed by a licensed well driller company.

2.0 FORECOURT

2.1 Refueling and fuel delivery area:

- I. Fuel deliveries should be supervised and must be conducted within the forecourt containment area, or in an area with separate bunding;
- II. Fuel delivery points should also be equipped with a collection trap that can collect any spilt fuel and divert it to a 'slop tank';
- III. Ensure all inlets to underground storage tanks in a bunded area to contain any spills resulting from discharge of fuel from tankers;
- IV. Ensure the monitoring well in the forecourt area is located downslope of the underground tanks so the situation can be assessed.

2.2 CANOPY

- I. Covering the fuel dispensing area with a roof that has an overhang of at least 10°.
- II. Directing uncontaminated rainwater away from the canopy and other roofed areas into storm water drains.

3.0 UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS (UST)

- 3.1 All tanks should be double walled.
- 3.2 Ensure that each tank has a functionally leak and overfill protection system in place as required **in condition 1.8.**
- 3.3 Ensure the use of non- metallic components (such as tanks, piping, and joints) in contact with soil must have corrosion protection. Tanks should be placed in an inert material first, e.g., sand.
- 3.4 During temporary or permanent closure of USTs, tanks must be in keeping with an approved decommissioning plan by the Agency.

4.0 ABOVE -GROUND STORAGE TANKS (AST)

- 4.1 Ensure that ASTs are located in impervious bunds so as to reduce the risk of groundwater and land contamination. Bund walls should be used to divert storm-water away from storage areas. Storage areas should be located at least 100 meters away from waterways and areas prone to flooding.
- 4.2 Ensure that AST's have impervious impoundments with a storage capacity of 110% of the largest storage tank.
- 4.3 Buried piping must be protectively wrapped and/or coated to prevent corrosion, and periodically tested for structural integrity.
- 4.4 Routinely monitor ASTs to ensure they are not leaking. Areas to inspect include tank foundation, connections, coatings, tanks walls, and piping systems.
- 4.5 Ensure fuels and waste oils are managed to ensure safety in handling and the prevention of spills at the storage and operating site(s).

5.0 WATER QUALITY

- 5.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000.**
- 5.2 Maintain an oil-water separator through which all effluent must pass through before the final discharge.

5.3 Do not discharge effluent directly into receiving waters without prior treatment. Discharges from the oil water separator/s 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:

- Total Suspended Solid (TSS) < 100 mg/L;
- Oil and Grease < 10 mg/L;
- Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) < 40 mg/L.

5.4 Monitor the parameters listed in condition 5.3 on an annual basis at the point of discharge (after the oil-water separator but before entering drainage system), and submit the results to the Agency as a component of **Annual Reports** as required in condition **10.2**.

5.5 Maintain an interceptor drain, which must be adequately sloped to collect storm flow. Ensure that drains are cleared of debris and/ or weeds on a regular basis to promote the free flow of water.

6.0 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000 and the Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000**.

6.2 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.

Commercial Limits: **80 dB** [Day-time (06:00 h -18:00 h)]
75 dB [Night-time (18:00 h - 06:00 h)]

6.3 Ensure all sound-making devices such as generators, are suitably enclosed within structures made with materials of good insulation properties (e.g., hollow concrete blocks, insulation boards, solid clay bricks, etc.), and equipped with silencers or mufflers to reduce the noise level.

6.4 Ensure that the exhaust stacks of the generator are 2 meters, above the generator room, to minimise adverse fumes/soot impacts to contiguous areas.

6.5 Continue to operate and service all mechanical equipment in accordance with manufacturer's specifications at all times. Additionally, ensure that mechanical

equipment is regularly maintained, and work at their optimal levels to minimise atmospheric emissions.

- 6.6 Implement a vapor recovery system for the offloading of bulk fuel, on site. Measures to reduce loading off loading emissions include selection of alternate loading methods and application of vapor recovery equipment.

7.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 At all times utilise the best practical methods of handling, storing and disposing of all waste materials.
- 7.3 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 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*.
- 7.4 Maintain good housekeeping, sanitary and hygienic practices and the aesthetic quality of your surroundings at all times.
- 7.5 Maintain a good drainage system around the facility. The drainage system should be cleaned regularly and be free of waste and vegetation.
- 7.6 Burning of garbage is **strictly prohibited** on site.

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- 8.1 Provide adequate fire protection measures. All firefighting equipment such as fire extinguishers and sand buckets should serviced regularly and placed at conspicuous locations onsite, in accordance with guidelines established by the Guyana Fire Service.
- 8.2 Switch off all pumps using the automatic pump cut-off in case of emergency. Switches should be located within easy reach of the console attendant and be clearly marked 'Emergency Shut-off Switch'.

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8.3 Maintain a supply of oil-absorbent materials such as absorbent pads, sand, etc at the site for the clean-up of spills.

8.4 Submit to the Agency within **three (3) months** from the date of issuance of the Permit, an **Emergency Preparedness Plan** for approval. This Plan must be communicated to staff and contractor of the facility and shall include:

- i. Accident Prevention Procedures;
- ii. First Person Response;
- iii. Notification Procedures;
- iv. Location of clean-up equipment;
- v. An analysis of potential accidents and response, and;
- vi. Materials safety data sheet for all materials which could be spilled.

8.5 A clear sign outlining spill clean-up procedures and emergency contact numbers should be prominently displayed at the Gas Station at all times.

8.6 Ensure that appropriate clean-up equipment such as spill trays, oil spill clean-up recover pump, oil spill dispersant spray system or sorbent pads are readily accessible to respond to any spills that may occur onsite.

