

YARROWKABRA COAL BURNERS ASSOCIATION

Name of Project: Burning of Charcoal

Name of Developer: Yarrowkabra Coal Burners Association

Contact information:

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The plot of land that is being used for the burning of charcoal is located at Block B Glass Factory Road Yarrowkabra Soesdyke Linden Highway. The land is approximately 6.5 acres of state land situated at the western side of Yarrowkabra.

This organization was registered in 2009/09/10. Initially, it was a group formed for single mothers, but over the years as the organization expanded men and youths were a part of it. The members of this organization use waste wood (wood ends) from neighboring Sawmills to burn in pits to produce charcoal, which is sold to local buyers.

In this organization, there are thirty (30) members who work for themselves, they purchase their own raw materials and sell their own charcoal. The organization's license covers all its members. In order for members to sell their charcoal they must issue the buyer a permit to pass forestry. This permit consists of the organization's name, license number, organization stamp, vehicle number, vehicle type, amount, and the person's name and signature. Additionally, for the organization to be able to produce and sell charcoal a license from forestry must be issued.

The organization sources drinking water from a small creek about 600 feet from the site. The effect of the burning of charcoal is air pollution. However, in the future, the organization would like to start producing briquettes, which will reduce the level of air pollution.

Burning usually takes about 4 days. When the charcoal is finished burning, it is allowed to cool naturally and takes approximately 72 hours to cool off. After which, the coal is removed from the pits with spades and filled into the polystyrene bags. Each pit produces about 4-5 bags (100 lb polystyrene bags) of coal.

There is no fixed working hours but all operation will be conducted in the day since the production will be based on customers' demand.

Members will have to source their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gloves, masks, visibility vests, long boots etc. based on job specifications. One first aid kit will be kept onsite in case of minor cases of emergency/injury.

Process of Making Charcoal

Step 1: Acquiring Lumber

Lumber will be acquired from the Sawmill, Bulkan Timber, Durable Wood Product and other Sawmills at Yarrowkabra. The wood is transported to the site and dumped at pits.

Step 2: Preparing the pit

The pit will be cleaned of all particles such as old zinc, and fine coals. After which the wood will be packed neatly into the pit and the chimney will be placed into the pit so that the pit can be prepared for lighting.

Step 3: Lighting the Pit

Zinc will be placed around the pit, leaving the back open. Then it will be covered with sand. Fire is lit in the pit at the open back. After the fire has been lit enough, the back of the pit will be sealed with zinc to prevent the pit from burning out. Leaving it to burn until finished.

Step 4: After the burn

At the completion of the burning period, the chimneys will all have fire to indicate that the burning period has been completed. The chimneys will then be sealed, so that the pit can cool off.

Step 5: Emptying the pit

The sand from on top and around the pit, along with the zinc should be removed. The coals will then be placed into bags, to be sold.

Fuel storage

Fuel will not be stored onsite. Gas for the chainsaw will be purchased on requirements.

Waste generation

Domestic and wood waste such as sawdust and ends are expected to be generated.

Domestic Waste – inclusive food boxes, plastic bottles tins, cans etc. will be collected in bins and the bins will be emptied into a solid waste pit.

Wood Waste – inclusive of sawdust, wood ends, slight remains of charcoal etc. will be left on the forest floor to decompose. The expected quantity is not significant enough to affect the environment in any way.

Liquid Waste – Sewage will be disposed of in a pit latrine.

Hazardous Waste – The only hazardous waste generated will be waste oil of less than 0.7 liters and this will be stored in a 5-gallon plastic pail tightly closed to prevent spillage. The waste oil will be reused on the chainsaw.

The Proposed project may have an impact on air quality due to smoke and noise nuisances caused by the operation of the lighted pits and chainsaw. To mitigate these effects, only two pits will be ignited at the same time and will be monitored, as well as trees acting as buffers.