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PEBBLE PROJECT
SCOPING MEETING
HOMER, ALASKA

Taken April 11, 2018
Commencing at 4:45 p.m.

Volume I - Pages 1 - 62, inclusive

Taken at
Homer High School
Homer, Alaska

Reported by:
Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

1 A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S

2 For U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

3 Shane McCoy
4 Program Manager

5 Katie McCafferty
6 Project Manager

7 For State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources,
8 Office of Project Management and Permitting:

9 Kyle W. Moselle
10 Associate Director

11 For AECOM:

12 Bill Craig
13 Project Manager

14 Jon Isaacs
15 Public Involvement Task Lead

16 Patty Murphy
17 Stakeholder Engagement

18 Jessica Evans
19 Stakeholder Engagement

20 Taken by:

21 Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

22

23 BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were taken

24 at the time and place duly noted on the title page, before

25 Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary

Public within and for the State of Alaska.

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27

28

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 MR. JACK ALLARDICE: I'm a former
3 California resident, moved up here to Alaska back in 2009.
4 Where I lived was down in the Sierra Nevadas in the gold
5 country. And there was a county right next to us called
6 Stanislaus County. Town was Jamestown.

7 And there was a gold operation there, a mine. And
8 the company that ran it -- I don't remember the name
9 offhand -- they made all kinds of promises and assurances
10 about doing everything right and environmentally correct.
11 However, they, in '92, '93, disappeared, just left, left a
12 mess for the county to clean up. Of course, the county
13 wasn't in any kind of position to do it.

14 People have gotten sick. I don't know about deaths,
15 but I wouldn't be surprised because of the environmental
16 mess that was left. The promises and assurances that were
17 made were not fulfilled. And it was a Canadian company
18 that extracted the gold, but didn't -- didn't leave any of
19 the gold and didn't leave anything but a big mess.

20 So that's basically all I have. That's it.

21 MR. DAVID LEWIS: My name is David Lewis.
22 I'm a resident of Homer. I am against the Pebble Mine for
23 the following reasons: One, you do not want to endanger
24 the world's wildest run of salmon. Two, you will hinder
25 subsistence activities. Three, if and when there is a

1 spill, I doubt if the company will have enough money to
2 cover all of the cleanup and compensation for the
3 individuals. And for the State of Alaska, the State will
4 only receive 7 percent of the net profits of the mining
5 activities, and that is way too low.

6 That's it.

7 MS. MARTHA CROW: My name is Martha Marie
8 Olympic Crow. (Speaking in Yup'ik.) I'm from Igiugig.
9 And this mine that's coming in is totally not the right
10 place. My people have lived in Bristol Bay and Igiugig
11 area for over 10,000 years, and salmon has always
12 sustained our way of life, our livelihood. And we are the
13 only -- our culture here in Alaska are the only ones that
14 still depend on the salmon. And when the mine comes in,
15 that will affect our water, and we drink our water right
16 clean right out of the lake untreated. And we have had
17 that since forever. And I want my kids, her and my
18 grandkids to drink clean river water that's not polluted.

19 And it's just too high a risk to put a mine in a
20 place that's had -- my people have survived on that land
21 for over 10,000 years as primarily a salmon culture. And
22 it's too great a risk to lose by getting a mine put in
23 with that magnitude. And it not only affects the salmon
24 and the water; it affects the area surrounding it. It's
25 just too big a risk to even think of it.

1 It's asinine to think that they would want to put in
2 a mine where we not only have salmon; we have world-class
3 rainbow fishing. And the salmon are -- we get people from
4 all over the world who come to fish in Igiugig that stay
5 in one of the lodges. They have been -- some of the
6 fishermen have been coming in since they first started
7 commercial -- you know, lodge operated -- sporting lodges
8 for rainbow trout. And I just think it's just too big a
9 risk for every -- everyone, even our own self as people.
10 It's the land that has always provided for us.

11 And I think that's the end of my talk.

12 MS. KATIA GREGORY: Keep our water clean
13 and don't throw trash into the water. It ruins the mother
14 earth and the territory.

15 MS. LOUISE LYON: One thing that I think
16 should be really looked at is the impacts to Homer and
17 Kachemak Bay and also the Kenai Peninsula in particular,
18 how ore or materials or infrastructure is going to be
19 moved, how it's going to be dealt with along the coastline
20 on this side, whether or not Homer is going to be
21 industrialized; whether the dock here, because it's such a
22 protected area for shipping, is going to be upgraded to
23 handle larger amounts of business from any kind of Pebble
24 development. Homer is primarily fishing and tourism is
25 what makes up its base and also its quality of life.

1 So I really am curious to know if Pebble or the Corps
2 has done any kind of research into how it's going to
3 affect our economy because people come here specifically
4 for the environment. They come here to do sightseeing of
5 the natural world. They come here to go fishing. They
6 come here to book trips on the other side of the inlet to
7 go fishing, also to go to lodges, to book trips on the
8 river.

9 I know personally -- if you live in Homer, you know
10 hundreds of people that are involved in fishing in Bristol
11 Bay and elsewhere and tendering, and also a lot of people
12 that work as guides on the rivers in the Bristol Bay
13 watershed. All those people live in Homer. All those
14 people spend their money on the Kenai Peninsula mostly and
15 in Homer. The fishermen spend their money in Homer. All
16 of the tourists support groceries, hotels, every type of
17 tourist-related business that you can think of depends on
18 the environment on the Kenai being kept as is or improved.
19 And that goes for the Bristol Bay watershed, as well.

20 So a threat to any of that and to the possible
21 industrialization of Homer, a threat like that can really
22 affect people's -- I think people's acceptance around
23 here. And I know, you know, besides the fact that the
24 majority of Alaskans oppose Pebble Mine on principles of
25 protecting the last salmon run on the planet, basically,

1 the last big salmon run, a lot of people will oppose it
2 because of the uncertainty of what it will do to a growing
3 tourism-based economy on the Kenai. So that was one
4 thing.

5 As far as quality of life goes, getting more and more
6 people and industry on the peninsula will lead to
7 overcrowding. Visitors will not want to come here if
8 things become more industrial. Right now pretty much if
9 you go to Nikiski you see what an industrial zone looks
10 like. That's fine. They have a fertilizer plant there.
11 You know, it looks industrial. But the rest of the
12 peninsula, when you go to it, looks welcoming to people
13 coming in to visit for the beauty. Let's see.

14 Another question as far as economics go is what a big
15 natural gas pipeline sucking huge amounts of natural gas
16 over from the Kenai Peninsula over to the Pebble project
17 will do to our prices for natural gas. Also how is that
18 pipeline going to be developed? Is the State planning on
19 putting money into that project to make sure that it is
20 standards -- it comes up to construction standards, safety
21 standards? But mainly it's about where that natural gas
22 is going and the fact that Pebble will require a doubling
23 or more of electrical generation to run the proposed mine.

24 So the cost of natural gas and production of energy
25 and electricity over there that will require huge amounts

1 of resources just by itself just to get it charged up and
2 going.

3 I read through some of the -- through some of the
4 material that Pebble put out, some of the stuff on their
5 permit about the hydrology studies that they have done. I
6 noticed that a lot of them were done in the past decades
7 starting in the '80s and a little bit in the last decade
8 up to about 2008, I think it was. A lot of it was right
9 in there.

10 But after that, I'm curious to know if the Army Corps
11 has asked or if Pebble has provided any updated
12 information and if they have discussed the possibility of
13 rainfall and snow patterns continuing to change and how
14 that would affect runoff. If there is a rainier season
15 with more intense rainfall and melt-off, how is that going
16 to affect their old hydrology studies? Also, their
17 hydrology studies seem to be really superficial. Are they
18 planning on doing anything more in depth at greater
19 depths? That whole area is a big sponge, and trying to
20 determine where water is going to go based on superficial
21 hydrology is tempting fate, again.

22 So my personal opinion is that the risk -- the risk
23 that this puts that irreplaceable resource in and
24 long-term risk well beyond the 20-year -- 20-year
25 projected mine activity is not worth it in the least, not

1 to the state of Alaska, not to this area of Alaska, of
2 Cook Inlet where a lot of the traffic will be going, of
3 Bristol Bay and the watersheds there. You have all of the
4 rivers and all of the five species of wild salmon that use
5 that -- all of those watersheds. It is ridiculous to put
6 that at risk. It's irreplaceable. It's the only thing
7 left on the planet.

8 Digging up a mine so that some shareholders can make
9 money and a 20-year burst of income for some people that
10 come here for that is never worth it. It should be
11 protected permanently. Okay.

12 MS. WILMA WILLIAMS: I fished my 21 years
13 out there on the beach on a set net at Coffee Point. I
14 raised my kids on that beach. They learned the work
15 ethics. It was very important to their success in life.
16 And Bristol Bay has got one of the biggest red runs in the
17 world. And those fish go to many different places.

