

Britannia Mine Wastewater Treatment Plant Project

Report of the Fairness Reviewer

Introduction

I was retained as the Fairness reviewer of the Britannia Mine Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. In that role I observed the whole of the procurement process to ensure that it was conducted fairly and in accordance with the processes set out in the RFP.

I reported previously on the Request for Qualifications which lead to the identification of the proponents for participation in the Request for Proposals ("RFP"). The Evaluation Committee has now completed its review of the technical and financial submissions received in the RFP and will be reporting to the Ministry. This is my final report on the RFP process.

RFP

I attended three collaborative meetings with each of the three proponents as well as additional special topic meetings. I monitored and reviewed the Requests for Information ("RFIs") received from the proponents and the Ministry's response to those requests. I was included in any discussions within the Project team that resulted in amendments to the statement of requirements and the draft contract. I was consulted by the Project team concerning any potential issues in the RFI's or the responses which might give rise to a fairness issue.

In my opinion all interactions with the proponents and the provision of information through the RFI process was conducted in accordance with the RFP and in a manner that was fair to all proponents. I am confident each proponent received equal opportunities to request information and access to the project team throughout this process.

Evaluation

I was provided with the Evaluation Manual at the outset of the RFP as well as amendments to that Manual and given the opportunity to provide comments.

There were orientation sessions conducted for all evaluators, advisors and evaluation Committee members which I attended and during which the evaluation process to be followed and the criteria to be applied were fully explained to the team members.

I monitored the Completeness review of the technical submissions.

I was provided full access to the technical submissions received and I attended the evaluation team consensus meetings and the Evaluation Committee meetings. The Evaluation Committee discussed the proposals in detail and considered the input received from the evaluation teams before coming to its conclusion. This included review from the due diligence advisor to ensure that the evaluation process was fully discussed and that there were full and complete rationales for the conclusions the Evaluation Committee reached.

Lastly, I also attended the evaluation meetings for the financial submissions.

Based on my observations the Evaluation Committee was keenly aware of the need to conduct its review in a fair manner and when potential concerns about fairness were raised, I was consulted.

I am satisfied that the evaluation was conducted in a complete and robust manner, fully in accordance with the requirements of the RFP and evaluation manual. The evaluation in my view was conducted fairly and without bias towards any proponent.

Conclusion

Based on my observations, the Project team discussed as necessary and instructed itself appropriately on all matters of fairness. I have no hesitation in saying that the whole of the procurement process leading to the recommendation to be made to the Ministry was conducted in a fair and reasonable manner and fully in accordance with the processes set out in the RFP.

Signed at Vancouver October 22, 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Hand', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeffrey Hand
Fairness Reviewer