
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
EPCOR Water Services Inc.
Partnerships BC

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE AT BRITANNIA MINE

BRITANNIA BEACH – A new water treatment plant at the old Britannia Mine site means a cleaner future for Howe Sound and the Sea-to-Sky corridor, thanks to a partnership between the province and EPCOR. Sustainable Resources Minister George Abbott and Dr. Steve Stanley, president of EPCOR Water Services, officially broke ground on the project today.

“The health and safety of British Columbians are of the utmost importance to our government. That’s why we are taking responsibility to manage and clean up contaminated sites on Crown land,” said Abbott. “With the construction of this water treatment plant, we have created a win for the community and a win for the environment.”

Rainwater and runoff entering the old mine becomes contaminated as it passes through remaining mineral deposits. The resulting contamination, known as acid rock drainage, exits the old mine and flows untreated into Howe Sound.

“This facility will receive the expertise and reliability that EPCOR has developed over our 100-year history,” said Dr. Stanley. “Working in partnership with the B.C. government, we’re confident that this facility will enhance the marine ecosystem of Howe Sound, and help preserve the natural environment for future generations.”

EPCOR’s project will divert the mine’s acid rock drainage to a treatment facility, where heavy metals will be removed from the water. EPCOR will be assisted in the design and construction phase of the project by Lockerbie Stanley Inc, Stantec Consulting Ltd. and BioteQ Environmental Technologies Inc. The project is scheduled for late 2005.

“Sustainability and sustainable communities are key objectives in the development of our regional growth strategy,” said Squamish Lillooet Regional District chair and Britannia Beach area director John Turner. “The building of this water treatment plant has opened up new opportunities and ensures the future of Britannia Beach.”

Redevelopment in the community of Britannia Beach has already started. Developer Britannia Bay Properties is renovating existing homes and historic buildings, building new roads, adding services and last summer sold 90 new lots for development. The developer and the Province have a remediation agreement and the developer will contribute to a clean up fund through the sale of new lots.

“Partnerships like this one at Britannia Mine are a great way for governments to provide the best value for the project and for the public,” said Small Business and Economic Development Minister John Les. “It builds on private sector creativity and innovation and delivers results.”

EPCOR is financing the design and construction and will operate the water treatment plant for 20 years. The Province will contribute an annual operating fee. The contract was negotiated by Partnerships BC on behalf of the Province.

The Province has dedicated \$91 million, through Balanced Budget 2005, to identify contaminated Crown sites, clean them up and return them to productive use.

Details and history of the Britannia Mine are available at www.britanniamine.ca online.

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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