18 I don't care what they are mining. It isn't as
19 important as food for the world. And we do, you know,
20 that it goes out all the time.

21 My husband fished all of his life out there. He was
22 raised on Iliamna Lake. And Iliamna Lake is a very
23 important part of that Bristol Bay run. They come down
24 the Kvichak and on that side. How anybody could -- these
25 people have a reputation for leaving a disaster behind

1 them wherever they have been. Isn't that enough to make a
2 person slow down and think about letting them mine over
3 there? They can put all of the things around to make this
4 a better deal that they want to. They still are going
5 deep enough that they are into the groundwater
6 underground. And where is that going to go from their
7 interfering in that?

8 The last years that I was in Bristol Bay I was on the
9 radio because I messed up my back picking fish. And I was
10 on the radio all the time. And I feel real strongly about
11 the fishing out there and that they -- that it's
12 protected.

13 I don't know. I have spouted off about enough,
14 probably. But it's so important. It won't be something
15 they can back up and say, gee, I'm sorry about that. We
16 just destroyed the run for Bristol Bay. Too bad. And it
17 not only affects Alaska. It affects the West Coast. We
18 have a lot of fishermen from Washington and Oregon that
19 come up here. We had boat storage there at Coffee Point,
20 and a lot of the guys are from the states that come up and
21 fish, too. I wish they could be here. They could make
22 better noise than I do.

23 I just can't stand the thought that they would
24 entertain this idea at all, you know, of letting them do
25 that because there is a lot of poisonous stuff comes from

1 that mining.

2 MR. SHLOMO GHERMAN: I'm a commercial
3 fisherman, and I highly depend on the successful return of
4 wild Alaskan salmon as a means of my living, and I hope
5 that the Army Corps of Engineers highly considers the
6 livelihood of many local Alaskans that depend on this
7 non- -- this -- well, this sustainable resource and as
8 well as consider all the Native Alaskans that highly
9 depend on this has-been-abundant resource of wild salmon.

10 So I hope that the Army Corps of Engineers declines
11 the Pebble Partnership permit to take effect.

12 MR. JONATHAN SHARP: Well, I guess I lived
13 in Bristol Bay for five years, and I was a teacher in two
14 villages. Both villages were in Bristol Bay. One of them
15 was on the Nushagak, New Stuyahok. Those folks were
16 directly on the Koktuli and the Mulchatna, which headwater
17 up near the mine, the proposed mine.

18 And you know, just from my five years experiencing
19 living there year-round with folks and being a part of
20 their community and their culture, it was an interesting
21 dichotomy because they needed economic -- they needed an
22 economy. However, they were -- a lot them were not
23 willing to sacrifice their culture, which a large part of
24 it was fish. And so even a lot of the locals, even though
25 they had a great need for monetary things, they were not

1 willing to give up the culture, which would be, like,
2 fish.

3 Year-round, these -- the people that are there
4 year-round, their livelihood is the river and it is the
5 fish. And I feel like by having people build a mine and
6 even if it -- say it would be safe, just in the off chance
7 that it wasn't, it would absolutely devastate the entire
8 culture that is the Alaska Native peoples of the area.

9 I feel like White Anglo-Saxons have come in and they
10 have already decimated the Native culture enough, and I
11 feel like this is just another step for money and big
12 industry and power to come in and just be greedy in the
13 short-term and not take in context what it is to live and
14 to be a person or a family or a community in the area.
15 And that is really troubling.

16 So I really feel strongly that it is not appropriate
17 in a lot of different ways. Besides all the scientific
18 data that is factual from mining history, just having --
19 allowing something that may cause harm to this -- the
20 people is a travesty. So that's why I'm very much against
21 the mine.

22 MR. RONALD KEFFER: I am an opponent of
23 the mine, and here are some of the things I think people
24 really need to look at: First of all, the most toxic
25 thing that human beings do is hard rock mining, which is

1 what this is, right at the headwaters of an extremely
2 valuable fishery. The fish go up there to spawn, and this
3 is where the mine is going to be.

4 Also, we have looked at the underlayment the mine's
5 based on. And where they are starting out the mine is the
6 shallowest spot that they can find the ore, and it deepens
7 as they go further south more toward the headwaters that
8 the salmon rely upon. And the internal communications of
9 the companies have been that we will get started up there
10 and we will be mining for, you know, 40 to 100 years
11 because we will get deeper and deeper as we go. And there
12 is plenty of ore there.

13 So just looking at those long-term effects on the
14 fishery, which supports anywhere from 20- to 40,000 jobs,
15 as opposed to a net long-term increase in jobs in Alaska
16 of 8- or 900, it's not a -- it doesn't make good sense.

17 Also, this is about profits to those companies that
18 mine the ore. It doesn't do anything for Alaska, except
19 destroy the fishery if it's created.

20 We don't tax hard rock mining very much in this
21 state. So as a state, why would we look at this
22 favorably? And why would the country? There are really
23 no benefits except to the stockholders of those companies
24 and the CEOs.

25 In addition to that, it's important to look at the

1 gas pipeline that's supposed to run from Anchor Point all
2 the way down to that bay where the company is going to be
3 moving stuff in and out. That pipeline is an underwater
4 issue. We have had a lot of issues with those in Cook
5 Inlet over the years. And this is a major pipeline.

6 Another thing to look at very carefully is, of
7 course, living in Homer there is going to be a major
8 impact on the port at Homer because we will be the major
9 supply port for the mine willy-nilly because we are that
10 close.

11 In addition to that, as you go from the port that
12 they are creating over there up toward the mine, there are
13 going to be several issues. One, they've said they are
14 not going to use cyanide at the mine. That's not credible
15 because if you don't use cyanide, you have to truck out
16 all of the ore and/or barge out somehow all of the ore,
17 and it has to be processed elsewhere. So it's highly
18 unlikely that they would, in the long term especially, not
19 process the ore locally using the cyanide they have
20 promised they are not going to use. So that's an issue
21 that needs to be looked at very carefully.

22 The port itself is being established at a place ships
23 cannot access without having a channel dredged. Because
24 Cook Inlet experiences some of the biggest tides in the
25 world, you can't -- it won't stay dredged. It's supposed

1 to be something like 50 feet deep, 400 feet wide, but
2 that's going to have to be dredged not every couple weeks
3 or something like that, but pretty much daily dredging
4 will have to continue, which means that the impact, the
5 environmental impact on Cook Inlet will be huge because
6 the silt will never settle. It's always being dredged up
7 and the effects extended down -- well, both up and down
8 the inlet because the tide moves in both directions.

9 As you go further inland, then the issue is creating
10 roads, having traffic on those roads that impacts and
11 fragments habitat. So bears -- there are a lot of bears
12 over there, but there won't be for long if that happens
13 because it will destroy their habitat and the bears
14 themselves.

15 So at a cost of 20- to 40,000 jobs if the fisheries
16 are disturbed, we provide a fair bit of money for
17 stockholders and CEOs, but we screw up the environment, a
18 pristine environment at this point all the way from where
19 the mine is initially being built back into Cook Inlet to
20 Homer and up the Cook Inlet to Anchor Point, at the very
21 minimum.

22 So all of those issues have to be looked at
23 thoroughly and carefully and benefits and the negatives of
24 it weighed against each other. And if that happens
25 fairly, I don't think this is anything like a slam-dunk

1 that that mine will be built. It should never be built.

2 MR. BILL LARNED: Okay. I'm Bill Larned.
3 I've lived in Soldotna since 1984. I, like most of you
4 here, am passionately interested in the security of our
5 wild salmon resource. But my purpose here today is to
6 encourage broadening the review to include the critical
7 connection of Bristol Bay and its salmon to other
8 biological resources within, adjacent to, and way beyond
9 Bristol Bay.

10 My connection with Bristol Bay is mostly
11 professional. In my career I started as a wildlife
12 biologist in Maryland. Then from 1976 to retirement in
13 late 2012 worked as a biologist pilot for the U.S. Fish &
14 Wildlife Service. My job with Fish & Wildlife Service
15 involved mostly designing, implementing and reporting on
16 aerial waterfowl surveys in many important habitats in
17 North America from southern Mexico to northern Canada and
18 Alaska, mostly to provide population and distribution data
19 required to help set annual hunting regulations.

20 I moved to Alaska in 1984. Since that time, most of
21 my work was within Alaska, and objectives have
22 increasingly included informing permitting of federal
23 projects that involved concerns about potential wildlife
24 impacts.

25 From 1992 on, I annually conducted comprehensive

1 aerial surveys within Bristol Bay, focusing on various
2 waterfowl species of concern, but including observations
3 of nearly all species of birds and mammals identifiable
4 from the air.

