



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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Environmental 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.

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| Reference No.: | 20070518-VSS00 |
| Fee: | Small (C1) - US\$100 per year |
| Fee paid: | US\$500: Five (5) Years (December 2022 - November 2027) |
| Address: | Ramesh Sugrim and Ryan Sugrim Proprietors Verbeyams Lot 8 La Union West Coast Demerara Region #3 |
| Activity: | Operation of a Gas Station |

Mr. Ramesh Sugrim and Mr. Ryan Sugrim, trading and operating under the name Verbeyams hereinafter referred to as the "Permit Holders", are hereby authorised by the Environmental Protection Agency, hereinafter referred to as the "Agency" 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 Lot 8 La Union, West Coast Demerara, Region #3, hereinafter referred to as the "Project," in a manner indicated in the Application Form for Renewal of an Environmental Authorisation submitted on April 12, 2022, 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, best practices, guidelines, and standards relevant to this Project.

This is a Renewal of the Operation Permit (Renewed), Reference No.: 20070518-VSS00, issued on June 23, 2017, which expired on May 31, 2022. This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is issued pursuant to the Environmental Protection (Authorisation) Regulations, 2000.

Terms and Conditions for operation to be adhered to by the Permit Holders, his servant(s), agent(s), and/or sub-contractor(s):

1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1 Make an application to the Agency to vary this Environmental Permit (Renewed) in instances where it becomes necessary to:
 - i. change the construction, operation, structure, or layout of the facility and associated buildings;
 - ii. change equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility;
 - iii. change the position and design of any outlet at the point or points of discharge of effluents; or
 - iv. effect any other change outlined in 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.
- 1.2 Adopt and comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standard (GNBS) "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.
- 1.3 Adhere to the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws, of Guyana.
- 1.4 Maintain a sump below each fuel dispenser to capture any spillage that may occur.
- 1.5 Pipe entries under the pump sumps shall remain sealed to prevent fuel leaks.
- 1.6 Pipelines from tanks to offset filling points, dispensing equipment and vent pipes located below the ground surface shall not be located under buildings and shall be accessible for easy maintenance.
- 1.7 An electronic shut down system shall be maintained as a primary leak detection mechanism, along with any one or more of the following leak detection mechanisms:
 - i. A gauging system;
 - ii. An overflow alarm on tanks;
 - iii. Dipstick measurements; or
 - iv. Sensors installed on walls of tank.
- 1.8 In an emergency switch off all pumps using the automatic pump shut-off. Switches shall be readily accessible to the console attendant and be clearly marked "**Emergency Shut-off Switch**".
- 1.9 Submit an **Emergency Response Plan (ERP)** to the Agency for approval **on or before May 31, 2023**. This Plan shall be communicated to employees, and third parties under your direction and include but not be limited to:

- 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;
 - vi. Materials safety data sheet for all materials which could be spilled; and
 - vii. An Incident Clean-up Plan.
- 1.10 Provide a fully equipped first aid kit at all primary work sites and ensure that functional communication and transportation systems are in place to respond to emergencies.
- 1.11 Obtain and maintain Guyana Fire Service approval and submit a copy of that approval to the Agency within the first quarter of every calendar year.
 - 1.11.1 Fire prevention and control equipment shall be maintained in accordance with this Approval.
- 1.12 **Forecourt: Refueling and Fuel Delivery Area**
 - 1.12.1 Fuel deliveries shall be supervised and must be conducted within the forecourt containment area, or in an area with separate bunding.
 - 1.12.2 Fuel delivery points shall be equipped with a collection trap to collect spilt fuel and divert it to a "slop tank".
 - 1.12.3 Label all fuel storage tanks **by January 31, 2023**. Labels shall identify the type of fuel stored in the tank and the capacity of the tank.
- 1.13 **Canopy**
 - 1.13.1 Maintain a canopy cover over the fuel dispensing area with an overhang of at least 10 degrees.
 - 1.13.2 Direct uncontaminated rainwater away from roofed areas into storm water drains.
- 1.14 Make all employees, and third parties under your direction, aware of the conditions of this Environmental Permit and provide training on good environmental practices. Annual training schedule shall be kept and submitted to the Agency upon request.

2.0 UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS (USTs)

- 2.1 Maintain a functional leak and overflow protection system as required in Condition 1.7.
- 2.2 Maintain corrosion protection for all metallic components (such as tanks, piping, and joints) in contact with soil and the inert material first, e.g., sand, that the tanks are placed in.
- 2.3 Submit an Underground Storage Tank Decommissioning Plan to the Agency for approval at least fourteen (14) days prior to closure of UST/s.
- 2.4 Protective wrapping and/or coats must be continuously applied to buried piping to prevent corrosion, and periodically tested for structural integrity.

