



June 19, 2018

The Honorable R.D. James
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20314

Dear Assistant Secretary James,

The undersigned businesses and organizations, which employ hundreds of Americans in Alaska's Bristol Bay region and represent thousands of sportsmen and sportswomen, are writing to request you suspend review of Pebble Limited Partnership's (PLP) application for permits to develop the proposed Pebble mine. PLP's permit application leaves numerous critical questions about the project unanswered, and its more recent "project update," dated May 11, 2018, further confirms that PLP's proposal is incomplete and not yet ripe for serious consideration by permitting agencies.

The Bristol Bay region is home to the world's most valuable wild-salmon fishery, which generates \$1.5 billion in annual economic output, more than 30% of all Alaska salmon harvests, and accounts for more than half of all private-sector jobs in the region. Hunters and anglers

travel from throughout the globe to the Bristol Bay region for its trophy fish and game, its remote scenery, and its wild character.

Federal agencies and the public must have the opportunity to rigorously review PLP's mine plan in its entirety to ensuring the proposed Pebble mine does not forever alter the character and natural productivity of the Bristol Bay region. In its permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PLP proposes a mile-wide and 1/3-mile-deep mine pit, an 83-mile-long transportation corridor with more than 200 road crossings over salmon streams and a year-round ice-breaking ferry across Lake Iliamna, and a 230-megawatt power plant with a 188-mile gas pipeline. While this permit application contemplates a 1.2 billion-ton mine with a 20-year mine life, we know the deposit is close to 10.89 billion tons and that PLP intends to expand its operations far beyond what it proposes in its pending permit application. PLP's own website advertises that it "believe[s] it's possible that the Deposit may hold a century's worth of minerals." In addition, PLP's President and CEO recently boasted the project is "a multi-generational opportunity. It's size and scale will lead to a very, very long life mine."

Concerns about future expansion of the mine are already coming to fruition while many important details about how the mine will operate remain unanswered. The public scoping period is not even over yet and PLP's recent "project update" proposes an increase in the mine size from 1.2 billion tons to 1.5 billion tons of material—with commensurate increases to the volume of tailings, the size of the mine pit, the size of the power plant, and to the amount of road and marine traffic. Additionally, both the permit application and the "project update" glaringly omit any sort of economic feasibility report, thorough baseline data, and important details about how PLP will mitigate for its impacts or manage ground and surface waters. The recent announcement by First Quantum Minerals that they will be making no further investment in the Pebble Mine, further calls the financial viability of this project into question. Without these essential details, there is no way for the public or for permitting agencies to adequately review PLP's permit application and do the due diligence required to ensure we aren't developing one resource at the expense of another. Because of this and the great public interest at stake, we encourage you suspend review of the proposed Pebble mine until additional essential information is available.

Sincerely,

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