5 I'm still helping out my Fish & Wildlife Service
6 successors on occasional projects, but my comments here
7 are my own and do not necessarily reflect any official
8 agency position on management issues.

9 My background made me keenly aware of the importance
10 of estuaries to wildlife. Estuaries are recipients of
11 continual downstream nutrient deposition with complex
12 mosaics of salinity, substrates, plants and animals that
13 result in some of the world's richest biomes in terms of
14 both diversity and productivity.

15 But after my first few surveys to Bristol Bay, I can
16 see that as estuaries go, Bristol Bay is in a class of its
17 own. Through my own observations and reading available
18 literature, I have become aware of an incredible
19 convergence of factors explaining its richness. Some of
20 the most obvious: Climate provides both adequate rainfall
21 for rivers full for spawning and nutrient flow, a lengthy
22 period of ice-free marine and estuarian waters, which
23 allow extended seasonal access of migrant species to
24 critical habitats. It's located along a major pathway for
25 birds and whales that make arduous journeys north and

1 south for breeding and wintering. Its topography and
2 hydrography provide a rainbow of unique habitats,
3 something for everyone. And its isolation from easy human
4 access, so far at least, makes it relatively undisturbed.

5 One of the most important fortuitous factors of which
6 many or most here are familiar is the watershed and
7 resultant hydrography of the Kvichak and Nushagak rivers,
8 the major rivers that feed into upper Bristol Bay. Aside
9 from the extensive high quality riparian salmon spawning
10 habitat there, the state's largest lake, Iliamna, lying
11 within the lower stretch of the Kvichak River, is, I
12 believe, the world's largest and most productive sockeye
13 salmon nursery. Those two systems together with other
14 hundreds of lesser spawning streams within the bay are the
15 source of our world famous Bristol Bay commercial and
16 sport fishery. Plenty of incentive to protect it, but
17 that's not the end of the story.

18 The millions of salmon that don't end up in the nets
19 contribute not only to the next generation of salmon, but
20 to the overall productivity of the watershed, the bay and
21 beyond.

22 Two examples are the so-called marine derived
23 nutrients, the millions of pounds of muscle and bone added
24 to the salmon population as it matures at sea, which are
25 then added to Bristol Bay and its watershed during the

1 spawning cycle. This nutrient source is utilized by a
2 bewildering array of predators and scavengers throughout
3 the food web. I've seen apparent evidence of the
4 downstream effects of that nutrient subsidy in the
5 hundreds of thousands of eiders and other sea ducks that
6 congregate in spring and fall each year to feed on clams,
7 mussels and other invertebrates growing abundantly in the
8 shoals of upper Bristol Bay.

9 And of the juvenile salmon who survive their first
10 year or two in freshwater nurseries and adapt to the
11 marine environment, only a fraction get to mature and
12 spawn, while the rest enter the food web prematurely. For
13 example, a large portion end up as an important food
14 resource for ground fish in eastern Bering Sea, adding
15 value to that commercial fishery.

16 Others, I am sure, will address the potential threats
17 posed by chronic and episodic discharges of dissolved
18 copper and other toxins to salmon from large mines, but I
19 just wanted to encourage people to consider the broader
20 complexities of the issue during the permit review
21 process. Salmon is perhaps the resource most directly
22 connected to economy and politics, but there are many
23 other important ecologically connected species also
24 partially, if not totally, dependent on an intact Bristol
25 Bay ecosystem.

1 MR. GEORGE MILNE: So my main concern is
2 that the EIS takes into consideration impacts on Cook
3 Inlet. Specifically as a commercial fisherman, I'm
4 concerned with the pipeline route. And it cuts through
5 halibut grounds, scallop beds, and then ends up in the
6 anadromous salmon stream. So I really hope that the Army
7 Corps will take that into consideration and make that a
8 big part of the environmental impact statement.

9 And additionally, I think that the port at Amakdedori
10 Beach is ill-conceived, that the weather needs to be taken
11 into consideration there, and the substrate of the
12 dredging channel is solid rock where it looks like they
13 are just planning on digging it out, and that the impacts
14 of that area will hopefully be included in the EIS, as
15 well.

16 So I guess that's it.

17 MS. SKYWALKER PAYNE: I am totally opposed
18 to this mine. I'm opposed on any mine, but since we are
19 talking about Pebble. And my main opposition -- you will
20 get a lot of people, I'm opposed to in terms of the
21 animals and all that, but my main concern is earthquakes.
22 People who have not lived in Alaska -- and I'm sure the
23 people who are investing in this have not lived here and
24 don't know what it's like for an earthquake to happen,
25 aside from the fact that we have earthquakes every day.

1 Digging in the earth only makes the situation worse.
2 Aside from all of the other environmental issues that may
3 come up with having mines and digging, and all the other
4 issues with destroying the land, the forest, the
5 environment where the animals stay, all of those are
6 important and should not be disturbed.

7 And primarily, there is -- I have the strongest
8 feeling that any further digging in this earth just makes
9 it more susceptible to more earthquakes. And anything
10 that they want to set up can be destroyed by an
11 earthquake. It does not serve -- it does not benefit the
12 environment. It does not benefit the animals. It does
13 not benefit human beings.

14 I'm totally opposed to it.

15 MR. ROBERT WALSH: My name is Robert
16 Walsh. I'm 68 years old, and I live in Homer. The
17 fisheries in Bristol Bay and Cook Inlet employ 20,000
18 local and regional residents. We live in earthquake
19 country. There are frequent and numerous tremblers in our
20 area. In the 1964 earthquake, the Homer Spit was
21 completely submerged. The possibility of a tsunami event
22 should also be considered as an event to any
23 infrastructure the Pebble Mine builds on Cook Inlet.

24 I'm especially worried that the proposed plan for
25 waste materials from the mining site does not meet

1 practical and realistic safety concerns for contamination
2 of local waters. I also fear that the disregard by
3 Northern Dynasty of the miles of wetlands that will be
4 affected by the proposed 100-mile road to move product
5 from the mine will result in the devastation of critical
6 wildlife habitat.

7 I'm not a commercial fisherman, but our family and
8 many, if not most, locals rely on Cook Inlet salmon
9 subsistence harvest to help meet our family's winter food
10 needs.

11 Our community has begun to see the financial benefit
12 from tourism. Kachemak Bay and Cook Inlet are world class
13 destinations for travelers who wish to experience this
14 unparalleled and beautiful area.

15 An open pit gold and copper mine near Lake Iliamna
16 will not only devastate the local topography, but the
17 proposed methods of harvesting product and the resulting
18 tailing disposal will likely result in an accident that
19 will devastate existing jobs and negatively affect many
20 communities in the area.

21 Finally, Northern Dynasty is a Canadian business
22 venture. They say that this mine will create jobs. We
23 are not a mining community, so it is very likely that
24 those jobs will be filled by nonlocals at the expense of
25 existing jobs employing local Alaskans. America First is

1 a slogan bantered about by the current administration.
2 The Pebble Mine prospect is a case of foreign money with
3 deep resources versus local Alaskans who are concerned for
4 the continued health and safety of our home.

5 Please make the right choice and refuse the Pebble
6 Mine permit.

7 MR. DANIEL LAYLAND: Daniel Layland, 955
8 Reber, R-E-B-E-R, Road, Homer, Alaska. I live in Bristol
9 Bay during the summer months. I have a home in Dillingham
10 for 35 years. And I live now in Homer where I've raised
11 my children throughout high school.

12 I am having a problem with the Pebble Mine in general
13 in Bristol Bay, but I am incredulous to hear that in the
14 Amakdedori Bay in Cook Inlet there is a plan to dredge a
15 4.2-mile-deep trench in the ocean to access the port.
16 This is unbelievable. I feel sorry for anything that
17 exists in that area.

18 The port impact in dredging the tailings pond and the
19 road that they propose to build is on State land. There
20 is no access permits yet. It's just assumed State land.
21 This concerns me. The economic impact and loss of the
22 fisheries in that area -- the scallop beds will be
23 devastated. This is amazing.

24 I grew up in a mining community in Hibbing,
25 Minnesota, an open pit mine, and I have lived my life with

1 economic bust and boom of 20-year mining cycles. And
2 that's the cycle of the Pebble Mine.

3 Don't ruin the economy in our region by allowing such
4 a mine. We can't afford it. We can't afford to take care
5 of someone else's problem for perpetuity for such a small
6 amount of monetary reward.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. MATTHEW MARTUSHEV: So basically I'm
9 going to wing it here. I'm a commercial fisherman. I
10 have been for the last 10, 15 years. Started off probably
11 around 12 years old. And these days I spend up to eight
12 months on the ocean harvesting all types of seafood:
13 halibut, black cod, gray cod, salmon, obviously. And the
14 kind of year that we have been having in the bay these
15 last three seasons were one of the best in the last 40
16 years. And the proposed mine near the salmon habitat
17 where our fish come up to spawn is pretty scary to me.

