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PEBBLE PROJECT
SCOPING MEETING
NEWHALEN, ALASKA
Taken April 12, 2018
Commencing at 3:30 p.m.

Volume I - Pages 1 - 52, inclusive

Taken at
Newhalen School
Newhalen, 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 Taken by:

19 Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

20 BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were taken
21 at the time and place duly noted on the title page, before
22 Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary
23 Public within and for the State of Alaska.
24
25

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

2 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Hi, guys. Good
3 afternoon, everybody. First of all, I'd like to thank you
4 on behalf of the United States Army for taking the time to
5 join us this afternoon at the beginning of the process of
6 developing the environmental impact statement level of
7 analysis for the proposed Pebble project.

8 My name is Shane McCoy. I'm the program manager for
9 the United States Army Corps of Engineers. With me
10 tonight from the Corps of Engineers is Katie McCafferty.
11 So if you have any questions about the Corps's role or our
12 process, please come see us. Feel free.

13 The way this is going to go today is I propose to
14 give a brief introduction. We will show the video of the
15 project so everyone has an idea of what the proposed
16 project is to date. Please be aware it's also kind of a
17 synopsis of these posters as you come in. And then I'm
18 going to open it up for comments.

19 I would like to have just a little bit of a focus, if
20 you guys don't mind. On the back wall here is a brief
21 overview of effective comment making for the project.
22 It's a synopsis. It was part of the prescoping package
23 that we sent out to the 31 Bristol Bay tribes and the four
24 tribes on the eastern side of the Cook Inlet.

25 But the reason we're here today is because the Corps

1 of Engineers received a permit application from the Pebble
2 Limited Project. And so this is going to be a little bit
3 different from the previous meetings. I've heard some
4 feedback with regards to maybe how to inform the public as
5 to why we're here today when there has already been a lot
6 of work done by the EPA and others associated with the
7 project.

8 So the Corps' authority under Section 404 of the
9 Clean Water Act is the authority to review applications
10 for the discharge of dredge or fill material in the waters
11 of the U.S. We also have the authority under Section 10
12 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 to review
13 applications that may affect navigable waters course,
14 condition or capacity.

15 Now, that being said, when we receive an application,
16 we are obliged to review that application. The beginning
17 of that -- all federal actions require National
18 Environmental Policy Act review, which is a process to
19 analyze and collect data, an unbiased analysis of the
20 proposed impacts, the proposed benefits, alternatives and
21 mitigation measures. The beginning of that process is
22 called scoping, and that's where we are at today. It's a
23 public process in which we invite the public to help
24 inform the scope of our analysis.

25 Please understand, the framework of the document must

1 have a nexus to the proposed impacts under our
2 jurisdiction. There are two other federal agencies that
3 have a decision to make associated with this application,
4 one of which is the United States Coast Guard for a bridge
5 over the Newhalen River. The other is Department of
6 Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
7 for the pipe on the Outer Continental Shelf for the
8 natural gas pipeline.

9 At the end of the process, at the end of the
10 environmental impact statement analysis, the three federal
11 agencies that have a decision to make will make a
12 decision. But understand, the end of the NEPA process is
13 not a decisionmaking process. It is an unbiased analysis
14 of the potential impacts, resources alternatives and,
15 again, mitigation measures that will be considered in that
16 analysis.

17 That's why we're here today. We need your help. We
18 need your help to identify a range of alternatives,
19 specific issues to be analyzed, methods of the analysis
20 and potential mitigative measures that we are maybe not
21 aware of at this time.

22 You can provide your input, your comments, in three
23 ways: Today oral comments will be recorded by our court
24 reporter. You can directly input them into the computers
25 in the back of the room. Or you can provide written

1 comments and drop those off at the sign-in table. Or at
2 any time you can access the project website,
3 pebbleprojecteis.com, and submit your comments online.

4 Please be aware that the comments submitted online
5 also have an interactive mapping feature in which you can
6 put specific locations associated with your concerns or
7 other directly on that map, and it will give us an idea of
8 where that spot is. The more specific, the better.

9 Please be respectful of the people commenting today.
10 And also please understand that all comments received will
11 be made publicly available on our website, so all contact
12 information, the comments received, will be available for
13 the entire public.

14 Again, I'd like to thank you on behalf of the United
15 States Army for participating in this process, being here
16 today to help us inform our scope of analysis and having
17 us in your community.

18 At this time I'd like to show the video of the
19 proposed project and give you a moment to see what is
20 proposed currently today.

21 (A video was shown.)

22 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Well, that's an overview
23 as presented by the applicant. I would like to state for
24 everyone's information that the Corps is neither a
25 proponent nor an opponent of a project. Instead, this is

1 the process for us to determine and analyze the potential
2 impacts, benefits, and mitigative measures that are part
3 of the project. We are also neither -- we are also not
4 predecisional. At the end of this, we will have
5 information to base a decision. The three federal
6 agencies with a decision to make will write their own
7 Record of Decision based on the information and analysis
8 contained within the environmental impact statement. And
9 again, I thank you for participating in this very
10 important time, the public scoping comment period.

