

A circular inset image showing two men in industrial settings. The man in the foreground is wearing a yellow hard hat, safety glasses, and a high-visibility vest over a brown shirt. He is pointing at a control panel with various buttons and switches. The man in the background is wearing a white hard hat and a similar vest, looking on. The background is a blurred industrial environment with overhead lights.

[CLIENT IMPACT STORY: BQE WATER](#)

PROTECTING AN IDEA THAT INSPIRES A FUTURE.

When a small company has a very big idea the opportunity is not just to secure a patent. It's to envision the biggest potential future for that idea and to protect it as broadly as possible. When you do this, you create more than a market, you inspire a future – and the momentum to attract the customers, people and partners that will fuel success.

BQE WATER BUILDS ITS REPUTATION AS A PACESETTER IN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY MINE-WATER MANAGEMENT

- Granted patent protection on its novel selenium removal technology in 2018
- Established as a leader in developing and realizing new solutions for its mining customers
- Awarded for its impact on environmental protection and enhancement by the Engineers & Geoscientists of BC
- Delivering on its culture of innovation and environmental responsibility to demonstrate the strength of their values as they grow

In response to this challenge, our client BQE Water developed a novel, physicochemical approach to removing selenium that satisfies the strict limits without relying on dilution to ameliorate its environmental impact. Selen-IX™ is a game-changer with major operating, environmental and risk management benefits for BQE's mining clients.



“This new technology is having an immense impact on belief in our culture and confidence in our company. It sends a message to our people that we welcome new ideas and will do what it takes to pursue them.”

DAVID KRATOCHVIL,
President and CEO, BQE Water

WHERE WE COME IN: HELPING TO MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT OF INNOVATION

Making the most of an innovation like this comes from seeing its broadest potential so it can be protected widely and used to maximize markets. Our role, as BQE Water's intellectual property (IP) advisors was to partner with them to understand the core of what made the technology novel – the heart of its ingenuity – and to envision its application as broadly as possible to create the biggest space to own.


This kind of counsel requires a deep understanding of mining and hydrometallurgy and the clients unique operating, regulatory and competitive environments. We bring this level of industry insight and experience to all our IP counsel, no matter the sector.

Once we had agreed as a team on the vision for the patent, Gowling WLG managed a “no-surprises” experience giving BQE a clear roadmap and complete transparency into the application process.



“You have to be able to envision the applications in the real setting to know what it can mean. That requires knowledge of mining, water, technology; not just patents.”

DAVID KRATOCHVIL,
President and CEO, BQE Water



“It comes down to getting the most commercially meaningful patent in the most effective way.”

BRIAN KINGWELL,
Gowling WLG

FIND OUT HOW YOUR IP CAN HELP BUILD YOUR FUTURE

Register for our free Patent Tool Kit [here](#).

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Sector: Mining, water treatment, hydrometallurgy

Technology: Cleantech, environmental, physicochemical

Service: Intellectual property, patent protection

Client: BQE Water is Canadian company specializing in water treatment and management for metals mining, smelting and refining. They develop and implement sustainable water management practices that improve performance, protect the environment and reduce risk. Headquartered in Vancouver, Canada and trades on the TSX Venture Exchange.

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