18 If something were to happen, if some of the mining
19 poison, or whatever the heck they use to mine the -- I
20 remember they were proposing to mine with cyanide to get
21 the ore out and whatnot. If any of that stuff ever leaked
22 out into the salmon habitat, it would definitely ruin our
23 way of life, our livelihood. And that's pretty scary to
24 me. It seems like all the fisheries I have been involved
25 in in the last 10 to 15 years have been slowly declining

1 because of either overfishing or whether it be bottom
2 trawlers ruining the marine environment.

3 It just seems that we do not need to risk such a
4 great fishery, the biggest salmon run in the world,
5 because of some resource that's not renewable like salmon
6 is. And I guess I hope it doesn't go through. And we
7 will be fine without a mine.

8 Thanks.

9 MR. CHESTER PASSIC: I'm a commander in
10 the United States Coast Guard. I'm the captain of a Coast
11 Guard vessel Hickory stationed here in Homer. I do all of
12 the aids to navigation in the Cook Inlet, the buoys and
13 the lights. We maintain them year-round. We do not keep
14 buoys in Cook Inlet for six months a year because of the
15 weather and ice, and we can't keep buoys in Cook Inlet at
16 that time.

17 Kamishak Bay where the deepwater port is proposed is
18 one of the worst places in the world to operate in terms
19 of combination of tide, current, winds, weather. And I
20 don't know if -- I think the Corps needs to investigate
21 the deepwater port there. My concern would be that we
22 can't keep aids to navigation for the vessels going in and
23 out of there.

24 And also there are issues with operating there for
25 commercial mariners. It's not a safe place.

1 I think that was the extent of my comment.

2 MR. DAVE BACHRACH: I have both concerns
3 as a local tour operator and a year-round Homer resident.
4 First and foremost, this project is -- first and foremost,
5 is this project even financially viable under the proposed
6 plan? This permit only proposes a 20-year project
7 utilizing a very small portion of the Pebble Partnership's
8 mining claims. I'm sensing that we have not been given
9 all the pertinent facts to fully understand and properly
10 evaluate the proposal to determine what the real life
11 expectancy of this project is and its full impact on the
12 community of Homer, its economy and the wildlife in the
13 area around the port site.

14 Will Pebble cease mining operations after the 20-year
15 period? I own a bear-viewing business which operates part
16 of the summer not far from where the proposed Amakdedori
17 port would be located, and I'm greatly concerned about the
18 impacts to my business and to the community of Homer in
19 general. My clients are seeking a wilderness experience
20 that is harder and harder to find in today's world. By
21 having this industrial operation in this location, it will
22 ruin the wilderness visitor experience with industrial
23 sites and sounds. It will negatively affect bears by
24 blocking off the beach, which is an important travel
25 corridor for them.

1 Having this port facility and road will increase the
2 likelihood of bears being killed or turning away and not
3 going to their usual feeding areas, which could result in
4 nutritional stress and lower reproductive rates. This
5 area near McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and refuge,
6 these bears are habituated to human presence with over 75
7 identified individual bears. Individual bears are
8 extremely important to a high-quality bear-viewing
9 experience defined by all ages and sexes of bears being
10 well represented.

11 How does the Pebble Partnership propose not to have
12 any bear mortality associated with the construction and
13 operation of this port facility in Amakdedori and the
14 adjacent road? Having a power plant and a deepwater port
15 at this location would also close off public access to the
16 beach, and it will be for private and industrial use only.
17 This affects both tourism and personal recreation use of
18 the area.

19 I was surprised that anyone would even propose a port
20 in this location. And the current plan lacks any
21 substantive details about it. The location is not
22 sheltered from the notoriously bad weather in Kamishak
23 Bay. Winter storms combined with 40- to 50-knot-plus
24 winds, high tides and big waves would make operation in
25 this location unsafe. Winter storms -- summer storms in

1 the area could also make operations unsafe.

2 Having walked this beach and tidal areas, it is not
3 suitable for dredging and maintaining the deep channel
4 that is required. The dredged area would soon fill in
5 with sand and sediment. What happens to the material that
6 is dredged out? How will this ongoing dredging affect
7 sediment transport, clams, mussel beds and salmon streams
8 in the area?

9 Homer is a popular tourist destination and a gateway
10 community for both Lake Clark and Katmai National Park.
11 Industrial mining is not compatible with the values of
12 Homer -- or with the -- industrial mining is not
13 compatible with the values of the community and the
14 culture of Homer. How will this affect Homer's
15 infrastructure, both in the use of Kachemak Bay for ships
16 and barges and the access to docks along the Homer Spit?
17 How will this affect traffic and roads between Homer and
18 Anchorage? How will this affect the local housing market,
19 tourism and fishing industries?

20 One stipulation I would request before any permit can
21 be issued is that the entire project be insured by a third
22 party like a Lloyds of London or one with similar size,
23 experience and rating. A self-insured bond is not
24 adequate for this project because of its size, duration
25 and location.

1 We have already experienced foreign-owned companies
2 declaring bankruptcy and leaving some local businesses,
3 the City of Homer, the Kenai Peninsula Borough with
4 uncollectible debt for services rendered.

5 Thank you for considering my comments.

6 MS. KIM FINE: So I'm a -- I have been
7 working with children in this town for 30 years. And we
8 are in the process right now of celebrating the migrating
9 animals of Alaska through a migration mural with a guest
10 artist, and we are writing poetry about this. And I want
11 to share with you today a five-year-old's poem that's
12 called Ode to a Salmon. Ode to a salmon. Salmon, salmon,
13 you migrate so far. How strong you swim in the rivers and
14 oceans. Salmon, salmon, you are delicious. I love you
15 fried. Salmon, salmon, I love your shiny scales. Salmon,
16 salmon, watch out, I might catch you with my pole.
17 Salmon, salmon, swim free and wild forever.

18 I really want to know what I'm supposed to tell these
19 children who have grown up eating salmon and fishing for
20 salmon and dipnetting for salmon. These are children who
21 have had wild and free salmon on their dinner plates for
22 30 years of my teaching career, and long before that and
23 hopefully long after that. I need answers. I need to
24 know what I'm supposed to tell them when the dust is
25 flying over Homer because of the traveling of the stuff of

1 the mine. I want to know what to tell them when the bear
2 habitat is cut in two. I want to tell them about the
3 traffic in our bay when they are out in their skiff
4 heading to China Poot to dipnet for salmon. What am I to
5 tell them about the increased traffic in our bay carrying
6 the tailings and the remains of this mine?

7 I just don't know what you want me to tell them. And
8 I want answers because they deserve them. And they have
9 been eating salmon since they were born, and the salmon is
10 wild, and it's the healthiest food they can eat.

11 And I hope that the people in power do the right
12 thing by our children. Thank you.

13 MS. KATIE DAWSON: What I describe Pebble
14 Mine is totally insane. When this idea came up, everybody
15 should have laughed their head off. The idea that a
16 foreign company can come into Alaska and tear up Bristol
17 Bay -- apparently they are going to dredge through
18 Iliamna. They are going to destroy 200 salmon streams.
19 They are going to build a road through it. It's totally
20 insane.

21 There are some things you do not do. You do not
22 build a mine in the world's biggest salmon place in the
23 world. It's not just salmon. It's bears. It's wetlands.
24 It's birds. I am very angry because we are having a big
25 extinction on earth right now.

1 And we have a foreign company that's going to come
2 in, and they say they are going to make everything better,
3 but they are going to leave with their money, and they are
4 going to leave us with a mess. We are going to have a
5 tailings dam that I heard is going to be as high as the
6 Seattle needle. I don't know if that's true, but I heard
7 that a long time ago.

8 It's totally ridiculous. They are going to leave us
9 with a mess. They are going to fool us into thinking that
10 we are getting jobs, but there is going to be maybe a
11 couple jobs here and there, but we are going to lose
12 fishing. We are going to lose tourism. We are going to
13 lose everything in Bristol Bay and all the way through
14 Cook Inlet and Homer, the whole area. They are not just
15 building a big hole in the ground. It's going to be 200
16 salmon streams. They are dredging a whole big area. I
17 forgot how many miles. They are going to have an
18 icebreaking ferry go through Iliamna Lake. It's a mess.
19 Anybody who is for Pebble Mine should do their research
20 because it is insane.

