

Member Country Profile – {Guyana}

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| Organisations: | Environmental Protection Agency, Guyana Department of Environment, Ministry of the Presidency |
| Country Representative: | Dr. Vincent Adams, Executive Director |
| Contact: | epa@epaguyana.org |
| <p>Regime Scope:</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the lead regulatory body in Guyana, responsible for the protection of Guyana’s environment, and the sustainable use of its natural resources. With regulatory responsibility under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Agency is mandated to authorise, reject and monitor environmental activities, within a variety of sectors which may or may not have significant impacts on the environment across all sectors.</p> <p>In the oil and gas sector, Permits are granted for activities including but not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exploration Surveys; 2. Exploration Drilling; and 3. Production Drilling. | |
| <p>Administering Agency/Arrangements:</p> <p>EPA Guyana is a semi-autonomous Government Agency</p> | |
| <p>Legislation Type: Primary and Subsidiary Regulatory Legislation.</p> | |
| <p>Links to Relevant Legislation:</p> <p>Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana- http://www.epaguyana.org/epa/downloads/regulations/download/7-regulations/462-environmental-protection-act</p> <p>Regulations enacted under the EP Act, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations 2000,- http://www.epaguyana.org/epa/downloads/regulations/download/7-regulations/23-ag-1epa-noise-management-regs • The Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations 2000,- http://www.epaguyana.org/epa/downloads/regulations/download/7-regulations/21-ag-1hazardous-wastes-regulations | |

- The Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations 2000-
<http://www.epaguyana.org/epa/downloads/regulations/download/7-regulations/19-ag-1authorisations-regulations-2000> ,
- The Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations 2000,-
<http://www.epaguyana.org/epa/downloads/regulations/download/7-regulations/20-ag-1epa-water-quality-regs>
- The Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations 2000, -
<http://www.epaguyana.org/epa/downloads/regulations/download/7-regulations/22-ag-1-epa-air-pollution-regs>
- The Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations 2013-
<http://www.epaguyana.org/epa/downloads/regulations/download/7-regulations/25-litter-regulations>
- Petroleum Exploration and Production Act, 1986; the Petroleum Exploration and Production (Amendment) Act, 1992,-<http://goinvest.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/Petroleum-Exploration-and-Production-cap6510-.pdf> and
- The Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Act. No.13 of 2000, the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Regulations, No. 8 of 2004, and the Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals (Amendment) Regulations, No. 08 of 2007- <http://agriculture.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/cap6809-Pesticide-and-Toxic-Chemicals-Control-Board-Act.pdf>

Extent of Government Approval:

- In accordance with the EP Act, Cap 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the EPA grants first development consent. In this regard, permit applicants are required to obtain Environmental Authorisation/Permit before commencing any activity onshore and offshore. Additionally, specific documents, consent, licenses etc. have to be submitted with the application to aid the screening and assessment process.

Nature of Duties Imposed:

All applications are screened, projects assessed and permit conditions set to ensure the protection of human health and the environment is paramount. Operators for monitored to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of their Permit.

Physical Objects in the Regime:

The Agency is currently monitoring five (5) Drill ships and one (1) FPSO

Assurance Mechanisms:

The Liability clause forms part of the Environmental Permit conditions; this includes compensation to affected parties for loss or damage to the environment that is attributable to the Project. Compensation will be predicated on an assessment of damage and cost conducted by an independent assessor (s) approved by the EPA.

Financial Basis:

Oil and gas operators stand the cost for the conduct of the Environmental Impact Assessment, including, publication of notices, public scoping and disclosure meetings and administrative support. Training cost as well as, cost for monitoring offshore operations are also borne by the Operator.

Environmental Regulation Responsibilities:

The EPA grants or rejects requests for Environmental Authorisation/Permit; approve consultants for conduct of EIA; Facilitate the review of the EIA; Approve or reject EIAs; development of subsidiary legislation; conduct compliance monitoring and enforcement of Permit conditions; and provide response to environmental complaints and investigate offshore environmental incidents.

Oil Spill Response:

- Oil spill response is led on a national level by the Civil Defence Commission.
- The Agency forms part of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan.
- The Agency responds to oil spill reports/incidences/complaints.
- Approval or rejection of the Operator's Oil Spill Response Plan which forms part of the Emergency Response Plan in the EIA.

Transparency:

Public participation forms part of the EIA process, public is notified of the Agency's decision on every project through publications in the national newspapers, its website and social media platforms. The public is given the opportunity to comment/object to the decisions made by the EPA. The Agency also provide a range of information, including Regulations and guidelines on its website (<http://www.epaguyana.org/epa/>)

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