

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)-GUYANA ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION  
SCREENING REPORT**

**Project Name: R. Sookhoo & Sons Sawmill**

**Type of Operation:** Sawmilling

**Reference/ Application No.:** 20230104-RSRSS

**Background to the Project**

R. Sookhoo & Sons Sawmill has submitted an application for Environmental Authorization on January 04, 2023 to undertake sawmilling located at Tract 15, Loo Creek, Agricultural Layout, Soesdyke, Linden Highway. This sawmill operation was previously owned and operated by Mr. Leroy Beckles since 2008 and 2021 it was purchased and operated by the R. Sookhoo & Sons (present applicant). The size of the area is 30.4066 acres of lease land. This existing sawmilling project will involve several steps including transportation of logs from forest concessions in region no. 10, debarking the logs, sawing them into boards or planks, and then further processing those boards to achieve the desired thickness, width, and length for sale on local market.

**Site Description**

The existing sawmill is located on a Lease of State Land for Agriculture Purposes at Tract 15, Loo Creek, Agricultural Layout, Soesdyke, Linden Highway, surrounded by secondary forest. The Linden Soesdyke Highway is situated west of the site and is the main access road.

**Photo Plate 1: Sawmill Operation at Existing Site**



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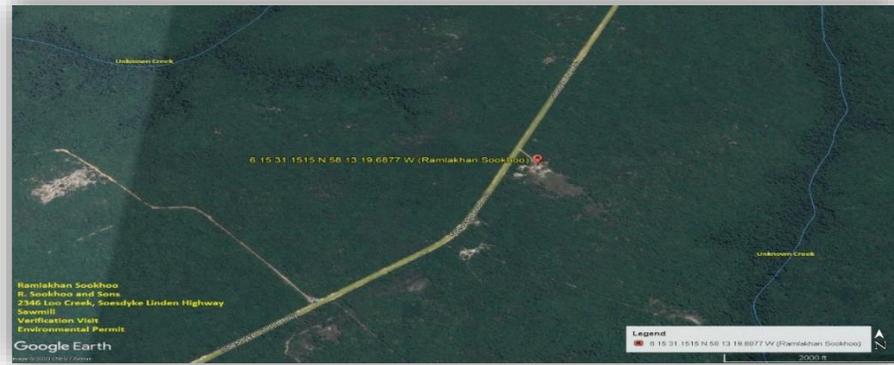


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## Geographic Location

The sawmill is located at approximately at 21 N 0364802 UTM 0691954



**Figure 1:** Map showing the location of the project

## Characteristics of Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

- 1. Air Quality:** Dust and particulate matter: Sawmilling will generate a lot of dust and particulate matter, which can be harmful to human health. These particles can cause respiratory problems and aggravate conditions like asthma and allergies' emissions: Sawmills also emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which can contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone and smog. VOCs can also be harmful to human health, and exposure to high levels can cause headaches, nausea, and other health problems.

### Mitigation

Machine and equipment will be connected to extractor systems which will channel dust into the dust containment bin. Saw dust generated by mill and edger will be removed from the mill floor daily by workers. Further workers will be provided with PPE and will be made mandatory for use during operation.

- 2. Noise:** Sawmilling will involve the use of heavy machinery, which can generate a lot of noise. This noise can be disruptive to nearby residents and can cause hearing damage to workers if proper precautions are not taken.
- 3. Vibration:** Sawmilling can also generate vibrations, which can be felt by nearby residents and can cause damage to nearby infrastructure. Vibrations can also be harmful to workers, causing conditions like hand-arm vibration syndrome.

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## Mitigation

Noise making machine and equipment will be housed i.e., generator will be house in generator room and equipped with exhaust stacks. Further equipment and machine will be placed on concrete foundation to dampen the vibration and will only be in operation during work hours stipulated by EPA. the implementation of proper maintenance and repair procedures will be done for machine and equipment in keeping with manufacturer 's specification. Further, the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for workers will be mandatory.

## 4. Waste Management

### 4.1 Non-hazardous wastes:

**Air pollution:** The burning of non-hazardous waste which is prevalent at most sawmill can result in the emission of harmful air pollutants, such as particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds.

**Water pollution:** Improper disposal of sawmill waste ( i.e sawdust, wood chips) can contaminate nearby water bodies, causing harm to aquatic life and humans.

**Greenhouse gas emissions:** When sawmill waste is burned or decomposes, it releases carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, contributing to global climate change.

## Mitigation

Wood waste (strips and Slabs) will be used for revetments and shaving and sawdust will be collected by persons in the area as well as for land filling. Further the Environmental Permit Waste Management Conditions will be fully adhered to.

### 4.2 hazardous wastes

Water pollution: Lubricants used in sawmilling can contaminate water sources if not properly managed. These lubricants can leach into soil and groundwater, leading to pollution of rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water. Additionally, the disposal of lubricants can contribute to the pollution of waterways.

Soil contamination: Spills or leaks from lubricant storage container can contaminate soil and affect plant growth, which can have long-lasting effects on ecosystems.

## Mitigation

There will be scheduled servicing of machine and equipment. Fuel will be stores in tightly covered plastic pails to avoid spillage and will be kept in a containment area. Waist oil will be reused on chainsaw.

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### **Conclusion and recommendations**

The potential impacts identified are considered localised, mostly short term, reversible, avoidable and mitigable.

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