21 MS. OLGA VON ZIEGESAR: I'm a biologist,
22 and I study marine mammals, and I am concerned about the
23 access across Cook Inlet and Lake Iliamna. Besides the
24 mine being very destructive for the fish of Bristol Bay,
25 but the access going -- they are planning to dig a deep

1 trench in Cook Inlet which will disturb the very
2 endangered beluga whale population. And there is a
3 freshwater seal population in Lake Iliamna. And then
4 there is a huge bear population that I think will be
5 disturbed. So those are my big concerns, besides huge
6 habitat destruction.

7 That's it.

8 MS. SARAH BRAUND: So my name is Sarah
9 Braund, and I am a commercial fisherman in Nushagak. I
10 have been commercial fishing since I was 19 and been going
11 to Bristol Bay since I was seven. I'm 39 years old.
12 Every morning when I wake up I look -- in the summer when
13 we are fishing I see beluga whales. They eat from a
14 slough in front of my house, and those whales travel.
15 They travel upriver following seals. There is a pod of
16 five orca whales that comes into the bay that also goes
17 upriver sometimes. I have been to Iliamna Lake, and I've
18 seen the -- and talked to people about freshwater seals
19 there. I have commercial fished in Cook Inlet and talked
20 to people about the endangered beluga whales there.

21 So one of my concerns is that we have very little
22 knowledge of fisher knowledge and heritage of Bristol Bay
23 and Cook Inlet. So we have no baseline knowledge
24 currently that tells us what the seascape is for Bristol
25 Bay or what the current seascape is for Cook Inlet.

1 If you look up -- NOAA has a website and talks about
2 the fisher knowledge and fisher seascapes on the East
3 Coast. And the reason that they can't do the interviews
4 now is because the fisheries have been decimated there.
5 Currently, the Bristol Bay fishery is healthy and we could
6 do such baseline knowledge and studies, but Pebble has yet
7 to look into just exactly what fishermen are doing during
8 the summers.

9 Where are we traveling? How are our fish? What are
10 the patterns of movement on the water and on land? What
11 is the ethnographic landscape? There are several fish
12 camps that dot the coast. What will happen if there is an
13 issue with the tailings pond? What will they do with the
14 dust? So what will they do with the dust from the road?
15 How are you going to mitigate the impacts from the
16 dredging with increased traffic? There is going to be a
17 lot of things that we are seeing with our eyes that need
18 to be addressed, as well as sound impacts on fish,
19 wildlife, mammals.

20 So I guess I'm concerned about the dredging and the
21 road, the bear population, how will that impact the bear
22 population, and what will it do to subsistence? We drink
23 fresh spring water that comes from the ground. Many
24 people do in that area. How will that be impacted? Yeah.

25 We have talked about this for the last 10 or 15

1 years, and these have been my main concerns. But mostly I
2 have not seen any effort to really get to the heart of
3 fisher heritage, which is a living heritage recognized
4 around the world. And I am concerned, if something does
5 happen to it, there will be no way to find this knowledge
6 once it is lost. So once the fish are gone, the knowledge
7 is gone. And we need at least a baseline look at what our
8 current status quo is in case there is a potential
9 disaster.

10 MR. FINLEY BRAUND: My name is name is Fin
11 Braund. I'm a fifth generation Alaskan. So Pebble Mine,
12 if they put in the mine, or whenever that is, the fish
13 will die. When the fish die, all the fish things that
14 thrive off of the fish, like the bears, for example, and
15 if you -- and if they put this mine in place, the springs
16 that people use for freshwater, they will be gone. There
17 will be no more springs if they put in this mine in
18 Bristol Bay.

19 And that is all I have to say. I know it's not much,
20 but it's all I could think of.

21 MR. OLIN BRAUND: I'm Olin, and if the
22 Pebble Mine happens and they put the Pebble Mine in, we
23 will have to haul water out because it blocks all the
24 water, and all the salmon will be gone.

25 MS. ELISE BOYER: You are going to hear

1 from a lot of people who are going to talk about fish and
2 water. And for me, this is even more about democracy. I
3 think that most of the time the citizens of Alaska and
4 America are so busy with their lives trying to raise good
5 kids and trying to make a living and trying to lose weight
6 and be healthy, so they have pretty much let the
7 government and corporate -- and the corporations just
8 figure out how our lives should look.

9 And I think it really should mean something that over
10 and over and over and over and over again we say no to
11 Pebble Mine. It should mean something that we break in
12 our routine, that we find the energy, that we -- every
13 time we think it's dead and it is resurrected because
14 there is no end of money on the other side, we have to
15 come back out again. And they are not wearing us down,
16 and the opposition is growing. And I think that matters.
17 And I hope it draws your attention.

18 MS. BRENDA DOUMA: We love where we live,
19 and we need to leave and protect our planet. We cannot
20 undo nature. So mines have no record of putting back what
21 they have done. So one of the things that I'm concerned
22 about is 4,000 acres of wetlands.

23 And right now we don't -- we need to explore the idea
24 of carbon sequestering. We don't know how much carbon is
25 sequestered in that 4,000 acres that has the potential to

1 be unearthed. And right now salmon are already at risk
2 because of climate change. There are as many as -- in
3 some of our studies through our water ecologists -- stream
4 ecologists have shown more than seven degrees, and salmon
5 can't live in temperatures -- they have a very limited
6 temperature variance that they can live in.

7 So if we release this carbon, this has the potential
8 to, with the whole ecosystem, raise the temperatures. The
9 other thing is, with the raised temperature, we want to
10 keep the carbon in the earth. And this may be far more
11 valuable than any gold and copper. And I don't know that
12 the Corps of Engineers has the possibility, but I might
13 suggest that we suggest to the mines that they actually
14 take your technology and mine landfills to get the
15 chemicals, to get the minerals that they are looking for.

16 And then as a local, some of the things that I've
17 looked at briefly, looking at, like, dredging a dock,
18 there is no way that they can maintain that. And in -- as
19 a tour guide, I see people come from all over the world.
20 They come to see Alaska's wilderness in its pristine
21 shape, and they are amazed. People don't want to come to
22 Homer, so I would be at the loss of a job, a tourist job,
23 because they are not going to come to see an
24 infrastructure of technology. They want to see
25 wilderness. They want to see the mountains.

1 Another concern would be belugas. When I first moved
2 here, belugas used to come into Kachemak Bay. Well, with
3 the threat of increased water temperature -- and there is
4 so many other threats -- but where the belugas -- and with
5 if we put in -- just here in Homer we alter that, if we
6 change by adding roads, change the turbidity of local
7 streams -- we are just now learning that there are way out
8 east end, like almost 20 miles, we know that there are
9 salmon that are -- it's a wetland. And they are hatching
10 in a wetland. This is an amazing thing.

11 If you were to go out there, it looks like a fen or a
12 bog. And if they put a road in, they are going right
13 through a salmon hatchery, an actual -- when I walk out
14 there or ski, I'm, like, wait. A salmon came all the way
15 here in this whole process? And it looks like a fen. And
16 some people would say, oh, that's not anything.

17 If you put a road through, we have just lost where
18 it's starting its whole life cycle. The life cycle -- I
19 mean, salmon is it. The whole fishing industry provides
20 \$1.5 billion. And to put in a mine when we have a
21 guaranteed industry that's providing more than 14,000
22 jobs -- one of mine, tourist industry -- when people are
23 coming in, and replace it with less than 2,000, this isn't
24 making sense. So we need to look at the impact of people
25 right here in Homer as well as the people in Bristol Bay.

1 Selfish reasons, I love my salmon. So if they put a
2 road out in our communities, they put another dock -- I
3 eat salmon from this area. It's in my freezer right now.
4 That's dinner for tomorrow. It's going to be pulled out.
5 I'm not going to have the opportunity for -- to be -- eat
6 real Alaskan wild salmon and sustain my lifestyle. I have
7 a very fixed income, so the salmon means a lot to me. I
8 also have tons of allergies. I'm not allergic to salmon.
9 Hooray.

10 So if we alter this through changing the turbidity,
11 changing the water quality that's already at risk -- so
12 these are some of the things that I need them to look at.

13 So starting from carbon, looking at the impact to
14 belugas, bear viewing. The salmon are upset. I know our
15 daughter worked for bear viewing, and she was earning an
16 income as a -- working in that industry. Well, if there
17 is no bears because there is no food that they can eat,
18 salmon, then she would have also lost that job.

19 So anyway, please protect our habitat. So -- I'm
20 sure I'll think of other things.

21 MR. ERIC BEEMAN: I'm Eric Beeman. I'm a
22 set-netter from Cook Inlet and from Bristol Bay. I'm also
23 the president of Ugashik Set Net Association out in
24 Bristol Bay. I'm going to comment online about the Pebble
25 Mine, although I just wanted to say that I am definitely

1 against it, but I'm going to put my testimony online.

