

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

In response to the comments concerning EITI Requirement 6.4, EPA hereby provides clarification of responsibilities of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC):

1. Institutional responsibilities

The EPA and GGMC have distinct but complementary responsibilities. The EPA, under the Environmental Protection Act, administers the process for environmental authorization and environmental compliance. The GGMC administers mineral tenure, mining licensing and mining regulation, inclusive of its environmental management provisions.

The institutional framework described in the technical inputs comprises the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, its amendment (2005) and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations 2000, together with the Mining Act 1989 and the Mining (Amendment) Regulations 2005.

EPA responsibilities

EPA's responsibilities include:

- Screening of projects to determine if their potential environmental impact will be of significance to require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to inform the EPA's decision whether or not to authorise the project.
- Setting permit conditions to manage and regulate potential environmental impacts of permitted projects.
- Monitoring compliance with permit conditions through developer self-reporting, EPA compliance monitoring, inspections and audits.
- Investigating environmental offences, pollution and environmental damage and taking enforcement action under the EP Act.
- Establishing and monitoring applicable environmental requirements for mining site closure, restoration and aftercare.

While the EPA authorizes large-scale gold mining, bauxite and sand mining, it does implement and Authorisation process for small and medium-scale mining. The GGMC manages the environmental management of small and medium scale mining under and MoU signed with the EPA. The GGMC's permanent on-the-ground presence in mining locations makes it more practical for this entity to manage small and medium scale mining. To this end, the GGMC has an established Environmental Division and Mining Code of Practice.

GGMC responsibilities

GGMC's responsibilities include:

- Administering mining claims, prospecting permits, mining permits, mining licences and mineral properties.
- Reviewing mine plans, feasibility information, mining methods and mineral extraction activities.
- Monitoring compliance with mining licenses and requirements under the mining legislation and regulations.
- Administering mining environmental requirements and Codes of Practice.
- Overseeing applicable requirements related to mercury, tailings, mine effluent, mine waste, small dams and environmental-effects monitoring.
- Administering mining reclamation and closure requirements.
- Enforcing mining-specific requirements and addressing mineral-rights violations.

2. Responsibilities by mining scale

Mining scale	EPA responsibilities	GGMC responsibilities
Large-scale mining	Environmental screening and Authorisation; determines if an EIA is required; sets Terms of Reference for EIA, Review and Approves EIA, sets permit conditions; Monitors and controls pollution; monitors and enforces environmental protection within existing legal framework.	Mineral tenure and mining licensing; mine plans and mining operations; mining regulatory compliance; applicable environmental management and reclamation requirements under mining legislation.
Small- and medium-scale mining	Joint Inspections with GGMC as necessary. Targeted independent monitoring	Primary operational mining regulator, including oversight of environmental management requirements under the Mining Regulations and Codes of Practice.

The supplied technical clarification states that an EPA environmental permit is required before a large-scale mining license is issued by GGMC. The environmental permit and mining license serve different regulatory purposes.

3. Monitoring, enforcement and coordination

Responsibility for a particular monitoring or enforcement activity depends on the applicable Authorisation and legal instrument.

Regulatory matter	Responsible agency or arrangement
Determination of EIA requirements under the Environmental Protection Act	EPA
Environmental permit issuance and enforcement of its conditions	EPA
Mineral tenure and mining permits or licenses	GGMC

Mine plans, mining methods and mining regulatory compliance	GGMC
Environmental monitoring required by EPA permits	EPA
Mining environmental performance under Mining Regulations and Codes of Practice	GGMC, with EPA coordination where applicable
Significant pollution or environmental harm	EPA within its mandate, with GGMC support where relevant
Mine reclamation and closure	GGMC and EPA, according to the applicable mining and environmental requirements
Major environmental incidents at mining operations	Coordinated response involving EPA, GGMC and other relevant agencies

For large-scale mining, the EPA requires developer self-reporting under the environmental permits. Similarly, the GGMC require developer self-reporting under its regulatory framework.

These reports contain information but does not project-level mining monitoring results, inspection findings or enforcement outcomes for 2024–2025. These records are needed to demonstrate how the arrangement operates in practice.

