BRITANNIA MINE WATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT

PROJECT UPDATE

May 6, 2004

RFP ISSUED TO SHORTLIST FOR BRITANNIA MINE CLEANUP

A request for proposals was issued today to three qualified Proponents who have been shortlisted to design, build, finance and operate a new acid water treatment plant to clean up the Britannia Mine site, near Squamish. The request for proposals is publicly available on the project website at <u>www.britanniamine.ca</u> and at Partnerships BC's website at <u>www.partnershipsbc.ca</u>.

The three shortlisted proponents are:

- AMEC Americas and Ledcor Projects Inc.
- EPCOR Water Services Inc. and Team
- Terasen Utility Services Inc. and Team

The request for proposals asks proponents to submit a full proposal which will be evaluated against technical, financial and qualitative criteria. The technical submission of the proposals includes a management plan, various technical reports, a projected project schedule and a forward looking operations and maintenance plan. The financial submission outlines the proponent's financial capacity to execute this project and projected costs over a 20 year period. Qualitative criteria includes, among other things, appearance of the proposed building and the impact on the surrounding area, durability of the plant, and flexibility for future upgrades.

Six expressions of interest were received in response to the request for expressions of interest issued in January. A shortlist of three proponents was selected in April. The competition and selection process is being administered by Partnerships BC for the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management.

The mine, once the largest copper mine in the British Commonwealth, has been a major source of acid mine water pollution in Howe Sound, since its closure in the mid-1970's. The site discharges an average of 600 kg each day of heavy metals, making it one of the largest sources of acid rock drainage to a marine environment in North America.

Deadline for the submissions is July 15, 2004. A lead proponent expected to be selected and an agreement signed this fall. Design and construction is expected to be underway this fall, and completed in fall of 2005.

Further information about this project is available at <u>www.britanniamine.ca</u>.



