

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

# BRITANNIA MINE MUSEUM

## School Field Trips: Opportunity

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**Add 1 hour: \$5 + tax per student**

**EPCOR Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant: available for Grade 5 – 12**

**A unique chance to see real-life environmental remediation in practice.**

In this one-hour round-trip visit, your students get hands-on as they replicate part of Britannia Mine's acid rock drainage treatment process and discover why it is important.

You and your students go to the EPCOR Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant. Opened in 2005, the facility is helping restore the ocean environment near Britannia after decades of heavy metal pollution, converting into a success story what had formerly been designated as *the worst single point source of metal contamination into a marine environment in North America*.

Locally, marine life has returned to Britannia's intertidal zone, including salmon to the Britannia Creek. Globally, this remediation is an example of how closed mines with pollution problems can be cleaned up.

Overlooking the treatment tanks, our Interpreter explains the acid rock drainage problem, how the polluted water is captured and treated before being released into Howe Sound, and the positive impact of the treatment process on the local environment.

In the dedicated Discovery Centre, your students replicate two of the processes performed at the plant, being led to understand the science behind them. First, your students will use chemistry to separate the heavy metals from the water as sludge. They will then observe the dewatering of the sludge, making it ready for storage and disposal.

You need to alert your bus company that the bus must transport your students between the Britannia Mine Museum and the EPCOR Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant. It's just five minutes drive – the Water Treatment Plant is located two kilometers from the Museum. Our Interpreter rides the bus and provides directions.

The EPCOR Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant visit is already included in 'Environmental Legacies'.

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