3.0 ABOVE-GROUND STORAGE TANKS (ASTs)

- 3.1 ASTs shall be located in impervious bunds to reduce the risk of groundwater and land contamination. Bund walls shall be used to divert storm-water away from storage areas.
- 3.2 Storage areas shall be located at least one hundred (100) meters away from waterways and areas prone to flooding.
- 3.3 Routinely monitor and maintain ASTs to prevent leaks. Areas to inspect include tank foundation, connections, coatings, tanks walls, and piping systems.

4.0 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Strictly adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000.**
- 4.2 Construct and maintain a functional oil-water separator **by March 31, 2023** through which all effluent must pass before the final discharge.
- 4.3 Construct an interceptor drain at the front of the facility **by March 31, 2023.** The interceptor drain must flow through the oil-water separator before its final discharge.
- 4.4 Install a minimum of two (2) groundwater monitoring wells around the storage facility within six (6) months of receipt of this permit. The groundwater monitoring wells shall be inspected to assess any potential leaks and impacts to groundwater. Submit Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates of the location and design of wells by **July 31, 2023**, for review and approval by the Agency.



- 4.4.1 The groundwater monitoring wells shall be installed by a licensed well driller Company.
- 4.4 Do not discharge effluent directly into receiving waters without prior treatment. Discharges from the oil-water separator/s into the environment shall 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:
- i. Total Suspended Solid (TSS) < 100 mg/L;
 - ii. Oil and Grease < 10 mg/L; and
 - iii. Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) < 40 mg/L.

Monitor the parameters above on an annual basis and submit the results to the Agency as a component of the Annual Report. Samples shall be taken from a point after the oil-water separator but before the drainage system. Samples shall be analyzed by a certified laboratory.

5 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Strictly adhere to 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
- Commercial Limits: **80 dB** [Day-time (06:00 h -18:00 h)]
75 dB [Night-time (18:00 h - 06:00 h)]
- 5.3 Operate and service all mechanical equipment in accordance with manufacturer's specifications to ensure efficiency. Mechanical equipment shall be regularly maintained, and operate at their optimal levels to minimise atmospheric emissions.
- 5.4 Equip all sound making devices with mufflers and/or enclose in suitable acoustic structures (e.g., hollow concrete blocks, insulation boards, solid clay bricks, etc.), to reduce noise levels impacting the surrounding environment and to achieve compliance with GNBS requirement.

6 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 In accordance with the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013**, promote good sanitation and solid waste disposal practices on site; covered garbage receptacles shall be placed at strategic locations at the facility. Waste shall be collected and disposed of at an approved waste disposal facility.
- 6.2 Utilise the best practicable means of handling, storing and disposing of all waste materials at all times.
- 6.3 Maintain a septic system on site at all times. The septic tank shall not be located within 1.5 meters of a building or property boundary, and shall 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"*.
- 6.4 Burning of waste is **strictly prohibited**.

7 FUEL, WASTE OIL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE/ MATERIAL MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Strictly adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000**.
- 7.2 Waste oil stored on site that was recovered from oil-water separator or from servicing of generators, shall 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.
- 7.3 All fuels and waste oils shall be managed to ensure safety in handling and the prevention of spills at the storage and operating site(s).
- 7.4 Containers containing oil/fuel of any sort must always be covered and placed in a bunded area that is able to contain 110% of the total capacity of that container.
- 7.5 Store any contaminated fuel in closed leak proof containers and label "**slop tanks**" or "**waste fuel**".
- 7.6 Store all fuel waste above ground level in a bunded area to allow easy maintenance and leak detection.
- 7.7 Oil/fuel contaminated absorbent materials shall be appropriately stored and



disposed of by double wrapping in heavy duty garbage bags. All contaminated absorbent materials shall be treated by an Agency approved Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility prior to disposal at an Agency approved location.

- 7.8 Store all fuel away from ignition sources and have **"No Smoking"** signs posted where fuel is handled or stored.
- 7.9 Refrain from draining fuel or lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground or into surface water.
- 7.10 A clear sign outlining spill clean-up procedures and emergency contact numbers shall be prominently displayed at the Gas Station at all times.
- 7.11 Equip the facility with a spill kit no later than **March 31, 2023**. The clean-up equipment and materials contained in the spill kit, such as spill trays, oil spill clean-up recover pump, or sorbent pads, shall be readily accessible to respond to any spills that may occur onsite.
- 7.12 All fuels and waste oils shall be managed to ensure safety in handling and prevention of spills at the storage and operating site(s).

