



**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.:	20210825 - STSMM
Fee:	Small (C2) - US\$875 (5 years) i.e., US\$175 per year
Fee Paid:	US\$875: Five (5) years (September 2023 – August 2028)
Addressee:	Shamsudin. A. Rahim Proprietor Shams Mini Mart Lot 1 – 5 Perth Essequibo Coast Region #2
Activity:	Construction and Operation of a Gas Station

Shamsudin. A. Rahim, trading and operating as Shams Mini Mart, hereinafter referred to as the “Permit Holder”, is hereby authorised by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 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 construct and operate a Gas Station located at Lot 1 – 5 Perth, Essequibo Coast, Region #2, hereinafter referred to as the “Project”, in a manner indicated in the Application Form for Environmental Authorisation submitted on January 10, 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 Environmental Permit, Reference No. 20210825 - STSMM, issued on January 28, 2022, which expired on December 31, 2022. The Environmental Permit (Renewed) is issued pursuant to the Environmental Protection (Authorisation) Regulations, 2000.

Terms and Conditions for the construction and operation to adhere to by the Permit Holder, his servant(s), Agent(s) and/or Sub-contractor(s):

1.0 GENERAL

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 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.

2.0 CONSTRUCTION

2.1 The Permit Holder shall utilize the land in accordance with the site plan submitted to the Agency. All specifications of location, pathways, reserve and boundary lines must be adhered to, unless otherwise authorized.

2.2 The Permit Holder shall avoid construction works between **18:00 hours to 06:00 hours**.

2.3 The Permit Holder shall ensure that all construction works at the project site are conducted in accordance with the Drainage & Irrigation Act, Cap.64:03, Laws of Guyana.

2.4 The Permit Holder shall construct an appropriate drainage system at the facility and ensure that the land is level and appropriately built up to avoid floods and contamination of the receiving waters.

2.5 Construct a perimeter drain, which shall be adequately sloped to collect storm flow.

2.6 The Permit Holder shall identify suitable areas on the site for material stockpile and equipment during construction.

2.4.1 The Permit Holder shall ensure that all building\construction materials

stored in tiers are stacked, racked, blocked, interlocked, or otherwise secured to prevent sliding, falling or collapse.

- 2.4.2 Avoid road traffic hazards or unnecessary inconveniences to the general public through appropriate planning and management of the construction site.
- 2.7 The Permit Holder shall remove all construction tools, equipment, machinery, and waste material from the site on the completion of construction works.
- 2.8 A clear sign outlining spill clean-up procedures and emergency contact numbers shall be prominently displayed at the gas station at all times.
- 2.9 Construct and maintain a fence around the site as a safety measure.
- 2.10 Strictly adhere to the requirements of the **Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01**, Laws of Guyana.
- 2.11 Make all employees, and third parties under your direction, aware of the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and provide training on good environmental practices. Prepare and maintain a training file for employees which shall be submitted to the Agency upon request.
- 2.12 Practice the use of caution signs to warn against potential hazards or to caution against unsafe practices.
- 2.13 The gas station shall be appropriately designed for its intended purpose, including, but not limited to, safety, life span, corrosion resistance and maintenance, ease of access, ease of refilling and with the least number of environmental impacts possible.
- 2.14 Adopt and comply with the National Standard "*Guidance for the Design, Construction, Modification, and Maintenance of Petrol Filling Stations*" and any forthcoming code of practice and/or guidelines pertaining to the operation of the gas station.
- 2.15 The gas station shall have a minimum set back distance as follows:

Underground Storage Tank (UST):

- i. A minimum of fifteen (15) feet away from any building within the compound.
- ii. A minimum of thirty (30) feet away from the property line.
- iii. USTs shall be covered with a minimum of three (3) feet of earth and six (6) inch thick concrete-reinforced slab.

