



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

Ganges Street, Sophia,
Georgetown, GUYANA
Tel.: (592)-225-2062 / 1218 /
0506 / 6917
Fax: (592) 225-5481
Email: epa@epaguyana.org

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.

Reference No.:	20090624-GOCLO
Fee:	Medium (C2) - US\$4,000 (5 years), i.e., US\$800 per year
Fee paid:	US\$4,000: Five (5) years (October 2023 – September 2028)
Address:	Guyana Oil Company Limited 191 Camp Street South Cummingsburg Georgetown
Activity:	Operation of Palmyra Service Station

Palmyra Service Station, trading and operating as the Guyana Oil Company Limited, hereinafter referred to as the “Permit Holder”, is 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 Service Station located at Palmyra Village, East Canje, Berbice, hereinafter referred to as the “Project”, in a manner indicated in the Application for Renewal of an Environmental Authorization submitted on April 05, 2023, 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.: 20090624-GOCLO, issued on October 12, 2018, and expiring on September 30, 2023. This Operation Permit (Renewed) will therefore take effect on October 1, 2023.

Terms and Conditions for the operation to be adhered to by the Permit

Holder, his servant(s), agent(s), and/or sub-contractor(s):

1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1 The Permit Holder shall comply with any lawful directives given by the Agency from time-to-time, including directives in furtherance of the implementation of any international or other obligation for the environmental protection of Guyana.
- 1.2 The Permit Holder shall notify the Agency in writing and obtain its approval for **ANY** proposed changes to the operation at least **twenty-one (21) calendar 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 of the facility, or an extension, or any additional installation, which may have consequences for the environment. Changes to operation may include but not be limited to the following:
 - i. changes in the construction, operation, structure, or layout of the facility and all associated buildings;
 - ii. changes of equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanisms, systems or technology serving the facility;
 - iii. changes in the position and design of any outlet at the point or points of discharge of effluents; or
 - iv. any other change outlined in 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.
- 1.3 The Permit Holder shall adhere to the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws, of Guyana.
- 1.4 An electronic shutdown system shall be maintained as a primary emergency response mechanism, along with any one (1) 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 the tank.
- 1.5 The Permit Holder shall 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.
- 1.6 The Permit Holder shall maintain an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for the entire facility, inclusive of the pipeline system. The ERP shall contain, but may not

be restricted to the following:

- i. Spill detection and mitigation procedures;
- ii. Escape, evacuation, and rescue plan and assessment;
- iii. A list of responsible parties and duties;
- iv. A list of regulatory agencies to be notified;
- v. Names and addresses of response organizations;
- vi. Training procedures;
- vii. A list of equipment to be utilized;
- viii. Testing procedures to ensure that equipment to be used remain in working condition; and
- ix. Clean up and hazardous waste disposal procedures.

1.7 The Permit Holder shall maintain Guyana Fire Service approval and submit a copy of that approval to the Agency within the first quarter of every calendar year.

1.7.1 Fire prevention and control equipment shall be maintained in accordance with this Approval.

1.8 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.

1.9 Forecourt: Refueling and Fuel Delivery Area

1.9.1 Fuel deliveries shall be supervised and must be conducted within the forecourt containment area, or in an area with separate bunding.

1.9.2 Fuel delivery points shall be equipped with a collection trap to collect the spilt fuel and divert it to a "slop tank".

1.9.3 The Permit Holder shall maintain the label on all fuel storage tanks. Labels shall identify the type of fuel stored in the tank and the capacity of the tank.

1.10 Canopy

1.10.1 The Permit Holder shall maintain a canopy cover over the fuel dispensing area with an overhang of at least 10 degrees.

1.10.2 The Permit Holder shall direct uncontaminated rainwater away from roofed areas into stormwater drains.

2.0 UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS (USTs)

- 2.1 The Permit Holder shall maintain a functional leak and overflow protection system as required in Condition 1.4.
- 2.2 The Permit Holder shall submit an Underground Storage Tank (UST) Decommissioning Plan to the Agency for approval at least fourteen (14) days prior to the closure of UST/s.

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.
- 3.2 Bunds must be capable of containing 110% of the capacity of the tank.
- 3.3 Bunds around areas with multiple tanks shall have the capacity to provide at least 110% containment of the largest tank.
- 3.4 The Permit Holder shall maintain a containment bund around the ASTs.
- 3.5 The Permit Holder shall maintain a distance of at least 100 meters between the storage areas and waterways or areas prone to flooding.
- 3.6 The Permit Holder shall routinely monitor and maintain ASTs to prevent leaks. Areas to inspect include tank foundation, connections, coatings, tank 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 The Permit Holder shall maintain oil-water separators at strategic locations on the storage facility through which all effluents shall pass before the final discharge.
- 4.3 The Permit Holder shall avoid soil and water contamination from fuel, grease, waste oils, and other petroleum products.
- 4.4 The Permit Holder shall maintain the integrity of the existing waterways at all times. Discharges into the environment shall be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Guidelines for Industrial Effluent Discharge into the Environment*. The following are the allowable limits for this type of project and shall not exceed:

- i. Total Suspended Solid (TSS) < 100 mg/L;

- ii. Oil and Grease < 10 mg/L; and
- iii. Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) <40 mg/L.

4.5 Monitor the parameters above on an annual basis and submit the results to the Agency as a component of the Annual Report.