11 At this time I would like to open up the mic to
12 provide an opportunity for individuals to provide their
13 comment.

14 Is Raymond Wassillie available, please? Come on up.
15 If I could also ask you to speak slowly and in the
16 direction of our recorder so she can accurately capture
17 your comments, I would appreciate it. Thank you, sir.

18 MR. RAYMOND WASSILLIE: Okay. My name is
19 Raymond Wassillie. I reside in Newhalen. Been here since
20 I was born. I was born here. And I'm hoping that some
21 day I could pass on here.

22 But reality of everything, even the school here takes
23 education. And in that theory, education is where we get
24 our diploma, where we go on to get our higher education.
25 And I have been dealing a lot with a lot of people that

1 had degrees in their field that do a lot of studies on the
2 Pebble project.

3 As for me, I'm still neutral because I want to see
4 the ideas of both parties. The idea for the degree people
5 is to study plans, the system of how the mine would go.
6 And the downside of it is we have been fishing for
7 eternity. And I haven't seen anything come out of it in
8 the region, other than CDQ program over on the -- by the
9 way, 50 miles away from the inlet, does that include us in
10 the CDQ program? Maybe. That's the thing we need to talk
11 about because we are left out of the picture.

12 The big picture of reality is it's going to happen.
13 A lot of degrees has been put on the line. I went out in
14 the field with them, and to hear the sides of both -- both
15 parties is -- because we tend to see only one side of the
16 story that -- I like to see my own people become doctors
17 and engineers and everything, to see that some day when we
18 point a finger at them that they are responsible for
19 whatever happened to the dam or the fishery.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Greg Anelon.

22 MR. GREG ANELON: My name is Greg Anelon.
23 I looked at your -- the proposed sites, and one of my big
24 concerns is the road corridor from the mine site to the
25 lake. The majority of our moose is caught in the Upper

1 Talarik Creek area, and that road is right along where we
2 hunt. If you take the survey of our hunters that go up
3 and hunt, that's the majority of where we catch our moose.
4 And I am concerned about that road being so close to our
5 hunting areas.

6 And also the ferry system at the mouth of Talarik
7 Creek, we have easterly winds all the time. That's the
8 majority of our winds come from the east. And those waves
9 down there are pretty big hitting that area. And so with
10 the moving barges and you are trying to load and unload
11 those -- the barge, it puts a lot of moving parts that
12 shouldn't be on the lake. And we don't want to have all
13 those stuff in the lake. So if we try to minimize that,
14 that would be my suggestion is not having all that moving
15 parts on our lake and on our waters that we have here.

16 I don't know where the -- you don't have a map of all
17 the road corridor where we could see it where it shows on
18 there specifically, so I can't give you what I'm talking
19 about. But the one map I was seeing, there was another
20 corridor that was along our winter moose hunting area, and
21 that's what I'm concerned about.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Thank you. Myrtle.
24 That reminds me, too. If you do have a written statement,
25 a proposed statement, that you will be reading, if you can

1 leave it with the recorder, it will greatly assist us, as
2 well.

3 MS. MYRTLE ANELON: Hi. My name is Myrtle
4 Anelon. I've lived here all my life. I'm an elder, and
5 I'm proud of all my family that has lived here all their
6 life. It's hard to live here. And I want people to know,
7 without a job -- it takes money to live.

8 And I commercial fished all my life, me and my
9 husband. And you know, we had to go back and forth to
10 Bristol Bay by boat, which now we can fly down there. But
11 it costs us a lot of money. If you go from here to
12 Naknek, it costs you 1,000 bucks at least to go down and
13 go fishing, plus everything else.

14 And I'm not against Pebble. I think people, if they
15 are offered \$100,000 jobs, why would they turn it away?
16 To me, I never had a \$100,000 job, but these young people
17 need it nowadays. And that's my support.

18 If these people could go out there and learn all this
19 equipment and be safe about it, why not let it happen?
20 Plus I'm sure that they are not going to go out and just
21 dump things all over. They have a lot of safety things
22 now.

23 I went to a project one time up in Canada. It looked
24 similar to what they are going to have here, and it's --
25 they are only, like, three miles away from the mine, and

1 they have a -- they had the Fraser River. That's right
2 next door. They don't kill the fish. So I don't know,
3 you know, who is saying that they are going to kill our
4 fish. I'm sure they are not.

5 But another thing that concerned me is, like, the
6 hunting and fishing where they are putting the road is
7 some place that's right where everybody goes with their
8 commercial boats and everything else, but we have a lot of
9 people we have to think about than just ourself. But I'm
10 an elder, and I know the young generation needs to have
11 something besides what they are doing now. And you know,
12 all these people that are here, they understand. They
13 lived a life just like I have. And I'm 78 years old, and
14 I'm proud.