2.16 Prior to the installation of the underground double-walled storage tanks the Permit Holder shall provide the following information to the Agency:

- i. Letter from fabricator confirming that he/she was contracted to fabricate tanks and associated works/services;
- ii. Detailed design, construction drawings, and specifications of foundation where tanks are resting;
- iii. Detailed design, drawings, specifications, methodology of tanks being fabricated, pipes used, valves and accessories;
- iv. Mill Test certificates of all steel used for fabrication of tanks and also pipe specifications;
- v. Non-Destructive Test certificate or other test to verify the quality and integrity of the welds; and
- vi. Pressure test certificate on tanks, pipes and valves.

2.17 The Permit Holder shall install and maintain a sump below each fuel dispenser to capture any spillage that may occur.

2.17.1 Pipe entries under the pump sumps shall remain sealed to prevent fuel leaks.

2.18 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.

2.19 An electronic shut down system shall be installed and 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 tank.

3.0 SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL MANAGEMENT

3.1 The Permit Holder shall protect susceptible sloped surfaces with suitable revegetation and appropriate cover to ensure stability of slopes and avoid erosion.

3.2 During construction the permit holder shall avoid soil and water contamination from fuel, grease, waste oils and other petroleum products that might be used at the construction site. Store all oils, fuel, paints and chemicals in a designated area, away from all watercourses and drainage channels.

3.3 The Permit Holder shall conduct equipment refueling, maintenance and

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placement on an impervious base to prevent fuel spills/leaks. Oil spills should be cleaned-up by the best practicable means, to prevent runoff into any watercourse within the project's area of influence.

- 3.4 The Permit Holder shall store all oils, fuel, paints and chemicals in a designated area away from watercourses. This area shall be appropriately labelled.

4.0 OPERATION OF GAS STATION

- 4.1 The Permit Holder shall obtain and maintain Guyana Fire Service approval and submit a copy of that approval for the Agency's records as a component of the Annual Report.

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

4.3 Forecourt: Refueling and Fuel Delivery Area

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

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

4.4 Canopy

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

4.4.2 The Permit Holder shall direct uncontaminated rainwater away from roofed areas into storm water drains.

- 4.5 In an emergency, the Permit Holder shall 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**".

5.0 UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS (USTs)

5.1 The Permit Holder shall ensure all fuel tanks are equipped with a functional leak and overfill protection system as required in Condition 2.19.

5.2 The Permit Holder shall 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.

5.3 Buried piping shall be protectively wrapped and/or coated to prevent corrosion.

5.4 The Permit Holder shall ensure all underground storage tanks are double walled or be placed in an encasement tomb made of solid cast or impervious materials.

5.5 The Permit Holder shall submit an Underground Storage Tank Decommissioning Plan to the Agency for approval at least fourteen (14) days prior to closure of UST/s.

5.6 Tanks and pipeline layout shall minimise the need for bends, joints and underground pipelines. Where underground piping is required, double contained systems shall be installed for new pipelines. All equipment shall be made from corrosion resistant material.

6.0 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

6.1 The Permit Holder shall strictly adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000.**

6.2 The Permit Holder shall not discharge waste water effluent directly into receiving waters without prior treatment; maintain an oil-water separator at a strategic location within the facility through which all effluent must pass before final discharge.

6.3 The Permit Holder shall construct an interceptor drain at the front of the facility. The interceptor drain must flow through the oil-water separator before its final discharge.

6.4 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 gas 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.

The Permit Holder shall monitor the parameters above on an annual basis and submit the results to the Agency as a component of the Annual Report as required in condition 11.4. 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.

7.0 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

7.1 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.**

- 7.2 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 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)]

- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 The Permit Holder shall 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.
- 7.5 The Permit Holder shall maintain the exhaust stacks of the generator at a height of at least two (2) meters above the generator room or to minimise adverse fumes/soot impacts to contiguous areas.

8.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 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. Waste shall be collected and disposed of at an approved waste disposal facility.
- 8.2 The Permit Holder shall utilise the best practicable means of handling, storing and disposing of all waste materials at all times.
- 8.3 Good house-keeping, sanitary, and hygienic practices shall be maintained at all times. The facility surroundings shall be kept free of vegetation and litter.
- 8.4 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"*.

