



**Environmental  
Protection  
Agency - Guyana**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION SCREENING REPORT**

**NAME OF COMPANY:** Qualco Inc.

**TYPE OF PROJECT:** Workshop, Equipment Storage and Training in Support of Oil & Gas Sector

**LOCATION OF PROJECT:** Lot 10 Public Road, Supply, East Bank Demerara

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **PROJECT OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION**

On **July 28, 2022**, Qualco Inc. submitted an Application for Environmental Authorisation for the operation of a Workshop and Equipment Storage at Lot 10 Public Road, Supply, East Bank Demerara, hereinafter referred to as the Project.

The application was acknowledged on August 03, 2022, and a site inspection was conducted at the location on August 09, 2022. The inspection confirmed the following:

- The main facility was fully constructed, however, the spray painting, sand blasting booth and scaffolding area were not yet installed.
- Operations were not ongoing at the time of the inspection.
- Drainage at the facility includes two concrete perimeter drains bordering the north and south of the project.
- The environmental officers spoke with the two immediate neighbors about the nature of the project and, both neighbors had no objections.

### **1.1 Description of Operation**

The project entails the following activities:

- Scaffolding & Rope Access Training

The company intends to provide certified Scaffolding & Rope Access Training which is a standard requirement for both offshore and onshore oil and gas activities. This training includes both classroom and practical sessions and successful participants will receive an international industry recognized certificate.

- Equipment Staging for Offshore

This equipment includes the following:

- Project tool boxes
- Large tool houses (8'x 10') containers that are shipped offshore containing all of the necessary equipment, tools and materials to perform the work
- Welding machines
- Blasting & painting equipment
- Air compressors
- Electrical & instrumentation test equipment

The items are stored at the Supply location and packed for shipment when needed on a project. At the end of the project, the equipment is received back into the facility and is then checked, tested and certified, if necessary, to be ready to be back out again.

- Light Fabrication (welding, spray painting and sandblasting)

The company intends to provide light fabrication services for the oil & gas market. This will include the fabrication of small pipe spools and structural components. This process includes the cutting, grinding, fitting and welding of various metal components.

There is sometimes a requirement for the fabricated piece to be coated before delivery to the customer. The specific coating material or paint and the process is usually defined in the customer's specifications.

All of the energy/electricity required will be self-supplied by the generators onsite. Electricity usage will mainly be for small hand tools and general office usage.

### **Pre- Operational Readiness Activities**

- Main building structure

The main building structure required repainting and minor repairs to get it to a suitable state for the project purpose. Air conditioning was installed in several of the offices and internet and a security camera system was also installed. Perimeter lighting was installed to the front and back, LED spotlight the adjacent neighbors.

- External Areas (Yard)

The improvement works done on the yard included the clearing and cleaning of drains as well as the back of the property which was littered with derelict vehicles, old car parts and overgrown weeds and bushes. The driveway to the side of the building and the newly cleared land to the rear of the property were then rolled and covered with layers of sand and rocks to provide a stable surface for planned operations. A prefabricated open workshop/yard shed was then erected in the yard to the rear of the main building to provide cover from the weather. A scaffolding structure will be erected and this will serve as a training center for scaffolding and rope access training classes.

### **Operational Readiness (*The project is currently at this stage*).**

- Equipment Receipt & Storage

Equipment for use in the project have been imported into the country and are being stored both inside the building as well as outside in the open yard awaiting the commencement of operations. The company is awaiting a second shipment which will include a forklift and extended boom forklift as well as the scaffolding structure.

- Training

Local labor has been identified and employed to work with the company in completing stage 1 and they are now in the process of undergoing training for the operation of the equipment and delivery of our services. To date four (4) persons have been employed.

## **1.2 Project Location**

The project is an existing facility located at Lot 10 Public Road, Supply, East Bank Demerara. The project is bounded by residents (to the front) and empty plots of land (to the back). Storage of equipment is done in a facility to the front of the property while all other proposed operations will be done to the back, furthest away from residents (~50m north and ~60m south). To the east of the project site is a Digicel tower and empty vegetated plots.