8.7 Utilized the absorbents in the spill kit to soak up as much fuel as possible when a spill (accidental release) of fuel.

9.0 FUEL, WASTE OIL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE/MATERIAL MANAGEMENT

9.1 Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000**.

9.2 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 from 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 utilised, 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;

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- f) any waste minimisation efforts undertaken by your facility for hazardous material/waste; and
 - g) Any other matter the Agency may require.
- 9.3 Establish and maintain a register of hazardous materials or chemicals used or generated by your operation. Submit to the Agency twice yearly (June and December) a report relating to the activity of the previous six (6) months.
- 9.4 In the event that waste oils (recovered from oil-water separator or from servicing of generators) are stored on site, it should be stored in a covered, bunded area to minimize adverse impacts to the environment in the event of a spillage. The bunded area must be clearly labeled and have the capacity to provide 110% containment of the total volume of waste oils stored.
- 9.5 Ensure that an appropriate spill containment kit is located at the Service Station. The kit should contain absorbent material to absorb spilt oil and other spilt liquids.
- 9.6 Store any contaminated fuel in closed leak proof containers and label "slop tanks" 'waste fuel'.
- 9.7 Store all fuel waste above ground level in a bunded area to allow easy maintenance and leak detection.
- 9.8 Ensure that oil/fuel contaminated absorbent materials are appropriately stored and disposed of by double wrapping in heavy duty garbage bags. All contaminated absorbent materials must be disposed of at an authorized Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility.
- 9.9 Store all fuel away from ignition sources and have '**No Smoking**' signs posted where fuel is handled or stored.
- 9.10 Refrain from draining fuel or lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground or into waterways. Submit a Clean-up plan detailing the location of all materials stored on site and notification and clean-up measure for each site of operation in the event of a spill. This clean-up plan must be updated annually.
- 10.0 COMPLIANCE, MONITORING AND REPORTING**
- 10.1 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, in so far as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 10.2 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.

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- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 Inform the Agency prior to or within **thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 10.5 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.
- 10.6 Notify the EPA **within one (1) hours** 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.
- 10.7 Ensure all relevant employees are trained in good environmental management practices and of their obligations under this Permit.
- 10.8 Make all employees aware of the Conditions of the Operation Permit (Renewed) and provide training on good environmental practices.
- 11.0 INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES/LIABILITIES**
 - 11.1 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.
 - 11.2 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 structures as determined by the Agency for project of this nature.
 - 11.3 The Permit Holder, His Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractors 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 Section 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 prescribed under paragraph (c) of the Fifth Schedule for doing so.
 - 11.4 The EPA shall have the right to cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.

- 11.5 The Permit Holder, his Servants and/or Agents shall be strictly jointly and severally liable as follows:
- a. For any activity that causes, or is likely to cause pollution of the environment, unless the person takes all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise any resulting adverse effect, in accordance with Section 19(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
 - b. For any activity which results in the discharge, release or entry into the environment of any contaminant in any amount, concentration or level in excess of that prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by this Permit, in accordance with Section 19(1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05 Laws of Guyana.
 - c. The discharge or release of contaminants, such as hydraulic fluids, lubricants, fuel, or other industrial contaminants relative to the Project, which are not stipulated herein, or by Regulations under the Environmental Protection Act, are strictly prohibited. Any such discharge or release shall be a violation of Section 19(1)(a) and/or (b) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
 - d. For the compensation of any Party who suffers any loss or damage as a result of the project. (s.19(3)(e)) Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
 - e. For any material or serious environmental harm caused by pollution of the environment, whether intentionally or recklessly, in accordance with section 39 (1), (2), (3) and (4) of the Environmental Protection Act, 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
 - f. Any gross negligence or wilful misconduct resulting in serious risk, or adverse effects to the environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release or discharge, spill, contaminant fluids, oil, or lubricants from any facilities permitted under this project.
 - g. For the payment of all costs and expenses related to the assessment of damage and investigations required, as result of any pollution incidents attributable to the activity for which this Permit has been issued.
- 11.6 The Agency (EPA) shall notify the Permit Holder immediately of any written claim or notice sent by any Complainant seeking loss or damage for negligence as

a result of the Permit Holder's lack of due care and diligence.

- 11.7 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 Section 26 of the Environmental Protection Act Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 11.8 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 Ordering him to immediately cease the offending activity, in accordance with Section 27 of the Environmental Protection Act Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 11.9 **The Permit Holder is obligated to ensure that the Gas Station is permitted by other relevant authorities.**
- 11.10 This **Operation Permit (Renewed)** is effective for the period stipulated herein **(July 2021 to June 2026)**.
- 11.11 This **Operation Permit (Renewed)** shall remain valid until, **June 30, 2026**, unless otherwise cancelled, suspended, modified or varied in accordance with the provisions of this Permit, or the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 11.12 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 **December 31, 2025**.
- 11.13 The Permit Holder shall provide to the Agency yearly, updated contact information and updated documentations for the Gas Station.
- 11.14 Any late submission of renewal application(s) after the specified date as stated above, the Agency may require the Permit Holder to pay, in addition to the renewal fee, a late penalty fee (accruing at the time such obligation was first owed for renewal) at a rate of **two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) per day for every business day late**, until such renewal application is submitted to the Agency, without prejudice to any other rights of the Permit Holder in connection therewith.
- 11.15 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, and the Environmental Regulations including civil penalties and injunctive relief.

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Signed by
Agency.



on behalf of the Environmental Protection

Date

20 July, 2021

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

NAME	DAVID COATES
DESIGNATION	OWNER
DATE	22.7.2021
SIGNATURE	David Coates

