

Letter of Appeal against the Environmental Protection Agency's decision that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required for the Lia (Guyana) Inc. – MINERAL EXPLORATION PROJECT– KURUPUNG PROJECT, Prospecting Licenses GS14: L-1003/000/23 & GS14: L-1003/001/23 Region 07.

September 25, 2026

The Chairman,
The Environmental Assessment Board

As Guyanese citizens concerned about the contamination of our air, land, and waterways by toxic radioactive particles and waste which damage vital organs and biological systems of all living creatures (humans, animals, and plants), cause cancer and death, remain in the environment for billions of years, and can be easily spread, we lodge this formal appeal against the Environmental Protection Agency's (henceforth referred to as the 'Agency') decision that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required for the Lia (Guyana) Inc. Mineral Exploration Project in the Kurupung area of Region 7, Guyana.

We note that the company's application is for mineral exploration only, and does not include commercial mining, ore extraction or processing, mine construction, or the establishment of radioactive tailings facilities. We understand that exploration/prospecting activities are different from mining/extraction and processing, and we note points 3, 4, and 5 in the EPA's Public Notice regarding this project which state that "...waste and spills are expected to be temporary, reversible and capable of being effectively managed"; "Drill holes and disturbed areas will be progressively sealed, stabilized and rehabilitated."; and "Fuel, waste, drill fluids and uranium-bearing core and samples will be securely contained, monitored and managed in accordance with an EPA-approved Environmental Management Plan and permit conditions, including radiation-safety requirements."

We object to and appeal your Agency's no-EIA decision for this project on the following grounds:

According to Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act, decisions about EIAs must first be made by the Agency and shared publicly to the Guyanese public via at least one daily newspaper **BEFORE** the issuance of Environmental Management Plans (EMP). It appears that the opposite was done in this case, in violation of Guyana's laws - with the public being notified in the Agency's no-EIA Notice that an EMP had already been approved. This premature decision is not only backwards and contrary to the EPA Act, and also clearly and disturbingly shows a clear bias on the part of the Agency against complying with the law and due process.

We demand to know all details of this EMP. What data convinced the Agency that spills and waste are expected to be temporary, reversible, and capable of being effectively managed? We know that uranium is radioactive and remains in the environment for billions of years- there is absolutely nothing temporary about this substance! Likewise, what data convinced the Agency that the company wishing to engage in these activities- U92 Energy Corp- is capable of "effectively managing" any spill, has the expertise to seal, stabilize, and rehabilitate drill holes, and maintain radiation safety requirements? This company was founded just two years ago, in 2024, and has no previous documented experience conducting uranium exploration/prospecting.

It is our informed understanding that uranium exploration/prospecting requires drilling into soil and rocks- a process which will release radioactive particles into the air that can be inhaled and easily spread by wind, water, animals, vehicles, clothing, and shoes of workers. We are concerned about the health and safety of our community members who may be directly involved in these activities, as well as those who may accidentally come into contact with these cancer-causing radioactive materials. We are also concerned about the impact of these activities on the plants and animals in the project area that may also accidentally become exposed to these dangerous substances and then affect human health if/when they are touched and/or eaten. Additionally, the nearby Kurupung River is connected to the Mazaruni and Essequibo River

systems which are interconnected parts of a larger watershed upon which thousands of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Guyanese depend. If spills and waste from uranium exploration gets into these nearby waterways, a huge number of people, as well as fish and other living things in these rivers would be seriously harmed.

Also, as we have seen from previous uranium exploration activities at/around Kurupung, such activities do indeed generate massive quantities of radioactively contaminated cores and waste material and do cause significant long term damage to the air, soil, vegetation, ground and surface water – all of which are vital to the life and livelihood of Indigenous Guyanese who live near those sites. In fact, as published in this Project's Summary on your Agency's website, previous uranium exploration in this area generated a huge amount (54 miles worth) of radioactively contaminated core material- which remains improperly and unsafely stored at the nearby Aricheng airstrip without any shielding or radioactive signage, violating all international radiation safety standards and leaving the nearby community of people, animals, land, and water resources exposed to dangerous cancer-causing radioactivity for over a decade and a half.

Although this material was produced by a previous company, not Lia (Guyana), future uranium exploration activities such as what is currently proposed (and which your Agency wishes to allow), will undoubtedly add to the huge quantities of radioactive core material that already exists. The fact that this highly dangerous material was abandoned for decades without the nearby community's knowledge, demonstrates clear disregard for their lives and wellbeing and typifies the disrespectful manner by which Indigenous Guyanese in particular have been and continue to be treated not only by foreign companies but sadly, also by the regulatory authorities of Guyana such as your Agency which fail to fulfil their Constitutional mandate to safeguard their health, safety, human and environmental rights over profit.

While the prospecting licenses for this proposed project are for lands governed by the State of Guyana, there are multiple Indigenous communities in the Upper and Middle Mazaruni region whose members have traditionally occupied and stewarded this area for generations, and whose cultural and spiritual traditions are tied to this land. These Kapong and Pemon Indigenous Guyanese have long rejected uranium mining activities on their lands.

However, there was a total lack of prior consultation with the residents of these communities, most of whom only became aware of the proposed project after seeing media reports a few months ago, of the developer boasting that drilling would soon begin. This is a crystal clear violation of both the Environmental Protection Act and the Amerindian Act which guarantee all Guyanese the right to a healthy environment and the right to meaningfully participate in decisions that affect their lives and environment. This alone is sufficient reason to stop this project.

Until these communities have been consulted, given the opportunity to ask questions, fully understand the risks related to this project, and provide their free, prior, and informed consent for uranium exploration and all other related activities that may negatively affect their lives and livelihoods, there should be no permission given to Lia (Guyana) Inc/U92 Energy Corp for any such prospecting activities.

For these many reasons, we- the undersigned Indigenous residents of Region 7 and elsewhere, along with other environmental defenders and concerned Guyanese- reject and appeal the EPA's no-EIA decision granted to this project.

Signed,
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