4. Environmental assessment and operational monitoring

EIAs assess anticipated environmental and social impacts before a project is Authorised. Operational monitoring checks actual performance against permit conditions after Authorisation.

For oil and gas, the departmental input describes operator daily summaries, monthly reports, annual compliance reports and independent external audits. Exploration reporting includes End of Well Reports and post-drill seafloor surveys. EPA oversight includes onboard inspections, water sampling near FPSO discharge points, satellite detection of sheens and thermal monitoring of flaring.

Operator reports are submitted to EPA but are not routinely published in full. However, Selected inspection information and statements are disclosed, while detailed monitoring results are not routinely released. Public availability of EIAs and permits therefore needs to be complemented by accessible information on monitoring findings and outcomes.

5. Incident reporting and closure obligations

Incident reporting is separate from routine monitoring. Oil and gas permits establish notification requirements for emergencies, spills and non-compliance. The supplied examples specify emergency notification within 12 hours for production operations and 24 hours for exploration drilling, with additional reporting requirements depending on the event.

The Oil and Gas Department reports that no production facility has been decommissioned to date. Production permits nevertheless establish requirements for approved decommissioning plans and environmental aftercare.

Exploration well plugging and abandonment is managed separately through individual well permits, approved abandonment plans, post-drill surveys and End of Well Reports. Mining restoration and reclamation require coordination between EPA and GGMC according to the applicable environmental Authorisation and mining requirements.

6. EIA screening and public documentation

A decision not to require a full EIA does not remove environmental assessment or permitting requirements. Applicable environmental management plans and cumulative-impact assessments may still be required. Consolidated figures for full-EIA and non-EIA decisions across EPA departments for 2024–2025 remain to be confirmed.

Year	Mining		Forestry		Oil & Gas	
	EIA-Required	EIA Not-Required	EIA-Required	EIA Not-Required	EIA-Required	EIA Not-Required
2024	1	25	2	83	1	0
2025	1	29	3	124	0	2

The EPA oil and gas document archive is available at: <https://epaguyana.org/download/oil-gas/>

Selected permit references include:

- Whiptail: <https://epaguyana.org/download/whiptail-development-project-permit/>
- Hammerhead: <https://epaguyana.org/download/hammerhead-development-permit/>
- Jacunda-1: <https://epaguyana.org/download/jacunda-1-well-permit/>

These are source-provided permit links. A complete register of direct EIA and ESIA links and confirmation of current accessibility remain outstanding.

- Link to EIAs -Oil & Gas: <https://epaguyana.org/download/oil-gas/>
- Link to Permits Oil and Gas: <https://epaguyana.org/downloads/oil-gas/>
- Link to EIAs for Mining Projects: <https://epaguyana.org/downloads/environmental-impact-assessments/>
- Link to Mining Permits: <https://epaguyana.org/downloads/mining/>
- Link to Forestry EIAs.: <https://epaguyana.org/downloads/forestry/>
- Link to Forestry Permits: <https://epaguyana.org/downloads/forestry/>

7. Further supporting information

The information needed to complete the response includes:

- EPA and GGMC mining monitoring, inspection, enforcement and reclamation records for 2024–2025.

- Two implementation case studies showing findings, actions taken and verified follow-up outcomes.
- Screening statistics across EPA departments for 2024–2025.
- A complete public-document register covering EIAs, ESIAAs, permits and relevant monitoring information.
- Confirmation of incident disclosure status across the relevant departments.

APPENDIX A – LINKS to MULTI_WELL PERMITS

	Project	Link to EIA	Link to Permit
1.	12 Multiwell Exploration Canje Block	https://epaguyana.org/download/oil-gas/	Tilapia-1 — EPA Environmental Permit PDF
2.	25 Multiwell Exploration Stabroek Block		Individual wells are permitted; see below for individual permit links. 25 Multiwell , 35 Multiwell
3.	35 Multiwell Exploration Stabroek Block		
4.			
5.	Liza Phase 1		https://epaguyana.org/download/liza-phase-1-permit-renewed/
6.	Liza Phase 2		https://epaguyana.org/download/liza-phase-2-permit-renewed/
7.	Payara		https://epaguyana.org/download/payara-development-project-permit/
8.	Yellowtail		https://epaguyana.org/download/yellowtail-development-project-permit/
9.	Gas-to-Energy (GTE)		https://epaguyana.org/download/gas-to-energy-project-permit-part-1/ https://epaguyana.org/download/gas-to-energy-project-permit-part-2/
10.	Uaru		https://epaguyana.org/download/uaru-development-project-permit/
11.	Whiptail		https://epaguyana.org/download/whiptail-development-project-permit/
12.	Hammerhead		https://epaguyana.org/download/hammerhead-development-permit/

