
BACKGROUND

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BRITANNIA MINE PARTNERSHIP

The Britannia Mine water treatment plant will be designed, built, financed and operated as a partnership, and is part of a larger clean up effort being managed by the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM). The private partner is EPCOR Water Services Inc (EPCOR).

EPCOR was chosen from an initial field of six teams, through a fair, transparent, open and competitive selection process. The selection process began with a Request for Expressions of Interest in January 2004, and concluded when negotiations were completed in January 2005.

Benefits of the Project:

The Province's approach maximizes value, minimizes cost to taxpayers, and raises the bar on innovation and accountability:

- This project demonstrates that value for money can be achieved with smaller scale partnerships. The net present value life cycle cost of the project is \$27.2 million, which is \$10 million less than the estimated cost of completing the plant through traditional methods.
- The project eliminates contaminated run-off from an abandoned mine site.
- The Province has successfully protected taxpayers from the risks involved with developing and implementing ways to effectively treat the mine water, by sharing these risks with EPCOR.

Key Terms of the Partnership

The Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant Project involves the design, construction, financing and operation of a water treatment plant, over a 21 year period:

- EPCOR will design and build the plant within one year, and operate the plant for 20 years.
- EPCOR will finance the design, construction and maintenance of the plant.
- MSRM will provide performance-based payments to EPCOR, with the amount calculated based on the volume of water processed, and the ability of the plant to meet environmental regulations.
- Performance payments will not begin until the plant is producing clean water at the standards required by regulations.
- EPCOR will take on responsibility for much of the risk associated with designing, building and operating the plant, such as the risk of incurring financial penalties if the plant is not built and in operation on time, or if the treatment of water is not in compliance with environmental regulations.

Benefits of a Partnership

When compared to traditional delivery of the treatment plant, the partnership agreement with EPCOR:

- Reflects life cycle savings because of the experience brought by EPCOR.
- Provides process innovation that reduces costs by, for example, minimizing the amount of chemicals needed to treat the water, and reducing site electricity costs by developing a small hydro generation plant that will produce electricity from the contaminated water as it flows from the mine and into the water treatment plant,
- Ensures regulatory compliance by transferring the risk of financial penalties for non-compliance to EPCOR.

EPCOR Water Services and project partners

- With over 100 years of experience, EPCOR Water Services is a Canadian leader in delivering water and wastewater services.
- EPCOR currently serves one million people in 50 communities across Western Canada, including Edmonton, District of Port Hardy, District of Sooke.
- EPCOR is providing the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) its expertise in advanced water treatment systems to ensure GVRDs Seymour-Capilano water filtration plant operates efficiently and ensures exceptional levels of water quality.
- EPCOR designs, builds, operates and finances new infrastructure. The company's expertise includes advanced and highly automated water treatment systems, ultraviolet disinfection and remote systems monitoring for all sizes of facilities.

EPCOR will engage the expertise of Lockerbie Stanley Inc., Stantec Consulting Ltd. And BioteQ Environmental technologies Inc. in the design, engineering and construction of this project.

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