8.0 COMPLIANCE, MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 8.1 Notify the Environmental Protection Agency **within one (1) hour** of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies (e.g., oil spills, hazardous materials/wastes spills, 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).
- 8.2 All near misses, spills and unwanted/accidental discharges, **amounting to less than imperial five (5) gallons**, must be recorded and reported to the Agency as a component of the Annual Report as required in Condition 8.7.
- 8.3 Discharges of contaminants **amounting to five (5) imperial gallons or more** must be reported to the Agency by submitting an *"Incident Notification Form for Spills in Onshore Operations"* using the most recent template provided by the Agency, **within twelve (12) hours of the incident**. A follow-up incident notification form shall be submitted **within seventy-two (72) hours** of the submission of the initial notification form.
- 8.4 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 8.5 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.

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- 8.6 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.
- 8.7 Submit **Annual Reports** to the Agency on your compliance with this Permit on or before **March 31**, each year.
- 8.8 Report to the Agency any non-compliance(s) with the Environmental Permit (Renewed):
- I. Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Environmental Authorisation for operation becomes aware of the non-compliance outlining the anticipated manner in which human health or the environment may be impacted.
 - II. Within **seventy-two (72) hours** of the time the Holder of the Environmental Permit (Renewed) becomes aware of the non-compliance, submit to the Agency a written report containing a description of the non-compliance, its cause, the period of non-compliance including exact dates and time and the anticipated time it is expected to continue if the non-compliance(s) has not been corrected.
- 8.9 Maintain and submit to the Agency records of the type, composition and quantity of contaminant released (i.e., any solid, liquid, gas, odor, sound, vibration, radiation, heat or combination of any of them).
- 8.10 Comply with any lawful directions given by the Agency from time-to-time in furtherance of the implementation of any international or other obligation for the environmental protection of Guyana.

9.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/LIABILITIES

- 9.1 The Permit Holder shall be liable for any material environmental harm caused by polluting the environment, pursuant to s. 39 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.2 The Permit Holder shall be liable for any serious environmental harm caused by polluting the environment, pursuant to s. 39 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.3 The Permit Holder shall be liable for any activity that causes or is likely to cause pollution of the environment unless all reasonable and practicable measures are taken to prevent or minimize any resulting adverse effect, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.

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- 9.4 The Permit Holder shall be liable for discharging, causing or permitting the entry into the environment, of any contaminant in any amount, concentration or level excess of that prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by this Environmental Permit (Renewed), pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.5 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of contravening conditions 8.3 and 8.4 of this Environmental Permit (Renewed), pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.6 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.
- 9.7 The Permit Holder shall be liable of any gross negligence or willful misconduct caused by the Permit Holder, his Servants and/or Agents, to the environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release, discharge, or spill, of contaminant fluids, oil or lubricants.
- 9.8 Should the Permit Holder contravene or be likely to contravene any condition of this Permit, the Agency may serve on him an Enforcement Notice in accordance with Section 26 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.9 Where it appears to the Agency that the Permit Holder is engaged in any activity that may pose a serious threat to natural resources or the environment, or a risk of serious pollution of the environment or any damage to public health, the Agency may issue to the Permit Holder a Prohibition Notice, which may order him to immediately cease the offending activity, in accordance with Section 27 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.10 The Agency reserves the right to conduct regular inspections of the Permit Holder's activities as part of its monitoring and enforcement requirements under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05, and the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 9.11 The Permit Holder, His Servants and/or Agents shall at all times, allow entry to the permitted facility to any Officer designated by the Agency 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

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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.

- 9.12 The Agency has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 9.13 **This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.**
- 9.14 This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is effective for the period stipulated herein **(December 2022 - November 2027)**.
- 9.15 This Environmental Permit (Renewed) shall remain valid until **November 30, 2027**, 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.
- 9.16 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 **May 31, 2027**.
- 9.17 Any late submission of renewal application(s) after the specified date as stated above, 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.
- 9.18 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Permit or with applicable laws and regulations, whether existing or forthcoming, shall render the Permit Holder liable to prosecution and to penalties, inclusive of civil penalties, injunctive relief and imprisonment, as prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection Regulations and other applicable Laws of Guyana.


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

Date: 2022-12-09

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, 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.

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|-------------|---|
| NAME | RAMFISH SUGRIM |
| DESIGNATION | MANAGER |
| DATE | 4 TH JANUARY 2023 |
| SIGNATURE |  |