2 But what I wanted to talk today about is this process
3 here. I think -- I'm happy that there is two of you
4 taking some comment here, but other than that, it's just
5 amazing. I see a ton of confused people out there like
6 me. I had to take a boat ride to get here. I assumed we
7 were having a presentation about this and then we would
8 have open public comment where I could not only give
9 comments, but I could listen to other people's ideas, too.
10 And you get here, there is 25 chairs set up for -- I don't
11 know how many people showed up, but not very many.

12 And the Army Corps of Engineers guy -- I don't know
13 what his name is, but the guy that gave the speech, I
14 could hear him. I didn't quite understand very well what
15 he was saying, but there was an awful lot of people behind
16 me that couldn't even hear what he was saying. And that
17 was, as far as I can see, the only presentation that was
18 here.

19 So I think if the Corps of Engineers wanted to really
20 get public testimony, they could have done an awful lot
21 better today. So that's my testimony here. And I will
22 submit more online. But please put me down as an against.
23 That's pretty much just all I wanted to say. And I
24 appreciate you taking some testimony.

25 MR. JOEL COOPER: My name is Joel Cooper,

1 and I am a stewardship director with the Kachemak Heritage
2 Land Trust. And I have been working -- doing work for the
3 federal government and nonprofit organizations for the
4 last 38 years doing environmental assessments and so
5 forth. So I have a little background in this area.

6 But first I'd like to say that this process is not a
7 good process for the public because if the general public
8 could hear what other people -- like what I'm saying to
9 you right now was heard by the rest of the public, it
10 benefits them in commenting and making a public statement
11 and, therefore, making it a public hearing. I think even
12 at this stage of the process that this is what should be
13 happening right now.

14 With that said, I would like to make my comments
15 about the current situation, what's being proposed with
16 Pebble. First, I obviously think it will have an impact
17 on me, as I live in Homer, in many ways. I eat fish from
18 Bristol Bay. I'm a tourist in terms of I have done bear
19 viewing in that area. I have trained many of the people
20 in the Bristol Bay watershed working with the Alaska
21 Department of Environmental Conservation and Environmental
22 Protection Agency to draft quality assurance project plans
23 to monitor the water quality in the Bristol Bay watershed
24 for the purpose of understanding water quality for the
25 fish in that watershed and impacts such as mining might

1 have, and have also included working with the Native
2 villages in that watershed, how they can incorporate
3 traditional ecological knowledge into their quality
4 assurance project plans to assure that the Native way of
5 life is considered in the way the land is used. So that
6 is one aspect that I have and perspective that I have in
7 regards to the Bristol Bay watershed.

8 But when I look at the project as a whole, I get
9 quite frustrated because I think you are taking one
10 economy and trying to replace another economy that is
11 vital, robust and is functioning quite well and does not
12 need the jobs that the Pebble Mine would provide in that
13 region to sustain that region, nor do I think the income
14 that the State might gain from the Pebble Mine is
15 significant enough to justify replacing a mining economy
16 with a fishery and tourist economy.

17 I also think that the mining industry has not given
18 enough thought into how they can create jobs through
19 mining existing minerals that exist in the state of Alaska
20 and other locations in the world that have been landfilled
21 or just disposed of. And to go for a raw and precious
22 metal in a region that is considered the richest salmon
23 fishery in the world versus going after precious metals
24 that already exist and been extracted and actually could
25 create likely more jobs, that we should -- the mining

1 industry should be considering that avenue of creating
2 jobs in the mining industry.

3 Even within the state of Alaska we have landfills
4 here they could create precious metal extractions for to
5 create jobs within various communities. But to go and try
6 to replace the vital fishing and tourist industry for a
7 mining industry just makes no sense at this point in time.

8 And I would really like that in the scoping process
9 that they bring this to light, that they can recognize
10 that there is another alternative to creating jobs and
11 revenue by extracting metals as opposed to extracting
12 these precious metals out of an untouched landscape that
13 is the source of the richest salmon fishery in the world.

14 MS. SUSAN BUTLER: I'm a Homer resident,
15 and basically I just wanted to make the point that I've
16 witnessed, you know, living here for almost 40 years, the
17 changes of where, you know, you are thinking things are
18 being managed and that the lifestyle will never end, and
19 you just see the writing on the wall because there is no
20 management. You know, anybody can be bought. And
21 people -- the lobbyists, it's become a situation where
22 greed is just taking over.

23 And I grew up between Newfoundland, Canada and the
24 Chesapeake Bay, and I watched them shut down the cod
25 fishing so that the Newfoundlanders basically had to leave

1 their communities because they fished it too death. And
2 it wasn't Newfoundlanders so much as -- it wasn't the
3 locals. It was people coming in who all wanted the
4 codfish and they wanted to fish for themselves, and they
5 took it. And basically that just killed the communities'
6 lifestyles.

7 And everyone in this town is connected to fishing,
8 whether they are putting up people at B&Bs, which is what
9 I have going. My son fishes in Bristol Bay. All my
10 friends fish. People are so connected to fishing here.
11 And you know, I watched it between Chesapeake Bay and
12 Newfoundland where basically things just get fished to
13 death.

14 And with this mine, it's just another thing that
15 just -- it's taking us down. And I just -- I really hate
16 to see it. I hate to see it. I feel like we are just --
17 you know, it's the greed factor. And Homer is a vibrant
18 place with lots of -- just an incredible community, and
19 people -- I have a sea shanty group. We sing about
20 fishing. We sing at the Salty Dog. We sing sea shanties.
21 You know, we sing about fishing. This community is very
22 tied in with it.

23 And I would hate to see Pebble Mine come in. I don't
24 want it. I think for -- we should just err on the side
25 of, like, let's just not do this. Just because it's worth

1 money doesn't mean it's what we should all be -- we should
2 do, you know. It's, like, at some point Alaska is the
3 last frontier, and we are just going to do like we did
4 with every -- like we do with everywhere else.

5 Anyway, I'm babbling now. I'll stop. That's just my
6 point is I've just watched it over years, the changes.
7 And it makes me sad for the future generations of the kids
8 coming up because they all want to fish. They all love to
9 go to Bristol Bay. My son is one of them. And it's
10 just -- it's a lifestyle. It's more than just money.
11 It's a lifestyle. It's part of the rhythm of the cycles
12 of summer and winter, and people love that about Alaska,
13 you know.

14 So anyway, thank you.

15 MS. MELISSA REICHMAN: I'll make it short.
16 My biggest concern is just taking out a huge chunk of
17 natural habitat that feeds a bigger area than just this
18 mine. Living in Homer, I'm particularly connected to the
19 intertidal zone in a number of ways. And I feel like the
20 destruction of the waters is going to -- with this mine is
21 going to obliterate it in areas all -- all coastal areas.
22 And that's going to have ramifications beyond and beyond
23 and beyond.

24 And one more thing, just that I think this process is
25 really limiting. I feel like a public hearing allows us

1 to learn from each other, and so that's not being afforded
2 us here, this private little meeting that we have. So I
3 feel like that's not helpful for all of us who want to
4 hear everybody else's perspectives.

5 So that's all I have to say.

6 MS. RIKA MOUW: I live in Homer, and our
7 economic base is tourism, mostly Alaskan, but tourism,
8 ecotourism a lot, art. Nothing that has to do -- even our
9 harbor is mostly a recreational harbor for fishing. It's
10 fishing based. But I think that the quality of our life
11 will change as Homer. The demographic will change
12 enormously. The traffic in the harbor will change
13 enormously. And traffic, boat traffic within Kachemak Bay
14 will be affected enormously. There are a lot of kayakers.
15 There are a lot of recreational boaters, kites, you know,
16 just people who use the water recreationally who will be
17 affected by that.

18 So just -- just around the harbor between tourism,
19 fishing and everything else that goes on there, any
20 additional traffic is completely detrimental.

21 I personally live on Kachemak Bay on the water, and
22 we look right at the harbor. And the last thing in the
23 world we would want is to look at more industrial activity
24 there.

25 My husband and I have been going across to the

1 Amakdedori area, Chenik, and all that -- McNeil, all of
2 that area for every summer for two decades, and we know
3 that area pretty well and have camped there, hiked there,
4 beachcombed there, Amakdedori is a hugely amazing place to
5 go beachcombing. And it's wild. And there are bear
6 everywhere. And that's what makes it so unique and so
7 amazing.

8 There is one of the world's only freshwater seals who
9 live in Lake Iliamna. I would think that that would cause
10 an enormous problem there. I'm just rambling.

11 We live in Homer because of the character that Homer
12 is. We don't want the demographic to change. We work so
13 hard in making Homer the special place that it is. And we
14 live there for the special place that it is. If it were
15 to change, we would have to look for another place to
16 live. We could not live with that -- with that change.