8.5 Burning of waste is strictly prohibited.

9.0 FUEL, WASTE OIL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE/ MATERIAL MANAGEMENT

9.1 The Permit Holder shall strictly adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000.

9.2 Waste oil stored on site that was recovered from oil-water separator or from servicing of generators, shall be stored in a covered, bundled area to minimize adverse impacts to the environment in the event of a spillage. The bundled area must be clearly labeled and have the capacity to provide 110% containment of the total volume of waste oils stored.

9.3 Containers containing oil/fuel of any sort must always be covered and placed in a bundled area that is able to contain 110% of the total capacity of that container.

9.4 The Permit Holder shall store any contaminated fuel in closed leak proof containers and label "stop tanks" or "waste fuel".

9.5 The Permit Holder shall store all fuel waste above ground level in a bundled area to allow easy maintenance and leak detection.

9.6 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 treated by an Agency approved Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility prior to disposal at an Agency approved location.

9.7 The Permit Holder shall store all fuel away from ignition sources and have 'No Smoking' signs posted where fuel is handled or stored.

9.8 The Permit Holder shall refrain from draining fuel or lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground or into surface water.

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

9.10 All fuels and waste oils shall be managed to ensure safety in handling and prevention of spills at the storage and operating site(s).

10.0 SPILLS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

10.1 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.

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- 10.2 The Permit Holder shall employ and maintain appropriate procedures in keeping with good international industry practice (GIIP) to minimize spill risks, detect leaks, capture spills and minimize the release of hydrocarbons during transport/transfer, resale and other Project related activities.
- 10.3 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).
- 10.4 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.
- 10.5 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).
- 10.6 The Permit Holder shall establish procedures for analysing accidents and failures for the purpose of determining the causes of the failure and minimizing the possibility of a recurrence. This information shall be made available to the Agency upon request.
- 10.7 Submit an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for the entire facility, **within six months of receipt of this Environmental Permit**. 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.
- 10.8 An Emergency spill clean-up kits shall be placed onsite at the fuel storage areas

for response to potential spills. Kits shall contain absorbent materials, drain seals and other appropriate tools for clean-up.

10.9 Appropriate clean-up equipment 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.

10.10 The Permit Holder shall schedule training on simulated spill incident and response exercises for response personnel. Spill alert and reporting procedures, deployment of spill control equipment, and the emergency care/treatment of people and animals impacted by the spill.

10.11 The Permit Holder shall annually simulate the entire ERP with relevant stakeholders, such as employees, as directed and/or approved by the Agency. The Agency reserves the right to attend any exercise organised in accordance with this Condition.

11.0 COMPLIANCE, MONITORING AND REPORTING

11.1 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.

11.2 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.

11.3 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.

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

11.5 The Permit Holder shall report to the Agency any non-compliance(s) with the Environmental Permit:

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 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.

- 11.6 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, radiation, heat or combination of any of them).
- 11.7 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

12.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/LIABILITIES

- 12.1 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.
- 12.2 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.
- 12.3 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, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 12.4 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of contravening conditions 12.2 and 12.3 of this Environmental Permit, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 12.5 The Permit Holder shall restore and rehabilitate the environment.
- 12.6 The Permit Holder shall bear the cost of all investigations into pollution incidents, conducted at the instance of Agency.
- 12.7 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.

12.8 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.

12.9 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.

12.10 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.

12.11 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 (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

12.12 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.

12.13 The Agency has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.

12.14 This Environmental Permit is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.

12.15 This Environmental Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein (September 2023 – August 2028).

12.16 This Environmental Permit shall remain valid until August 31, 2028, unless otherwise cancelled, suspended, modified or varied in accordance with the

Environmental Permit (Renewed) Ref. No. 20210825 - STSMM

Issued under of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05, Laws of Guyana, The Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

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.

- 12.17 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**.
- 12.18 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.
- 12.19 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


Kemraj Parsram
Executive Director

on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Date:

2023 . 10 . 06

I hereby accept the above Terms and Conditions upon which this Environmental Permit 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	SOZIBA S. RAHIM
DESIGNATION	OCTOBER-18 POWER OF ATTORNEY
DATE	OCTOBER-18-2023
SIGNATURE	