**Google image 1: showing the distance Qualco Inc. from the Demerara River.**

## ***2.0 CHARACTERISTICS OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS***

### ***SOIL POLLUTION***

There is a potential for soil contamination from the improper disposal of solid and hazardous waste. There is also potential for soil contamination due to accidental discharge of paints and/or paint thinners.

Given the potential soil contamination to occur the following mitigation measures that will be implemented:

1. All hazardous material such as solvents, paints, fuel etc, will be properly stored in appropriate cabinets designed for such items;
2. The handling of these items, including opening and dispensing, will be performed in a bunded area specifically designed for spill containment;

3. In the event of spillage, the spilled material will be immediately cleaned up using absorbent material such as absorbent pads, rags, sawdust, etc.;
4. The absorbent material will then be stored in hazmat containers and disposed of using an EPA authorized hazmat handling contractor.

### **SOIL POLLUTION IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE**

Impacts to soil is **not significant** given the magnitude of the project which is low, i.e. impacts are within the boundaries of project area and its immediate surrounding environment.

Further with the implementation of the above-mentioned mitigation measures, impacts are expected to be **reversible and minor** and hence **not significant**.

### **AIR POLLUTION**

There is the potential for air emissions (gaseous and particulate matter) from the following activities at the Project:

- Mechanical surface preparation (using grinders, bristle blasters and other small electric or pneumatic hand tools, or may also be done by abrasive-blasting method) to ensure proper adhesion of the coating to be applied.
- Fumes from painting and coating of the components.

Given that the potential exist for air pollution the following mitigation measures will be implemented:

1. Painting will be performed within a semi-enclosed area so as to eliminate or minimize the hazard and potential impact associated with airborne particles or fumes.
2. Spray painting will be performed within a fully-enclosed area so as to eliminate or minimize the hazard and potential impact associated with airborne particles or fumes.
3. The spray-painting booth will have a built-in air filtration and ventilation system that traps the fumes and filters the air ensuring little or no emission to the surrounding environment.
4. Specialized industry standard equipment will be used to apply paint by mechanical means such as with an industrial spray-painting machine. This will minimize 'over-spray' and ensure that most of the paint is applied to the surface when sprayed and emitted into the atmosphere.
5. All workers involved will be properly trained in the use of the equipment and will be required to wear the appropriate PPE including respiratory devices.

### **AIR POLLUTION IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE**

Impacts to air quality from this project are **not significant** given the absence of sensitive receptors (50m and 62m away) and the magnitude of the project which is considered low, i.e. impacts are within the boundaries of project area and its immediate surrounding environment.

Further, with the implementation of the aforementioned mitigation measures, impacts are expected to be **reversible and minor** and hence **not significant**.

**NOISE POLLUTION**

Noise from the Project will be emitted from the operational activities such as the use of grinders, bristle blasters and other equipment used in the preparation of the surfaces for the application of paint. The use of a generator at the facility will also produce noise.

While the potential exists for noise impacts the following mitigation measures will be implemented:

1. All related equipment including compressors and generators will be properly maintained and equipped with mufflers/silencers.
2. Such activities will be restricted to normal daylight working hours.
3. Proper site practices will be maintained.

During the EPA’s inspection, noise assessments were conducted at three points at the facility to determine ambient noise levels. However, it should be noted that Qualco is situated on Eastern side of the East Bank Demerara Road as such the noise level reading was impacted by the heavy traffic that traverses the road. The results of the assessment are as follows:

<b>Northern Boundary at Facility</b> (~5m from neighbor; ~40m from proposed welding & fabrication, generator, etc.)	<b>Southern Boundary of Facility</b> (~5m from neighbor; ~40m from proposed welding & fabrication, generator, etc.)	<b>Eastern Boundary of Facility</b>
• Average point during the period: <b>61.0dB</b>  <i>The average readings at Northern Boundary were below the GNBS Residential Day Time Limit (75 dB).</i>	• Average point during the period: <b>59.5dB</b>  <i>The average readings at Southern Boundary were below the GNBS Residential Day Time Limit (75 dB).</i>	• Average point during the period: <b>63.2 dB</b>  <i>The average readings at Eastern Boundary were below the GNBS Residential Day Time Limit (75 dB).</i>

**NOISE POLLUTION IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE**

Noise impacts from this project are **not significant** given the magnitude of the project which is considered low, i.e. impacts are within the boundaries of project area and its immediate surrounding environment.

