
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Partnerships BC

BRITANNIA MINE CLEAN UP PROCEEDING

BRITANNIA BEACH – The cleanup of the Britannia Mine site on Howe Sound continues with the selection of EPCOR Water Services Inc. as the preferred proponent to design, build, finance and operate a contaminated water treatment plant, Sustainable Resource Management Minister George Abbott announced today.

“This is one of the most contaminated sites on the West Coast and we are committed to cleaning it up,” said Abbott. “We have already seen positive results from the work we have done so far. Now, through this partnership, one of the worst sources of contamination will be cleaned up leading the way for a cleaner environment and opening the door for more economic opportunities.”

In the last two years, remediation work has focused on capturing and redirecting surface runoff and contaminated groundwater, removal and placement of contaminated soils, and construction of a water treatment plant site access road. This progress has led to new housing development on the site.

“All of us who live in the Sea to Sky corridor have wanted this site cleaned up for a long time, and I have been working on it since I was mayor of Whistler,” said West Vancouver Garibaldi MLA Ted Nebbeling. “We have accomplished a great deal in the past two years and I am really pleased Britannia Beach will become a demonstration of sustainable mining practices.”

Detailed negotiations now begin with EPCOR Water Services Inc. The long-term contract will include financing and performance measures, providing greater overall accountability for this phase of the project, including all environmental regulatory requirements. Design work is expected to start this year with construction to be completed next fall.

Government issued a competitive Request for Expressions of Interest on Jan. 21, 2004 and proponents were short listed based on qualifications, experience, use of demonstrated, innovative technology and financial capacity. Three short listed proposals were evaluated based on provisional design, construction, operations and maintenance plans as well as the cost of performing the services. Partnerships BC managed the procurement process, which was overseen by an independent fairness auditor and a conflict of interest adjudicator.

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

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