



## **Environmental Protection Agency**

### **Notice to the Public**

Pursuant to Section 11(2) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has screened the application for the grant of an environmental permit for the following proposed project:

- 1. *Orava Mining Equipment and General Sales Inc. – Aranka Gold Leaching Project- Gold Mining/Leaching – V-28/MP/000 – Left Bank Aranka River Region #07.***

The Aranka Gold Leaching Project is amongst other gold companies exploring this new technology to Guyana, employing Jinchan, a leachate agent, to recover gold from tailings material produced by past small-scale mining operations. This initiative aligns with Guyana's commitment to implement mercury-free technologies in the mining sector as part of its objectives under the Minamata Convention. The National Action Plan outlines chemical leaching as one of the strategies for the reduction of mercury use.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) have agreed to the use of Jinchan leaching in medium-scale mining, thereby removing mercury from these operations. This partnership aims at ensuring the oversight and implementation of appropriate safeguards to minimize environmental impacts on the surrounding environment.

The EPA has determined that the propose pilot project will not significantly affect the environment and has been exempted from the requirement to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). However, an Environmental Assessment and Management Plan is required of this project. The reasons for its decision include:

1. Impacts from noise will be low to moderate, periodic and localized to the production activities area. Noise levels will be kept within the permissible noise levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Employees will wear the necessary protective gear to minimise the impact of noise during operation. All sound-making devices will be enclosed or equipped with silencers or mufflers to reduce noise levels.
2. Air quality will not be significantly impacted. Air quality will be within the confines of the immediate project area and can be effectively mitigated by preventative maintenance of heavy-duty machinery and the implementation of control measures such as wet suppression.
3. Biodiversity will not be significantly impacted. The clearing of vegetation and mine development will be in accordance with the Mining Regulation and Best Practices and



allow for more effective management and control of impacts which will, in turn, reduce habitat destruction.

4. Surface water quality will not be significantly affected. There will be no direct discharge of effluent into any Creek or surface water body.
5. The developer will ensure that any waste produced will be recycled and reused, if possible. Appropriate disposal techniques will be implemented in keeping with the Agency's Hazardous Waste Guidelines.

### **Project Summary Tab**

<https://epaguyana.org/download/aranka-gold-leac...-project-summary/>

Any person who may be affected by the proposed project may lodge an appeal against the Agency's decision (EIA not required) within thirty (30) days of the publication of this Notice. *Appeals against the EPA's decision should be addressed to:*

The Chairman  
The Environmental Assessment Board  
E-mail: [eabguyana21@gmail.com](mailto:eabguyana21@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.epaguyana.org](http://www.epaguyana.org)