Further, with the implementation of the aforementioned mitigation measures, impacts are expected to be **reversible and minor** and hence **not significant**.

### **3.0 PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE**

#### **Criterion 1 Project Location**

This project is in an area comprised of mainly residents and plots of empty vegetated land. The area is not considered densely populated or a High- Density Industrial Zone. (Refer to Google image 1 above).

#### **Criterion 2 Environmental Sensitivity**

The project is not located in close proximity to any environmentally sensitive areas (Refer to Google image 1).

#### **Criterion 3 Levels of Public Concern:**

The level of Public Concern is considered low. Public engagements were conducted by the environmental officers with the residents in close proximity to the project and there were no objections to the proposed project activities. Residents occupying properties to the North and South of the project each signed a letter indicating that they had no objections.

### **SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE**

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Summary of Reasons</b>
Soil Pollution	<b>Low</b>	Impacts to soil is <b>not significant</b> given the magnitude of the project which is low, i.e. impacts are within the boundaries of project area and its immediate surrounding environment.  Further with the implementation of the above-mentioned mitigation measures, impacts are expected to be <b>reversible and minor</b> and hence <b>not significant</b> .
Air Pollution	<b>Low</b>	Impacts to air quality from this project are <b>not significant</b> given the absence of sensitive receptors (50m and 62m away) and the magnitude of the project which is considered low, i.e. impacts are within the boundaries of project area and its immediate surrounding environment.  Further, with the implementation of the aforementioned mitigation measures, impacts are expected to be <b>reversible and minor</b> and hence <b>not significant</b> .
Noise Pollution	<b>Low</b>	Noise impacts from this project are <b>not significant</b> given the magnitude of the project which is considered low, i.e. impacts are within the boundaries of project area and its immediate surrounding environment.

		Further, with the implementation of the aforementioned mitigation measures, impacts are expected to be <b>reversible and minor</b> and hence <b>not significant</b> .
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**CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION**

It can be concluded based on the existing data, technical review, observations/field inspections and exercise of discretion that the impacts from this activity are **not significant**.

Further, given that the facility is new it is recommended that this project be placed on the thirty (30) days' public notice and granted environmental authorization if there are no objections.