4.5.1 Samples shall be taken from a point after the oil-water separator but before the drainage system.

4.5.2 Samples shall be analyzed by a certified laboratory.

5.0 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 The Permit Holder shall handle and store liquid fuel in such a manner as to prevent the emission of offensive odours.

5.3 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)]

5.4 All significant noise-producing equipment, such as generators, shall be equipped with silencers or mufflers and/or be enclosed in suitable acoustic enclosures to reduce noise levels impacting the surrounding environment and to achieve compliance with Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) requirements.

5.5 All generators and machines/equipment shall be serviced in accordance with manufacturers' specifications to ensure efficiency and reduce the level of noise produced. A summarised maintenance report shall be submitted as a component of the Annual Report.

5.6 The Permit Holder shall ensure that exhaust stack(s) is/are at least **two (2) meters above** the tallest nearby building to minimise adverse fumes/soot impacts to the contiguous areas.

5.7 In the event of equipment malfunction or inefficiencies which may result in visible emissions into the air or, in the event of malfunctions leading to abnormal emissions, the Permit Holder shall:

- i. Investigate and undertake remedial action immediately;
- ii. Adjust the process or activity to minimize those emissions; and
- iii. Record the events and actions taken. This shall be submitted in the Annual Report.

6.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

6.1 In accordance with the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013**, the Permit Holder shall promote good sanitation and solid waste disposal practices on site. Covered garbage receptacles shall be placed at strategic locations at the facility, and waste shall be collected and disposed of at an approved waste disposal facility.

6.2 The Permit Holder shall utilise the best practicable means of handling, storing, and disposing of all waste materials at all times.

6.3 The Permit Holder shall 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**.

7.0 FUEL, WASTE OIL, AND HAZARDOUS WASTE/MATERIAL MANAGEMENT

7.1 The Permit Holder shall strictly adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulation 2000**.

7.2 Waste oils recovered from the Service Station shall be stored in a covered, bunded area to minimize adverse impacts on the environment in the event of a spillage.

7.2.1 The bunded area shall be clearly labelled and have the capacity to provide 110% containment of the total volume of waste oils stored.

7.3 The Permit Holder shall ensure that pipe entries under the pump sumps remain sealed to prevent fuel leaks.

- 7.4 Oil/fuel-contaminated absorbent materials shall be appropriately stored by double wrapping them in heavy-duty garbage bags
- 7.5 The Permit Holder shall store all fuel away from ignition sources and have “**No Smoking**” signs posted where fuel is handled or stored.
- 7.6 Fuel/lubricants including waste oils shall **not** be drained from the equipment onto the ground or into waterways.
- 7.7 All hazardous waste (including all contaminated absorbent materials) shall be treated at an authorized Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility and disposed at an approved Waste Disposal Facility. All hazardous waste treatment and disposal shall be documented on a Waste Manifest Form which shall be submitted to the Agency as a component of the Annual Report.

8.0 COMPLIANCE, MONITORING, AND REPORTING

- 8.1 The Permit Holder shall 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.
- 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 forty-eight (48) 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 (a total of five days after the discharge of the contaminants).
- 8.4 The Permit Holder shall establish procedures for analysing accidents and failures to determine the causes of the failure and minimize the possibility of a recurrence. This information shall be made available to the Agency upon request.
- 8.5 The Permit Holder shall annually simulate the entire ERP with relevant stakeholders as directed and/or approved by the Agency. The Agency reserves the right to attend any exercise organized in accordance with this Condition.

- 8.6 The Permit Holder shall produce appropriate documentation, to the Agency, evidencing the conduct of the exercises required by Condition 8.5. The documentation must be submitted no later than thirty (30) calendar days following the emergency response exercise and shall include information detailing the:
- i. Type of exercises;
 - ii. Date and time of the exercises;
 - iii. Description of the exercises;
 - iv. Objectives met; and
 - v. Lessons learned.
- 8.7 The Permit Holder shall monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 8.8 The Permit Holder shall 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.
- 8.9 The Permit Holder shall 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.
- 8.10 The Permit Holder shall 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).
- 8.11 The Permit Holder shall submit an **Annual Report** to the Agency containing the information required under this Environmental Permit on or before **March 31, each year**.
- 8.12 The Permit Holder shall report to the Agency any non-compliance with the Environmental Permit (Renewed & Varied):
- I. Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Environmental Permit 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 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.

9.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/LIABILITIES

- 9.1 The Permit Holder shall make all employees, and third parties under your direction, aware of the conditions of this Environmental Permit and provide training on good environmental practices. An annual training schedule shall be kept and submitted to the Agency upon request.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 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.
- 9.5 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.
- 9.6 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.
- 9.7 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.
- 9.8 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.
- 9.9 Should the Permit Holder contravene or be likely to contravene any condition of

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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.

- 9.10 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.
- 9.11 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.
- 9.12 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 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.
- 9.13 The Agency has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 9.14 **This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.**
- 9.15 This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is effective for the period stipulated herein **(October 2023 – September 2028).**
- 9.16 This Environmental Permit (Renewed) shall remain valid until **September 30, 2028**, 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.
- 9.17 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 **March 31, 2028.**

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- 9.18 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.
- 9.19 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.

Signed by  on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Kemraj Parsram
Executive Director

Date: 2023-08-16

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.

NAME	TRAVAN FERSYTHE
DESIGNATION	HSE OFFICER
DATE	18-08-2023
SIGNATURE	