13.	CGG Seismic Survey		https://epaguyana.org/download/cgg-seismic-survey-permit/
14.	Latitude Energy Inc		https://epaguyana.org/download/latitude-deepwater-seismic-survey-permit/

APPENDIX B -LINKS TO EIAS FOR OIL & GAS PROJECTS

	Project	Link to EIA	Link to Permit
1.	12 Multiwell Exploration Canje Block	https://epaguyana.org/download/oil-gas/	Tilapia-1 — EPA Environmental Permit PDF
2.	25 Multiwell Exploration Stabroek Block		Individual wells are permitted; see below for individual permit links.
3.	35 Multiwell Exploration Stabroek Block		25 Multiwell , 35 Multiwell
4.			
5.	Liza Phase 1		https://epaguyana.org/download/liza-phase-1-permit-renewed/
6.	Liza Phase 2		https://epaguyana.org/download/liza-phase-2-permit-renewed/
7.	Payara		https://epaguyana.org/download/payara-development-project-permit/
8.	Yellowtail		https://epaguyana.org/download/yellowtail-development-project-permit/
9.	Gas-to-Energy (GTE)		https://epaguyana.org/download/gas-to-energy-project-permit-part-1/ https://epaguyana.org/download/gas-to-energy-project-permit-part-2/
10.	Uaru		https://epaguyana.org/download/uaru-development-project-permit/
11.	Whiptail		https://epaguyana.org/download/whiptail-development-project-permit/
12.	Hammerhead		https://epaguyana.org/download/hammerhead-development-permit/

13.	CGG Seismic Survey		https://epaguyana.org/download/cgg-seismic-survey-permit/
14.	Latitude Energy Inc		https://epaguyana.org/download/latitude-deepwater-seismic-survey-permit/

APPENDIX C -LINKS TO ALLMULTI- WELL PERMITS

#	Project	Link to Permit
1	Pacora Deep-1A	EPA permit PDF — Pacora Deep-1A
2	Haimara-1	EPA permit PDF — Haimara-1
3	Hatchetfish-1	EPA permit PDF — Hatchetfish-1
4	Redmouth-1	EPA permit PDF — Redmouth-1
5	Trumpetfish-1	EPA permit PDF — Trumpetfish-1
6	Lau Lau-2	https://epaguyana.org/download/lau-lau-2-permit/
7	Haimara-3	EPA permit PDF — Haimara-3
8	Haimara-4	EPA permit PDF — Haimara-4
9	Redmouth-1A	https://epaguyana.org/download/redmouth-1a-permit/
10	Hammerhead-4	EPA permit PDF — EEPGL-10
11	Hamlet-1	https://epaguyana.org/download/hamlet-1-permit/
12	Barreleye-2	https://epaguyana.org/download/hamlet-1-permit/
13	Lukanani-2	EPA renewed permit PDF — Lukanani-2
14	Blacktip-1	EPA renewed permit PDF — Blacktip-1
15	Ranger-3	https://epaguyana.org/download/ranger-3-well-permit/
16	Barreleye-3	https://epaguyana.org/download/barreleye-3-well-permit/
17	Goatfish-1	https://epaguyana.org/download/goatfish-1-permit/
18	Goby-1	https://epaguyana.org/download/goby-1-permit/
19	Rockhead-1	https://epaguyana.org/download/rockhead-1-permit/
20	Whitetip-1	https://epaguyana.org/download/whitetip-1-permit/
21	Ranger-4	https://epaguyana.org/download/ranger-4-well-permit/
22	Jacunda-1	EPA Permits Archive — Jacunda-1 Well Permit