17 We also -- Homer has really been tied into the
18 natural gas system, and it is Cook Inlet natural gas. And
19 with this project looking to use natural gas in Cook
20 Inlet -- our whole heating supply -- I mean, we are piped
21 in. We are committed to natural gas. And I could very
22 well see a project of this size taking -- using all the
23 gas, which would then mean that we would be importing gas
24 for our own supplies. I see that as a huge threat. And I
25 see a huge threat in having natural gas go underneath Cook

1 Inlet and underneath Lake Iliamna. And the whole activity
2 there is just -- I can't even fathom it.

3 So no longer would we be able to enjoy going across
4 the inlet for the reasons that we do. And McNeil is --
5 McNeil is one of these gems with the largest population of
6 brown bear in that area on the planet, let alone red
7 sockeye salmon being the largest run in the world where
8 the mine sight is going to be.

9 Quality of life, resources. I also -- and I -- just
10 the carbon footprint to develop this mine is -- we are
11 talking about a place that is feeling climate change more
12 rapidly than anywhere else, other than Antarctica. And
13 just the activity of developing this mine with the trucks
14 and the pipes and everything to the smallest detail is a
15 carbon footprint that just endangers the whole stability
16 of Alaska, a northern latitude. Everything that we live
17 here for is gone.

18 Our forests are changing. The vegetation is
19 changing. Everything is changing. And developing mega
20 projects like this only add to that greenhouse gas
21 situation. And it doesn't add anything to our economy
22 here in Homer. It directly conflicts with our ongoing
23 economy.

24 So it's -- it doesn't co-exist. Homer is special
25 because it doesn't have industry like that here. It's

1 different than Nikiski. It's different than Kenai. Not
2 that Kenai or Nikiski want it, but we are different. The
3 southern peninsula is different. And yet we are going to
4 be impacted by this development just as much. And it's
5 not acceptable.

6 And I'll comment again on paper. And again -- but
7 the scope of this goes far beyond the mining site. It
8 goes far beyond the transportation. It -- it affects so
9 much.

10 When I think about a trench 400 feet wide, four and a
11 half miles long and 50 feet deep, what does that do to the
12 sea life? I mean, what does that do to fishing? What
13 does that do to our local scallop fishery? What does that
14 do to the fishermen that -- our local fishermen that get
15 to fish locally? They won't be able to do that anymore.
16 So it affects the fisheries on this side of Cook Inlet and
17 Cook Inlet and Bristol Bay.

18 It's -- humans have made this mistake with salmon
19 over and over and over again. And we can't afford to do
20 this again. We depend on salmon. We are salmon people.
21 I am a salmon person. I live and breathe salmon. And my
22 art includes salmon. It includes bears. It includes
23 marine life. It -- birds. I'm a huge birder.

24 It's all connected. Everything is all connected. So
25 it's not this isolated site far out there. It's all

1 connected here.

2 And I thank you for being here to take down my words.

3 MS. MERCEDES BECKER: So I'm mostly
4 passionate about wildlife impacts from the Pebble Mine.
5 And my concern expands to all wildlife species down from,
6 like, plankton to our biggest predators, the bears, our
7 orcas, our whales. I think that when the pipe is -- is,
8 you know, put into the ocean going across the Cook Inlet
9 and with the dredges, it's going to be stirring up a lot
10 of silt and ocean rocks and sediment that's going to
11 disturb the zoo plankton and the phytoplankton, which in
12 turn, it's going to destroy those, and the animals that
13 eat that are not going to have that food supply, and it's
14 going to carry on up the chain.

15 I also think that -- that this Pebble Mine could
16 change behavior of some of the animals, particularly sea
17 otters. Sea otters, their habitat is very highly
18 populated where they are building this mine, and if the
19 sea otters have to move from their habitat, it might
20 change their behavior as far as like being very close to
21 in contact and having to kind of fight for their lives as
22 far as, like, moving into different territory, not having
23 enough food to feed their young and kind of coming into,
24 like, different species of otters and having to compete
25 for habitat in their range.

1 And also I believe that there is going to be air
2 pollution released by this mine, which I think is going to
3 affect the seabirds and migratory birds that come up to
4 Alaska every summer and winter, and there is going to be
5 this sticky film on their feathers that cannot -- it will
6 be stuck and it will affect them and make them sick. And
7 it will also change -- they have to -- they might have to
8 move to different breeding grounds because they can't
9 breathe where they for many years they would come to
10 breed.

11 I also think that this is also going to be placed in,
12 like, a very, like, highly populated bear habitat, and I
13 feel that the bears -- where these bears are, they sort of
14 have, like, not that much human contact, so they are not
15 really aggressive towards humans; but if where this mine
16 is going to be worked on and stuff, if these people that
17 don't know much about these wildlife, they are going to
18 think that these bears are aggressive and they are going
19 to try and shoot them or try and make them go away. But
20 the bears are just minding their own business and then
21 it's going to create this behavior in bears that humans
22 are bad and we need to be aggressive towards humans.

23 And that would also affect the tourism that takes
24 place close to Lake Iliamna because it's been successful,
25 people coming over there and looking at these bears

1 because the bears don't display any aggression towards
2 them because they have had -- they kind of keep close to
3 zero human contact throughout the year besides the
4 touring. And that will just change the tourism industry
5 from that point.

6 If these bears lose their habitat because there is --
7 the roads are destroying the creeks in which they fish for
8 their salmon, they are going to have to move. And when
9 they move up north or whatever, they are going to go into
10 these other highly populated bear areas. It's going to be
11 too concentrated full of bears, and there is going to be a
12 bunch of fatalities because these bears are going to be
13 too close together. One bear needs a huge range of
14 territory. They don't like being up close. They don't
15 really like sharing territory except when they are all
16 fishing for salmon. And it's just going to cause a lot of
17 deaths for the bears.

18 Also, our salmon, if there ever is a spill, which
19 there might be, it's going to highly disturb the habitat
20 and the place where these fish spawn and they feed and
21 they travel. And all these creeks that run through these
22 roads that they're going to build, we don't know exactly
23 how much salmon pass through these creeks, so it's hard to
24 understand, like, how much the salmon would be -- like how
25 much -- we know there is a lot of salmon that pass through

1 these creeks, but we don't know exactly how much.

2 But if there was a way for maybe Pebble to sort of
3 fund research projects because we need funds to study and
4 go out there and see how much fish are out there, then
5 that would be great because they could help with the
6 research as far as, like, where these animals are and
7 exactly the total estimate of populations in each of these
8 areas that they are in.

9 The biggest issue that I have with Pebble Mine is
10 because it's in a highly concentrated wildlife area, huge
11 area across Bristol Bay, Cook Inlet, Lake Iliamna, Happy
12 Valley. It's just a huge area for all these just highly
13 populated wildlife everywhere. With the boats that are
14 passing through from Happy Valley to the port by Lake
15 Iliamna, there is going to be so much ferries going back
16 and forth that it's going to cause different behavior,
17 behavioral patterns.

18 And our marine life, such as seals and orcas and our
19 different whale species, because they are not used to
20 seeing that much boat traffic, there's going to be
21 instances where the boats are going to hit these animals.
22 It might change the behavior where these animals don't
23 feel safe feeding in these grounds where they have fed for
24 years. So they might have to move somewhere else, and
25 that could change how the way their young learn how to

1 feed, as well.

2 With all these boats passing through, there is also
3 going to be sort of, like, pollution released by these
4 boats, like, trash overboard or, I don't know, maybe some
5 spill leaks from these boats, and it's going to mess with
6 probably the zooplankton and phytoplankton, kind of just
7 stirring up the water so the fish that eat these
8 microscopic creatures, they are going to have to look
9 elsewhere for their food, which is going to force
10 predators to look harder for their food, as well.

11 As far as habitat, the habitat of the smaller animals
12 is going to be destroyed with the big mine that they
13 create by Lake Iliamna because there is a lot of forests
14 and -- I don't know. I'm trying to think of -- the
15 mammals that live in that area that are going to be --
16 their habitat is going to be destroyed. They are going to
17 have to -- it might kill off one species. It's just going
18 to have an effect on that.

19 If there were a spill to occur, it would be
20 catastrophic because there would be many marine life that
21 would be affected, and it would be hard to clean up. So
22 some of this marine life might -- we might get some
23 endangered species because not all the spill was cleaned
24 up all at once, and there was too many fatalities and
25 it -- it would be very -- it would be extremely hard if a

1 spill happened in the middle of Cook Inlet because that
2 would be just very hard to get people out there to clean
3 that, and it's going to -- it's going to sink to the
4 bottom. It's going to go everywhere. The tide is going
5 to carry it to other places that maybe weren't affected by
6 the mine before.