15 And I worked hard all my life, and we didn't get paid
16 what they are offering now. So I'm sure that these young
17 generations need that experience and training.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Thank you. Keith
20 Jensen.

21 MR. KEITH JENSEN: Hello. My name is
22 Keith Jensen. I'm from Pedro Bay. I do not agree with
23 development of the Pebble Mine. I believe it is a risk to
24 our natural resources and our subsistence way of life. I
25 am concerned that the loss of water from the streams and

1 the aquifer that feeds the streams will hurt the salmon
2 spawn. The threat of contamination during the
3 transportation of materials on the road corridor over the
4 rivers and streams and across the lake is too great. And
5 at the end of the mine's life, we will forever live with
6 the threat of contamination from the tailing ponds and dam
7 failures.

8 The idea of a year-round operation of an icebreaking
9 vessel and crossing Lake Iliamna is very concerning, too.
10 How devastating would an accident be in such a sensitive
11 ecosystem that is responsible for such a large portion of
12 the world's wild red salmon? Will this affect our
13 population of freshwater seal? Will they be drawn to the
14 open water instead of the natural areas they go to during
15 the times when the lake is frozen, putting them at risk of
16 being hit by a vessel and putting our population at risk,
17 depleting yet another valuable subsistence resource people
18 rely on?

19 This open scar across the lake during the winter
20 months would also negatively impact our travel on the lake
21 to traditional subsistence gathering locations and create
22 dangerous situations for travel, as the lake is a highway
23 used for visiting family and friends around the lake.
24 Lake Iliamna is a magical place with a diverse ecosystem
25 that is not yet completely understood. The lake holds

1 mysteries not yet explained.

2 While I do believe economic development is important
3 and necessary, I believe even stronger that the
4 development of this particular mine in this sensitive
5 location is an accident waiting to happen.

6 Please do not allow this mine to move forward and
7 destroy these natural resources and our subsistence way of
8 life.

9 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Ben Foss.

10 MR. BEN FOSS: Thank you for allowing us
11 to comment again, such as many times we've done so.

12 I'm from Pedro Bay and lived there for most of my
13 life and raised my children there. I liked it and it was
14 wonderful. And we do need a change, you know. We need
15 the economic development, but I don't believe this is it,
16 not now. I think it's coming a little too fast. I don't
17 like this fast thing we are doing here with a 30-day
18 thing. I don't understand that. It's not going -- it's
19 not going to make their mine go any faster. You know,
20 another 60 days, that doesn't make a difference.

21 Other than that, I just -- I don't approve of it, not
22 at this time. And that's just the way I feel.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Kara Jensen.

25 MS. KARLA JENSEN: My name is Karla Jensen

1 from Pedro Bay. I believe in a land that is healthy to
2 sustain my subsistence way of living, where I can eat the
3 fish in the lake without worry, the meat from the animals,
4 the berries, the plants, and the birds. I was taught to
5 respect this land. It doesn't belong to us. We are only
6 caretakers.

7 Imagine handing your child a bucket, telling him go
8 get water from the lake. If that lake was glistening with
9 oil and odd colors, would you still tell him to drink it
10 anyway? Of course not. It makes me sick to my stomach to
11 even think that something as simple as drinking water from
12 the lake could possibly be dangerous to us.

13 We teach our children to respect this land, this
14 food, this lake, everything that it provides. I have a
15 grandchild to teach what I was taught, what to gather from
16 the land and what to gather from the lake for our food,
17 for our subsistence way of life. I will not look the
18 other way when I feel that is being threatened. I will
19 not be silent and hope that it goes away. I will not be
20 swayed with financial gain. There is always another way
21 around that. Our land and what we do is not worth money.

22 We owe it to ourselves and to our future generations
23 to protect this land, this lake, the whole Bristol Bay
24 area. There isn't a spare one laying around that we have
25 for a backup. This is the only one that we have.

1 The effects of an open pit mine are beyond what we
2 can wrap our minds around. The devastating amount of
3 materials that could possibly be moved across the lake are
4 staggering. Just one thing could go wrong and completely
5 destroy this land and this lake. Is that a chance that I
6 want to take? I really don't. A caretaker is just that.
7 Take care of what you are given.

8 Years ago I saw an advertisement on TV about an old
9 Indian guy. He was in his full regalia. Looking over the
10 land with a single tear running down his cheek at the
11 devastation of all the garbage that he saw running
12 everywhere, I thought, poor old guy, sure glad that isn't
13 us. Now I feel like that old guy, watching all this,
14 imagining what if that was me some day looking out over
15 the lake thinking about what had happened? I don't like
16 it. I cannot imagine what life would be like without this
17 land and this lake that I take for granted.

18 I would never walk into your house, open up your
19 fridge and pee all over your food, so why would I want
20 Pebble to do it to me? I don't. I want this for my
21 future generations.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Molly Dischner.