## Pictures



**Image 1: Storage and office building**



**Image 2: Scaffolding and rope training area**



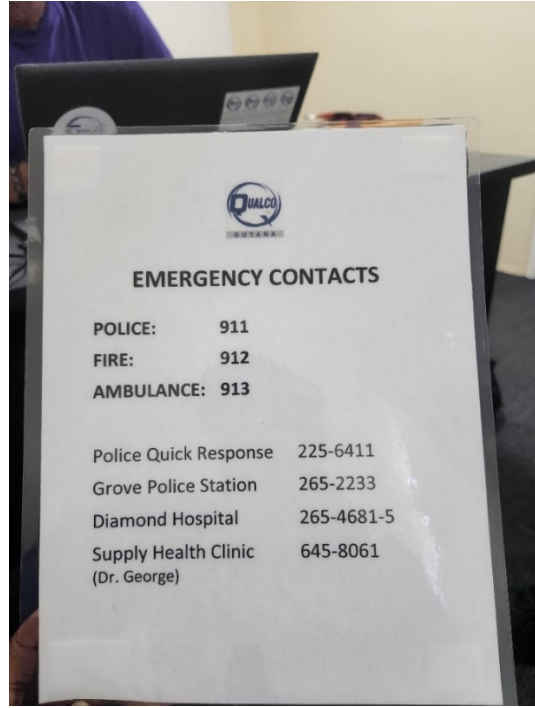
**Image 3: Welding area**



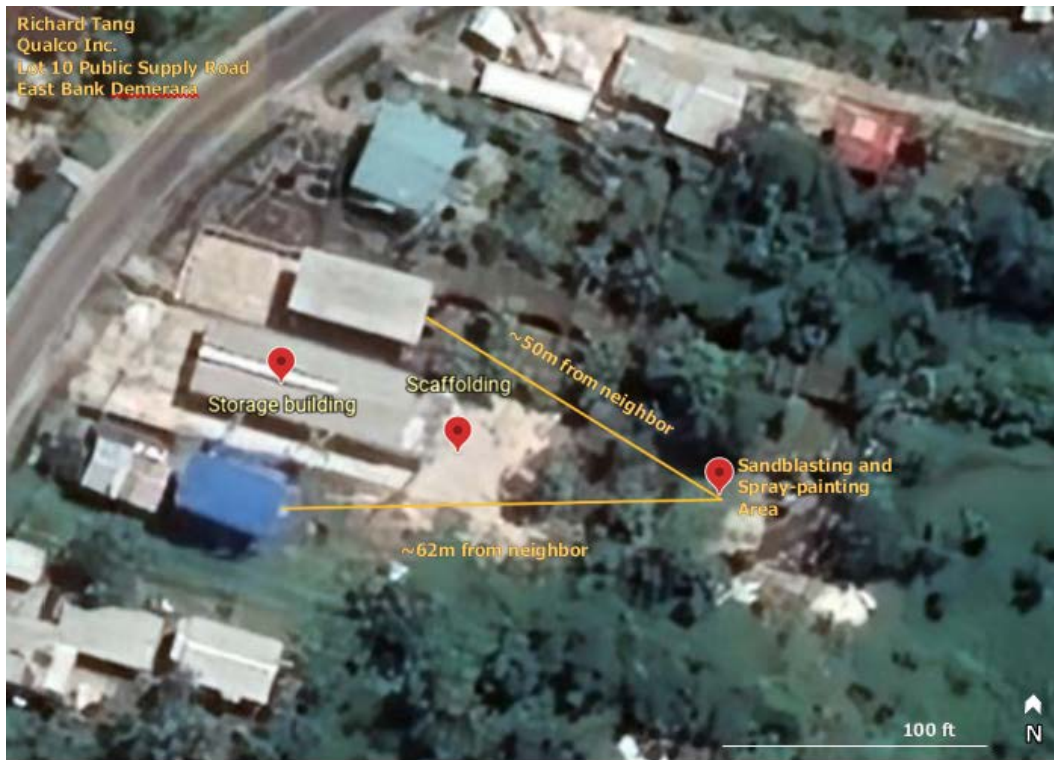
**Image 4: Equipment storage area**



**Image 5: Concrete drain**

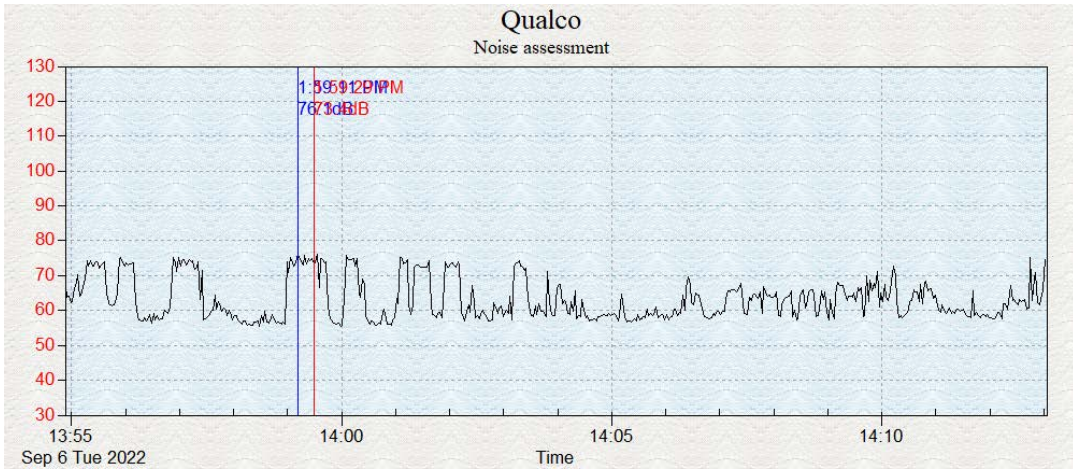