7 Also, where this mine is there is going to be runoff,
8 pollution runoff from all the generators and everything
9 that runs this mine, and it's going to go on the other
10 side of the Aleutians and it's going to affect the salmon
11 and the fishing for subsistence fishermen and commercial
12 fishermen and the wildlife that eat the salmon there, as
13 well.

14 And I think -- I think that's it for now. But I'm
15 just really passionate about the wildlife in Alaska, and I
16 want to try my best to protect it and preserve it for my
17 family and my kids and the future of Alaska.

18 MS. NANCY HILLSTRAND: My name is Nancy
19 Hillstrand, and I am a -- I own Pioneer Alaska Fisheries.
20 It is a corporation in Alaska since 1964. And I'm -- this
21 Pebble Mine is totally not -- it absolutely should not be
22 happening here in Alaska. And the -- the amount of fish
23 that we get out of this -- the world's largest sockeye
24 salmon run in the world is something that you can't
25 replace. And you can't have a big enough contract or a

1 big enough -- what's it called -- bond to replace what
2 will happen to this run of fish.

3 I was also a fish culturist for 21 years, and so
4 the -- the way the fish work when they are young is that
5 any jiggling of the ground or any of the -- you know, as
6 the trucks are running across the miles of the tundra will
7 cause damage to any salmon, any -- that are in the creek
8 because in that time they are either -- they are down
9 under the gravel, and they are very sensitive to -- they
10 will die from the actual jiggling of the ground.

11 Let's see. This is hard. The tailings will be there
12 for -- it looks like, from what I'm hearing over there,
13 will be there forever, and so there is no -- there is no
14 way to monitor that into perpetuity. So I'm extremely
15 concerned about a 600-foot tall containment area and the
16 chemicals that are in that and the fact that those can't
17 be monitored and can't be contained in this area that is
18 full of earthquakes and major rumblings, you know, that
19 the earth does in that area. It's near some of the
20 most -- well, it's in the Ring of Fire.

21 So this is extremely distressing to me, this whole
22 process. Not the process, but the fact that someone would
23 come in and think that they can replace something that we
24 eat with something that's made out of metal. And this, to
25 me, is of national security to keep this place intact for

1 a food source for the people of the United States of
2 America.

3 So the corridor at Amakdedori on Amakdedori Beach
4 there, that area there is prime brown bear area and
5 they -- it was a sanctuary we worked on, you know, years
6 ago, sanctuary and refuge also right near McNeil, and that
7 will change the corridor of how the bears move and how
8 they interact with humans and interact with the busy-ness
9 of what this is going to create for their territory.

10 The fisheries -- fisheries of Alaska, the natural
11 wild fisheries are the most precious thing we have here in
12 Alaska. And the people have stood up and spoke for so
13 many years now on this issue, and so I'm hoping that the
14 Corps of Engineers can take that into consideration and
15 look at our constitution and realize that the entire
16 reason we have the constitution of the State of Alaska is
17 because of the salmon and because of the mining and people
18 taking our resources and leaving nothing except a mess
19 behind, which is what's happened from the early 1900s
20 until the '50s when we became a state. And that's why we
21 wrote the constitution the way it was written.

22 So here we are facing both of these items, mining and
23 damage to the salmon resource. So I ask that you please
24 deny this permit.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. LORETTA BROWN: My name is Loretta
2 Brown, and I'm a Homer resident. I have lived in Homer
3 for five years. I am very concerned about the Pebble Mine
4 in any way or form, not only because it impacts the
5 fisheries in Bristol Bay, but also because it has
6 potential impacts on the Kenai Peninsula and particularly
7 to Homer.

8 I buy fish from Bristol Bay fishermen, but I also
9 fish in Kachemak Bay, and I am concerned that the Pebble
10 Mine is going to impact Homer as it is and its identity
11 and the people that live in Homer, people that live in
12 Alaska, and the identity that Alaskans have and the way
13 that the world views Alaska and Alaska fisheries.

14 Alaska fisheries are concerned to be pristine and
15 they are wild and they are full -- full of healthy and
16 robust and sustainable fishery. And the Pebble Mine poses
17 a major impact to that and will have a devastating impact
18 to not only the fishery itself in Bristol Bay and the
19 potential fisheries in the Cook Inlet area, but also to
20 the image and to the economics outside -- outside of that
21 fishery tied to the image of -- of Alaska as a wild,
22 sustainable salmon state.

23 I would like the Army Corps of Engineers to look at
24 the impacts of economics not only in the Bristol Bay
25 region, but also impacts to Kenai Peninsula and impacts to

1 recreation, ecotourism, impacts to the social status of
2 the Homer region, impacts to housing, any impacts that the
3 natural gas pipeline might have in the Cook Inlet region
4 to any fisheries and any species of wildlife and benthic
5 wildlife within the Cook Inlet area, and also any impacts
6 of the pipeline to private property rights within the
7 Anchor Point area.

8 I also want to ask the Army Corps of Engineers to
9 make a more robust public participation process in the
10 future because the scoping process here in Homer without
11 any public open testimony has been a farce of a public
12 process, and we really need a larger open public
13 participation process in order for this to be meaningful.

14 I think that's good.

15 MS. ZENOVIA PROKOPIOF-TALLEKPALEK: Hello.
16 My name is Zenovia Prokopiof-Tallekpalek. I'm 17 years
17 old, and I have a full-time -- and I am a full-time
18 college student at Kenai Peninsula College. I was raised
19 in Levelock Alaska. I'm Alaska Native Yup'ik and Aleut is
20 what I'm sure of. I have a family that I love very much.

21 On and along the Kvichak River I was taught by my dad
22 and many community members how to fish and how to take
23 care of the fish properly. I don't know what Bristol Bay
24 or the Kvichak River would be without clean water and
25 fish. I am not willing to risk any toxins, chemicals,

1 fuel or leak and contamination of the water and the fish
2 of the Kvichak River.

3 I consider Levelock my base for almost everything I
4 value in life right now and motivation for my education
5 and future career. I picture myself going back to
6 Levelock and giving back what I've learned with my time
7 away from home. I hope I get a chance to teach the kids
8 who are still in school how to fish and the values you
9 learn from fish and taking care of the water. It's a
10 tradition I was taught, and I've proudly held to that
11 commitment and knowledge.

12 Fishing and just being on the water has taught me
13 another way to care for my family and community, how
14 therapeutic it can be floating on the water. This taught
15 me that I had to work hard for I want. I wanted smoked
16 fish for the winter of 2017, so I asked the community
17 members of Levelock where do I start.

18 If there is a danger placed upon our fish and the
19 water, there is a danger placed on the communities and
20 family traditions and the understanding of where they
21 live. There is no other place like Alaska.

22 I have been missing the Kvichak River a lot lately.
23 There is so much for me to learn out here. I need there
24 to be fish and clean water for when I make my way back
25 home. The dangers aren't worth going back to a place

1 where I don't recognize or even consider my home anymore.

2 MR. PATRICK CHURCH: The EIS should fully
3 describe how many acre feet of water is used during the
4 whole process to the refining of the concentrates. The
5 EIS should fully describe that the acre feet of water used
6 for the mining process will not diminish the natural
7 supply of the existing watershed, especially during dry
8 periods or drought.

9 The EIS should fully describe how groundwater in the
10 zone of influence will not deplete or affect the natural
11 system outside the zone of influence.

12 The EIS should fully describe how the pH of the
13 groundwater that will be removed during the dewatered
14 period will not be changed from the natural state which
15 establishes the watershed of all the tributaries in the
16 region. The EIS should fully describe how the pH and
17 natural chemical makeup of the groundwater removed after
18 the dewatered period will not be changed from its natural
19 state when discharged later into the environment.

20 The EIS should fully describe the hazards of toxic
21 chemicals released or added to the processing of the
22 concentrates of gold, silver, molybdenum and cobalt.

23 The EIS should fully describe how constant dredging
24 to maintain the docking facility on the west side of Cook
25 Inlet can be done at the port site in an area of hazardous

1 weather and extreme tidal influence.

2 The EIS should fully describe all aspects of the pH,
3 chemical elements, or mineral content of all tributaries,
4 creeks that all species of migratory fish depend upon as
5 guidance to return to spawning areas or feeding areas.

6 The EIS should fully describe how the groundwater
7 discharged will or can maintain the same natural condition
8 as existing in the natural watershed.

9 (Proceedings adjourned at 9:00 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, MARY A. VAVRIK, RMR, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth; that the proceedings were reported stenographically by me and later transcribed under my direction by computer transcription; that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings taken at that time; and that I am not a party to nor have I any interest in the outcome of the action herein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my hand and affixed my seal this _____ day of _____ 2018.

MARY A. VAVRIK
Registered Merit Reporter
Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission Expires: November 5, 2020

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