24 MS. MOLLY DISCHNER: I'll wait.

25 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Samantha Herrick.

1 MS. SAMANTHA HERRICK: I'll do it later.

2 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Alex Wassillie.

3 MR. ALEX WASSILLIE: I don't like looking
4 at the wall anytime, but I like to face you guys. I like
5 to face you guys. You know, I'm -- I'm for this gold mine
6 because of our kids. I'm not thinking about myself. I'm
7 thinking about the generations. You, yourself, the ones
8 that are against the gold mine, are thinking about
9 yourself only. You're not thinking about -- it takes me
10 60 years to have this cancer, and that's -- I'm willing to
11 talk to you guys about it. You know, I like to have all
12 the people working instead of the ones that are against
13 the gold mine with their money in their pocket and
14 thinking about their own self, their own self, not nobody
15 else.

16 You know, there is a lot of people all over this
17 world that have no jobs just like anybody else. They live
18 day-by-day in a ten-by-ten room where they stay. But
19 still, we still have to approve what we got to do. You
20 know, we have to improve some place, not looking at
21 anybody else saying, I don't want this gold mine. I don't
22 want this gold mine. And they don't have no explanation.
23 No explanation.

24 I've got kids and their grandkids. How they going to
25 grow up? You know, there is lots of people in here

1 that -- from different villages. I don't like to talk to
2 the wall over here or anybody else. I like to face you
3 guys.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Lisa Reimers
6 [pronunciation].

7 MS. LISA REIMERS: Reimers.

8 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Reimers. Sorry.

9 MS. LISA REIMERS: My name is Lisa
10 Reimers. I'm an INL board member. We own -- INL owns
11 67,000 acres near Pebble. We have been very fortunate to
12 see jobs and the economy here in Iliamna due to Pebble.
13 We have not seen the negative impacts like everybody is
14 stating, and we are glad to see that Army Corps is moving
15 ahead to see if this can be done safely.

16 This is our home, and we still subsist. And I like
17 the concerns of Alex and Greg of how they brought up about
18 subsistence, and even Keith, you know, about the things
19 about the lake and everything. That's important to us.

20 But like Alex said, we do need jobs. We need an
21 economy because people are moving out. And we would like
22 to see our kids have a good future and a good education.
23 And in order to do that, you need an economy. You need
24 jobs, but if it only can be done safely. And we hope
25 that's what you guys will look at.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Andrew Wassillie.

3 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Anecia?

4 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Anecia.

5 MS. ANECIA WASSILLIE: My name is Anecia
6 Wassillie. I'm from Newhalen, but I was born in Kokhanok.
7 And I have a lot of pros and cons about the Pebble Mine,
8 but the cons are that I'm scared like just any -- like the
9 rest of our people about our fish, but I'm also -- I see a
10 lot of young people that don't have jobs and they are
11 living with their parents. And it's pretty awfully hard
12 because I have some living with me. And they don't have
13 jobs. Maybe part time. And some don't even have jobs or
14 they have to travel a long ways. And I know like we do --

15 You know, we have been living off subsistence way of
16 life for a long time, but we also have been living off
17 welfare for a long time for most of our people, most of
18 our younger people. And they don't have to work, and they
19 live off welfare. What if welfare is taken away from us?
20 And I see -- you know, one of my kids do live on welfare,
21 and she has a whole bunch of kids. And if she don't get
22 her welfare in a month or so, she have to wait till she
23 get it. And I look around her cupboards and I say, how
24 come there is hardly anything to eat, you know, because --
25 and then all of a sudden they get their welfare, they have

1 a lot of food to eat.

2 But we are lucky we have subsistence like fish,
3 moose, anything to eat here; but sometimes we don't catch,
4 you know, moose, but we have a lot of fish. And it's been
5 like this for a long time. I think I remember as a little
6 girl a lot of things, even just natural phenomenon, I
7 guess, you would call it, that sometimes the shortage of
8 moose, caribou was really scarce at times, and a lot of
9 times we have really lots of fish.

10 And I remember one time -- a couple times, in fact,
11 that even there was fish before, we have to -- I came home
12 from school and I looked in the -- I asked mom what's for
13 lunch, and she said, it's on the table. And I looked.
14 There was, like, fish eggs. And I said, Mom, they are
15 eggs. And she said, well, that's what we got to eat.
16 Eat. And I said, oh, okay. So I wasn't -- I never really
17 grew up to be picky about what I eat for food. I'll eat
18 anything I could, even what people offer me.

19 But we have to work together on this. Some people
20 need jobs. Like my husband and I try to still work at our
21 old age. And he has retirement. He's still paying for
22 his -- we are still paying for our house. We don't have
23 that free housing, you know, some of us Native people do.
24 And so we need -- you know, we need jobs. Not just us.
25 Our kids need jobs. And I see other people need jobs.