**Image 6: Emergency response plan**

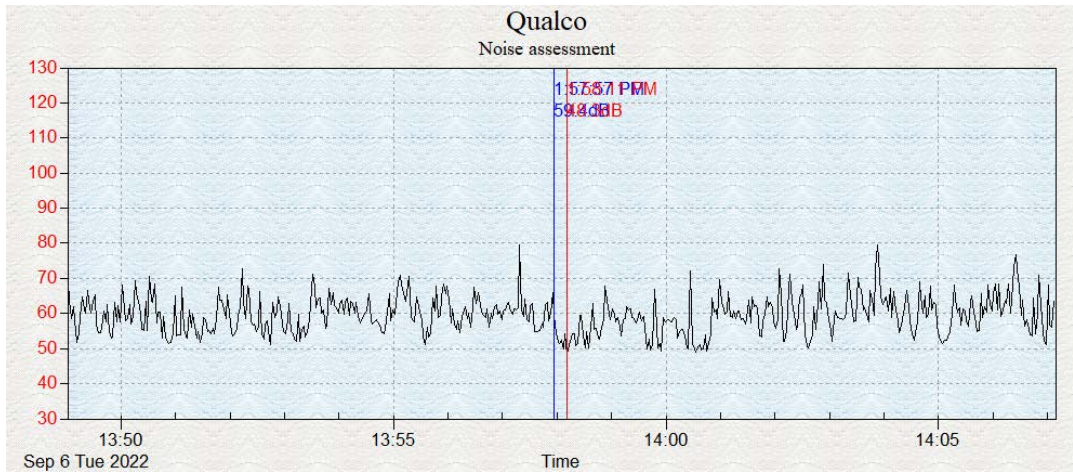


**Map 1: showing the distance Qualco Inc. from the Demerara River.**

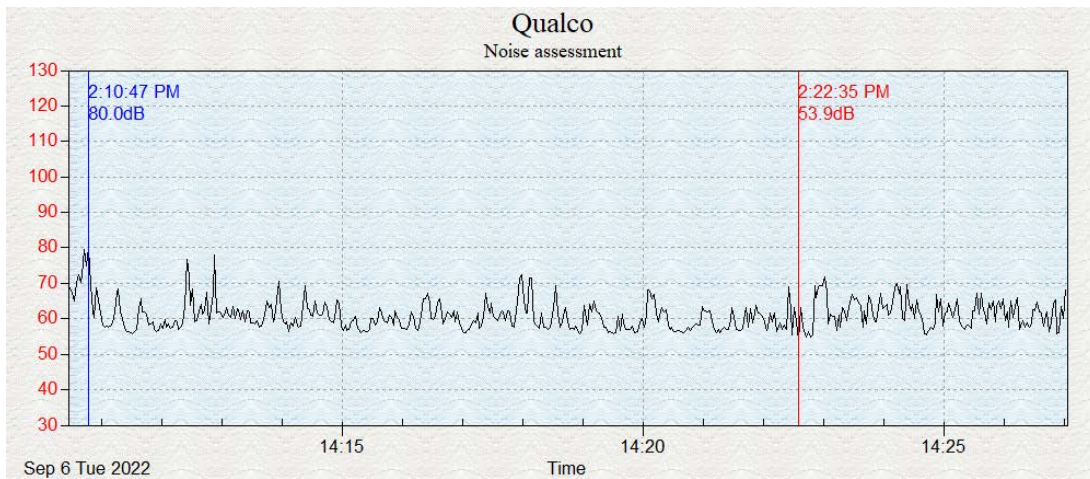
## Noise Assessment Graphs



**Graph 1: Results of Noise Assessment at Eastern Boundary**



**Graph 2: Results of Noise Assessment at Southern Boundary**



**Graph 1: Results of Noise Assessment at Northern Boundary**