



# 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)

Reference No.:	20120605-RLSSO
Fee:	Small (C2) - US\$875 (5 years), i.e., US\$175 per year
Fee paid:	US\$875: Five (5) years (May 2023 - April 2028)
Address:	Mr. Robin Low 66-D, Bel Air East Coast Demerara.
Activity:	Operation of a Gas Station

Robin Low, trading and operating as Low'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 Vlissengen Road and Lama Avenue, Bel Air Park, Georgetown, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in a manner indicated in the Application for Renewal of an Environmental Authorisation submitted on July 25, 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, guidelines, best practices and standards relevant to this project.

This is a Renewal of the Operation Permit, Reference No. 20120605-RLSSO, issued on July 18, 2017, which expired on June 30, 2022. The 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 Holder, his servant(s), agent(s) and/or sub-contractor(s):

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## **1.0 OPERATION**

- 1.1 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. Change the construction, operation, structure, or layout of the facility and all 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. Affect any other change outlined in 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.
- 1.2 The Permit Holder shall submit to the Agency within **three (3) months** of receipt of the Permit, an **Emergency Response Plan (ERP)** 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;
  - vi. Materials safety data sheet for all materials which could be spilled; and
  - vii. An Incident Clean-up Plan.
- 1.3 The Permit Holder shall adopt and comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards "*Guidance for the Design, Construction, Modification, and Maintenance of Petrol Filling Stations*" and any forthcoming code of practice/guideline pertaining to the operation of fuel storage facilities.
- 1.4 The Permit Holder shall adhere to the requirements of the **Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws, of Guyana.**
- 1.5 The Permit Holder shall erect caution signs to warn against potential hazards or to caution against unsafe practices.
- 1.6 The Permit Holder shall adhere to the **Drainage & Irrigation Laws of Guyana. Cap.64:03.**

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- 1.7 The Permit Holder shall make all employees, and third parties under their 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 EPA upon request.
- 1.8 The Permit Holder shall maintain a sump below each fuel dispenser to capture any spillage that may occur.
- 1.9 The Permit Holder shall ensure pipe entries under the pump sumps are sealed to prevent fuel leaks.
- 1.10 The Permit Holder shall ensure pipelines from tanks to offset filling points, dispensing equipment and vent pipes located below the ground surface are not located under buildings; and they shall be accessible for easy maintenance.
- 1.11 The Permit Holder shall ensure that maintenance and/or repair of fittings, pipes and hoses is in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. A summarised inspection report shall be kept and submitted to the EPA upon request.
- 1.12 The Permit Holder shall maintain an impervious drainage system around the fuel dispensers. The drain shall be at least 2 meters from the dispensers and lead to the oil-water separator.
- 1.13 The Permit Holder shall ensure that an electronic shut down system is installed as a primary leak detection mechanism, along with any one or more of the following:
  - i. A gauging system;
  - ii. An overflow alarm on tanks;
  - iii. Dipstick measurements; or
  - iv. Sensors installed on walls of tank.
- 1.14 The Permit Holder shall ensure that the safe fill level is clearly identified on the gauge and set at 90% to prevent overfilling. In the event of overfilling, all discharges shall be released into the secondary containment.
- 1.15 In an emergency, switch off all pumps using the automatic pump cut-off. Switches shall be readily accessible to the console attendant and be clearly marked "Emergency Shut-off Switch".
- 1.16 The Service Station shall be provided with adequate fire prevention and control equipment in accordance with the Guyana Fire Service approval. All firefighting equipment shall be regularly serviced and placed at visible and accessible locations onsite.

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**1.17 Forecourt:**

**1.17.1 Refueling and Fuel Delivery Area**

- i. Fuel deliveries shall be supervised and must be conducted within the forecourt containment area, or in an area with separate bunding;
- ii. Fuel delivery points shall be equipped with a collection trap to collect spilt fuel and divert it to a 'slop tank';
- iii. All inlets to underground storage tanks shall be located within a bunded area to contain any spills resulting from discharge of fuel from tankers;
- iv. Monitoring well in the forecourt shall be located downslope of the underground tanks so the wells can be assessed.

**1.17.2 Canopy**

- i. The Permit Holder shall cover the fuel dispensing area with a roof that has an overhang of at least 10 degrees.
- ii. Uncontaminated rainwater shall be directed away from the canopy and other roofed areas into storm water drains.

**2.0 UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS (USTs)**

- 2.1 The Permit Holder shall ensure all fuel tanks are equipped with a functional leak and overfill protection system as required in Condition 1.13.
- 2.2 The Permit Holder shall ensure all metallic components (such as tanks, piping, and joints) in contact with soil has corrosion protection. Tanks shall be placed in an inert material first, e.g., sand.
- 2.3 The Permit Holder shall ensure all underground storage tanks are double walled.
- 2.4 Protective wrapping and/or coats must be continuously applied to buried piping to prevent corrosion, and periodically tested for structural integrity.
- 2.5 The Permit Holder shall submit an Underground Storage Tank Decommissioning Plan to the EPA for approval at least **fourteen (14) days** prior to closure of USTs.
  - 2.4.1 Temporary or permanent closure of USTs shall be conducted in accordance with the Decommissioning Plan approved by the Agency.