1 And just -- I have been working for Pebble for a long
2 time. And I was doing really good and I didn't worry
3 about my payments and everything. Now it went away for a
4 couple years, and now I was thinking, boy, I was falling
5 behind, getting worried, and now it's coming back. I got
6 all excited and I was thinking, oh, gee, maybe I'll get to
7 catch up on some of my bills.

8 And I try to help out my -- you know, my kids, too,
9 because most of us do, you know. In all of the villages,
10 I'm sure, all the parents try to help their kids. You
11 know, they have a lot of -- we have lots of grandkids, and
12 so we don't want them to go, you know, hungry sometimes or
13 do without. And we try to help them out. Or they need to
14 pay for their car. But now when they have these jobs,
15 they get to work, and then they don't have to depend on us
16 so much.

17 And I know that I had to -- when Pebble went away, I
18 had to try to work at the Slope, and that's a long ways.
19 That's like Point Barrow. You know where Point Barrow is.
20 And it is a faraway place to work. And I noticed that a
21 lot of young people, they try to go out to go to school
22 and get a better job or move away from home to get a job.
23 And right now my son works down at Washington. He's
24 pretty far away. But it would be nice to have, you know,
25 these jobs available for our kids nearby.

1 And I notice that even from the Bristol Bay area,
2 someplace I see -- you know I worked for -- like I said, I
3 was one of the first workers to do housekeeping for
4 Pebble, and I seen a lot of people from other villages,
5 from New Stuyahok, Koliganek, Naknek come to work. And
6 they were young people, and they looked happy. They were
7 working. And now I see lots that are jobless and, like,
8 they don't want to do anything. And some tried to get
9 jobs, but they can't hold onto it or have other, you know,
10 issues.

11 But having our jobs nearby our home was pretty good
12 because I see a lot of good improvements on those kids
13 that had jobs. And now we have a lot of kids with --
14 kids' kids and staying with their parents.

15 That's all. Thank you.

16 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Lorene Anelon.

17 MS. LORENE ANELON: My name is Lorene
18 Anelon. I'm president of Iliamna Natives Limited. We are
19 here to let the Army Corps of Engineers know that we would
20 like you guys to allow Pebble to go through with a fair
21 process. What we see is we -- what we saw here was an
22 opportunity for people to get jobs. Nobody depended on
23 the welfare. They were paying for their own vehicles,
24 food and everything else to subsist. And that's what we
25 saw as the positive side.

1 Now, as I watched the video, I have the same concerns
2 that everybody else is voicing about our subsistence way
3 of life, how they are going to cross the lake, because in
4 the winter our people do cross to Kokhanok, Pedro Bay,
5 Igiugig on the lake. And that's our form of
6 transportation, you know, to go get our wood, our food.
7 Like people go ice fishing. They go moose hunting. And
8 we would like to see that protected for the people.

9 And also I know that there is a lot of people that go
10 and travel saying that this is bad, and they show a lot of
11 videos on everything bad about Pebble. And we don't want
12 our land to be destroyed. We are here to protect it, but
13 we know in another hand, it's on State lands. And we want
14 to make sure that the State of Alaska knows that they need
15 to help us protect what we have. And like everybody says,
16 we are the care keepers of our land. And I would like to
17 see the Army Corps make sure that it's protected for us,
18 for the future.

19 All my kids don't live here. They live out of state.
20 They have -- they have gotten an education. They choose
21 to live in a bigger city because to them there is more to
22 do. And this is home to me. I've lived here all my life,
23 and I don't think I'm going to go anywhere, but my kids
24 love to come and visit me because it's quiet. And they
25 get to do the traveling on the lake, Honda rides. This is

1 freedom.

2 But we know that if Pebble comes, everything is going
3 to change. We know that. But are we ready? All -- but I
4 do know that we want to see an economy in our community.
5 We do see the pros here, but we -- we know there is a lot
6 of cons.

7 Thank you. And I hope that you bring it back to the
8 State.

9 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Joe Chythlook.

10 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Chythlook.

11 MR. JOE CHYTHLOOK: Good afternoon. Thank
12 you again for the opportunity to say a few words. Been to
13 several hearings already. But I just wanted to restate
14 several things that I think our shareholders that I
15 represent -- I'm -- for the record, I guess, I'm Joe
16 Chythlook. I chair the BBNC board, and many of our
17 shareholders live within Bristol Bay. Some are out. But
18 we have about 10,000 shareholders, and about probably
19 4,000 still live within the region.

20 And in 2009 after we did several polls with our
21 shareholders about how they felt about the Pebble Mine, we
22 decided as a board to oppose the project. And since then
23 we have been to all kinds of meetings, I guess, to share
24 the voice of the majority of our shareholders who placed
25 us, I guess, in the positions where we were at BBNC board

1 and our management team. And we have spent many years
2 advocating for the majority of our shareholders that have
3 opposed the Pebble Mine.

4 And there is some reasons that we do that for. We
5 try not to do anything by vacuum. We make sure that we
6 hear everybody.

7 And I guess in my past life before Pebble Mine came,
8 I worked for State of Alaska and I worked with most
9 everybody within the region on fish and game issues. But
10 the concern that we hear over and over again from many
11 people that are concerned about the Pebble Mine, and as
12 I've stated in other places, first of all, I guess we want
13 the Corps to realize that most of the communities in both
14 the Nushagak and Kvichak river drainages are downriver
15 from the proposed Pebble Mine. And so Igiugig, Levelock,
16 Naknek, King Salmon on the Kvichak side are below the
17 site, and also Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Ekwok, Portage
18 Creek, Dillingham, Aleknagik, Clark's Point and Ekuk are
19 also below the Pebble Mine site.

20 Therefore, we feel that there is -- all of these
21 villages are at some risk of some contamination, either
22 from the normal operation of the mine or due to an
23 accidental event. This would not only threaten the
24 economic livelihood of most everyone in these communities,
25 but it would also affect their subsistence lifestyles and

1 the health, as well.

2 So we are hoping that the EIS should carefully
3 evaluate the long-term economic and subsistence
4 consequences of the project. And that's the message that
5 I hope to convey.

6 And then one thing that I firmly believe is that
7 there is no need demonstrated for the Pebble Mine
8 resource. There are alternate sources in the world of
9 gold and copper, and any claim by Pebble that the mine
10 will promote U.S. mineral independence is false. Pebble,
11 from what we can tell, tends to ship all minerals to
12 markets in Asia, and very, very minimal, I guess, was
13 being utilized by our country.

14 And again, the EIS should carefully consider the
15 unique environment in which the Pebble Mine is proposed --
16 where the Pebble Mine is proposed. In the opinion of both
17 Bristol Bay, of whom many are shareholders, Alaska
18 residents, the location of the proposed Pebble Mine is in
19 the wrong place. The mine site and the large drainages
20 downriver of the mine sits largely on wetlands and
21 entirely hydrologically -- which are entirely
22 hydrologically connected. And there is no barrier between
23 the surface and groundwaters and different water bodies.

24 So we are urging that the EIS consider that the water
25 quality in the region is pristine and perfectly suited for

1 the spawning, rearing and life cycles of salmon, a
2 uniquely very sensitive species. Therefore, any
3 disruption to this balance would pose a destruction to a
4 near perfect habitat.

5 And then we have heard many people about the
6 potential impacts that the mine may have to our
7 subsistence resources in the area, as well. And I think
8 information is there that most of us depend on the natural
9 resources within our areas for subsistence, but the bulk
10 of this in most villages downriver, probably up here, too,
11 is salmon.

12 So I guess for some of these reasons is why we feel
13 that careful attention needs to be given before any
14 permitting process takes place because the effect -- the
15 negative effect of the mine, while a few jobs may be
16 created for a time, will have a -- I think mostly --
17 mostly a detrimental effect on the way people have lived
18 in this area for years.

19 So thank you again for the opportunity to say a few
20 words.

21 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Russell Nelson.

22 Mr. Russell NELSON: Thank you, Shane. My
23 name is Russell Nelson. I'm a resident of Bristol Bay. I
24 was born and raised there. When I got this packet, I
25 started reading the stuff that we are supposed to be

1 talking about.

2 So specific to the EIS concerns, I wanted to talk
3 about the north fork of the Kuktuli River where they talk
4 about putting everything in and leaving the pyrite on
5 location above the Kuktuli River. Pyrite is a bad actor.
6 It's a sulfite. And the problem with that is you have to
7 take care of it not for 10 years, 100 years, 1,000 years,
8 10,000 years.

9 I mean, a million years from now if somebody was
10 maintaining that pile so it wasn't making acid generation
11 go down the north fork of the Kuktuli to harm the king
12 salmon in it, they would still have to be doing a good job
13 of taking care of it. You would have to have it
14 earthquake proof and flood proof and everything else. And
15 when you look at how long Knight Peisold's dam lasted, the
16 same people that were designing the Pebble project
17 tailings facilities, and you saw how short of a time
18 period that was, it wasn't even one generation, and that
19 thing opened up and flooded, ruined some river, made some
20 people carry bottled water to their villages downstream in
21 Canada.

22 So I'm really concerned. I hope that the EIS really
23 takes that into a huge -- figures out how -- they say are
24 there things -- ways that you could make it so it's better
25 for them to build a mine. And one thing that would be

1 better if they were going to build a mine and there was no
2 stopping it, then make them take that pyrite out of here.
3 Go put it someplace where it would never harm the
4 environment, so someplace where they could prove that they
5 could store it forever and ever and not just for 10,000
6 years, but longer than that. I'm hoping that my family
7 carries on, or at least the residents of Bristol Bay are
8 here 10,000 from now, unless Jesus comes first, and then
9 we won't have to worry about anything then.