### **3.0 GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELL**

- 3.1 The permit holder shall install and maintain a **minimum of three (3) groundwater monitoring wells** around the gas station 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 a groundwater monitoring plan which shall include the location and design of wells, for review and approval by the Agency. The plan shall be submitted to the Agency **before July 31, 2023**.

### **4.0 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 The Permit Holder shall strictly adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000**.
- 4.2 The Permit Holder shall maintain an oil-water separator through which all effluent must pass before the final discharge.
- 4.3 The Permit Holder shall not discharge effluent directly into receiving waters without prior treatment. Discharges from the oil-water separator 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 this type of project and shall not be exceeded:
- i. Total Suspended Solid (TSS) < 100 mg/L;
  - ii. Oil and Grease < 20 mg/L; and
  - iii. Total Dissolved Solid (TDS) < 40 mg/L.

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

- 4.4 The Permit Holder shall maintain an interceptor drain, which must be adequately sloped to collect storm flow.

### **5.0 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 The Permit Holder shall 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 so as to prevent the emission of offensive odors to the air outside the property boundary.

- 5.3 The Permit Holder shall promptly monitor any malfunction or breakdown leading to abnormal emissions. Adjust process until normal operations can be restored.
- 5.4 The Permit Holder shall comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Guidelines for Noise Emissions into the Environment*. Sound levels from noise-making devices shall not exceed the limits below, at a distance of 15 metres (50ft) from the source or property boundary, whichever is closer.

Commercial Limits: **80 dB** during the daytime (06:00 h - 18:00 h)  
**75 dB** during the night-time (18:00 h - 06:00 h)

- 5.5 The Permit Holder shall equip all significant noise-producing equipment, such as generators, with silencers or 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.
- 5.6 Exhaust stacks of the generator(s) shall be at least two (2) meters above the generator room or the tallest building nearby, to minimise adverse fumes/soot impacts to the contiguous areas.
- 5.7 The Permit Holder shall 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.
- 5.8 The Permit Holder shall implement a vapor recovery system for the off-loading of bulk fuel on site. Measures to reduce loading/off-loading emissions shall include selection of alternate loading methods and application of vapor recovery equipment.

## **6.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 In accordance to 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. Waste shall be collected and disposed 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 tank system on site. The septic tank shall not be located within 1.5 meter of a building or property boundary and shall be accessible for cleaning and de-sludging. Any modification to the Septic tank 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 garbage is **strictly prohibited**.

**7.0 FUEL, WASTE OIL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE/MATERIALS MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 Strictly adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Wastes Management) Regulations 2000**).
- 7.2 A spill containment kit shall be on site, **by July 31, 2023**, and easily accessible at the Gas station at all times; the kit shall contain absorbent material(s), drain seals, disposal containers and absorbent spilt pads, etc.
- 7.3 The Permit Holder shall maintain a supply of oil-absorbent materials such as absorbent pads, sand, etc., at the site for the clean-up of spills.
- 7.4 In the event that waste oil (recovered from oil-water separator or from servicing of generators) is stored on site, it shall be stored in a covered, bunded area to minimize adverse impacts to the environment in the event of a spillage. The bunded area shall be clearly labeled and have the capacity to provide 110% containment of the total volume of waste oils stored.
- 7.5 The Permit Holder shall store any contaminated fuel in closed leak proof containers and label "**slop tanks**" or '**waste fuel**'.
- 7.6 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 disposed of at an authorized Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility.
- 7.7 A clear sign outlining spill clean-up procedures and emergency contact numbers shall be prominently displayed at the Service Station at all times.
- 7.8 The Permit Holder shall store all fuel away from ignition sources and have '**No Smoking**' signs posted where fuel is handled or stored.
- 7.9 Appropriate clean-up equipment such as spill trays, oil spill clean-up recover pump, sorbent pads, absorbent material shall be readily accessible to respond to any spills that may occur on site.
- 7.10 The Permit Holder shall refrain from draining fuel/lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground or into waterways.
- 7.11 The Permit Holder shall ensure all pumps, pipelines and fuel storage tanks are

inspected regularly for leak detection.

## **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 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 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.
- 8.6 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.
- 8.7 The Permit Holder shall submit **Annual Reports** to the Agency on your compliance with this Permit on or before **March 31**, each year.
- 8.8 The Permit Holder shall 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



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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 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, odor, sound, vibration, heat or combination of any of them).
- 8.10 The Permit Holder shall 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 RESPONSIBILITY \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.
- 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 9.3 and 9.4 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.

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- 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, 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 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, **(May, 2023 to April, 2028).**
- 9.15 This Environmental Permit (Renewed) shall remain valid until **April 30, 2028**, 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, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.


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- 9.16 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 expires, that is, no later than **October 31, 2027**.
- 9.17 Any late submission of the application required by Condition 10.14 beyond the date specified therein, the agency may require the Permit Holder to pay, in addition to the application fee, a late penalty fee (accruing at the time such obligation was first owed for renewal) at a rate of **two thousand dollars (GY\$2,000.00) per day for every business day late**, until such 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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5/31/23

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

Date 2023-05-31

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, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, and any forthcoming regulations, best practices and standards made under this Act.

NAME	ROBIN LOW
DESIGNATION	MANAGER
SIGNATURE	
DATE	5/31/2023