10 My subsistence concerns is that dewatering of the
11 north fork of the Kuktuli again. That's 25 percent of our
12 spawners for our king salmon on the Nushagak. And that's
13 where I fish. I have a subsistence site, and I feed a
14 huge extended family. Not everybody goes fishing, but
15 everybody shows up at the cleaning table. So I go out and
16 harvest. And I always have relatives and friends come
17 with me and we go harvest king salmon, and we come back to
18 home. My parents' cleaning table gets full. Mine gets
19 full. And the fish goes to a whole bunch of different
20 places.

21 We really depend on the king salmon for the protein.
22 It's the first fish of the year. It's always the best.
23 When you get your first king salmon, that's got to be the
24 best tasting fish all year because you've been waiting for
25 it for a while. That's what we make all of our dry strips

1 out of.

2 The other thing that concerns me, too, is that
3 subsistence for -- and I heard about the moose, and I
4 agree; you don't want to put a road right through your
5 moose hunting area. You won't be hunting moose there
6 anymore. And usually they like to make restrictions from
7 hunting so far from a road, too. Fish and Game is really
8 good at that. So if they build a road, then they say,
9 okay, you can't hunt within one or two miles of this road
10 corridor. Guess what? You have just given up all your
11 moose hunting habitat.

12 And I remember growing up when I was younger and just
13 in high school and coming out of high school, we used to
14 go up and hunt between Dillingham and Stuyahok Hills.
15 Sometimes we were clear up in the Stuyahok Hills, and we
16 always heard about the great caribou. Caribou really came
17 from this part of the country and came down to our area
18 and then disappeared back up here again. Their calving
19 grounds are up here.

20 But with all the traffic that they have had there
21 since they started flying all the helicopters and
22 everything and everybody has been over there exploring, I
23 really haven't seen any caribou herds running through
24 there. If somebody has seen one, I'd sure like to know
25 where it's at. I've been missing the caribou. They did

1 transplant a herd on the Nushagak Peninsula and you can
2 get a limited amount there, but we don't like to be
3 limited when it comes to subsistence. We like to fill our
4 freezers.

5 The pit really concerns me, the open pit. When they
6 let it turn back into a lake when they are all done and
7 leave here, when you look at the Berkeley pit, which
8 really is high sulfites just like this area is -- and a
9 geologist -- a geologist told me that, you know, don't
10 worry about the tailings so much. You have to make sure
11 that you can take care of them forever, but you can do
12 that if you have the money and the willpower to do that.

13 The problem is the pits like the Berkeley pit. When
14 it starts filling up, before it fills up you have water
15 and you have air, and with the minerals that are left,
16 it's uneconomical minerals that you are not going to sell.
17 So you quit mining. And so that puts the acid -- the
18 pyrite -- the iron comes out, the sulfur goes down into
19 the hole and then it starts eating up all the metals, and
20 all of a sudden you this get toxic soup. The Berkeley pit
21 is one of the largest Superfund sites in the United
22 States. And the Berkeley pit will be small compared to
23 this thing. But it still has a lot of the same mineral
24 type.

25 Why would we want to have the biggest Superfund site

1 in America? Is that how we're going to employ all of our
2 kids? Because that lake is threatening the Clark Fork
3 River down there, and people are worried about it.

4 All the -- Anaconda -- I talked to a college
5 student -- a college class in Dillon, Montana. And a
6 college student was there, and when I got done we were
7 talking about the Pebble Mine, the project. And he said,
8 you know, my family is from Anaconda. Just my
9 grandparents live there. My parents moved out. My
10 grandparents can't leave because their house is worth
11 nothing, so they can't sell it and leave.

12 They have to truck all the water into Anaconda
13 because the pyrite -- not the pyrite -- the sulfites got
14 into the water from mining. And so trucking water in,
15 your house is worthless, you can't move out. All the kids
16 have moved out, by the way. When you start doing stuff
17 like that, all the kids will be gone and just the old
18 people that can't afford to move away, they will be there.

19 So that's a real concern. Let's not leave that pit
20 looking like the Berkeley pit when it's done. Whatever
21 design you guys allow them to make, make sure that doesn't
22 happen. The pyrite storage facility, again, is -- it's --
23 if they are going to put it up on the north fork of the --
24 on the drainage of the north fork of the Koptuli -- if
25 they decided they wanted to put it on up on the Upper

1 Talarik Creek, I would be over here objecting and trying
2 to educate the people just as much as how dangerous and
3 how bad of an actor the pyrite is. That's the bogeyman in
4 this whole pit.

5 So please, make sure that pyrite is not even in
6 Bristol Bay if they are going to make that pit, and figure
7 out how they are going to line the pit before -- stop the
8 oxidation of what's left in the walls.

9 I think they have too big of problems. I don't think
10 this mine can be successfully permitted and at the same
11 time protect Bristol Bay. You may be able to permit it if
12 you have enough money and enough lawyers and geniuses that
13 know how to tell you something that's not true, but I
14 don't think that you can really permit this mine and
15 protect Bristol Bay.

16 Thank you, Shane.

17 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Norman Van Vactor.

18 MR. NORMAN VAN VACTOR: Thank you, Shane.
19 And thanks to the Corps for being here today and doing
20 this. And also thank you, by the way, for extending the
21 comment period, as well, and expanding the communities
22 that are able to testify.

23 I'm here today. My day job -- and I'm very fortunate
24 to have a day job. I'm the chief executive officer of
25 Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, and I live

1 in Dillingham, Alaska. But I'm here today. I'm here as
2 Norman Van Vactor. I hope to testify in Dillingham on
3 behalf of our corporation when you are in Dillingham.

4 I came to this issue -- I'm terrible at dates --
5 probably 15, 16 years ago. At the time I was the general
6 manager for a large seafood company, but my family -- most
7 of my family came from the Black Hills of South Dakota,
8 and several of them were gold miners. And at the time it
9 was a lousy year. The fish prices were 40 cents a pound.
10 And I heard this company called Northern Dynasty had just
11 acquired the leases, the options, to develop or explore
12 the site. I knew nothing, really, about it. But who was
13 I to be critical of a potential project that potentially
14 would bring economy and jobs to our region?

15 But I heard that this group had just opened an
16 office. Northern Dynasty opened an office in Anchorage
17 and were available for community presentations. So I
18 called up and said, I would love to host a community
19 presentation in Dillingham. And they said, we would love
20 to come out and give you a presentation. When can you do
21 this? I said, well, things are kind of closing up around
22 here, but probably sooner rather than later. They
23 scheduled a presentation two weeks out.

24 So it was the fall of the year, and I put up some
25 fliers around town, but unfortunately I got a really small

1 turnout. About seven people showed up. But one of the
2 seven people that showed up was Jeff Skrade, who at the
3 time was the regional fisheries manager for the west side
4 of Bristol Bay fishery. And a guy named James Buell, who
5 at the time was the marine biologist consultant for
6 Northern Dynasty, was the lead presenter.

7 So he came out and was very gracious and very nice
8 and set up this PowerPoint and gave about a 45-minute
9 presentation to the seven or eight of us that were in this
10 meeting. And really it was the very, very front end of
11 the very development, obviously. And nothing terribly
12 exciting in this presentation.

13 But at the end of it he was boxing things up, and
14 Jeff Skrade walked up and said, James, what concerns you
15 about this potential project if you have any concerns at
16 all? And Dr. Buell said, well, Jeff, it's all about the
17 water. He says, we got water everywhere up there. They
18 call Minnesota the land of 10,000 lakes on their license
19 plates. Bristol Bay and this region here could be called
20 the land of a gazillion lakes because there is water
21 everywhere.

22 And Jeff said, I realize that. But what
23 specifically? And Dr. Buell said, well, we put some
24 nitrate tracers in the upper Kaktuli, and you would expect
25 to see those tracer elements show up downriver, right?

1 You know, what flows downhill. But what we are finding,
2 we are finding those tracer elements are not only downhill
3 in the Kuktuli, but also we are finding them in river
4 tributaries 180 degrees and river valleys way in the
5 opposite direction.

6 So he said that's concerning because that speaks to
7 the interconnection of the hydrology in the region. We
8 have a water table under there that might have multiple
9 rivers, but we've got one common water table.

10 So I couldn't really sleep that night. And I'm a
11 pilot. I woke up about 3:30 in the morning. It was a
12 beautiful morning. As you know, we have long days. And I
13 hopped in my airplane and flew up to Frying Pan Lake. I'm
14 somebody who's flown this areas dozens, if not hundreds,
15 of times back and forth to Anchorage in a small airplane,
16 but I've never looked at the region or looked at the
17 topography or the geology from that perspective.

18 I got up here and I looked and flew in circles for
19 about 40 minutes and flew back home. He was right. It
20 really is about the water. As other speakers have talked
21 about, this is a scenario where remediation and protection
22 would have to happen in perpetuity. And the track record
23 sadly speaks for itself.

24 I would also remind everybody that one of the very
25 first proposals that Northern Dynasty put on the table was

1 actually deepwater disposal of the tailings directly into
2 Iliamna. Directly into Lake Iliamna. And how crazy is
3 that? So what we have fully expected all along is to see,
4 well, we are not going to be that bad of an actor. We are
5 going to do things a little differently. We are not going
6 to be that big of a mine. We are going to be a smaller
7 mine. But at the end of the day, this will be a big
8 project if folks allow it to proceed. And unfortunately,
9 the vast majority of the benefits will not be for this
10 region. They will leave the region. But the problems of
11 this project will remain in perpetuity in this region.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Question mark by Margie
14 Olympic.

15 MS. MARGIE OLYMPIC: Well, I sent my
16 speech in already -- I mean, my letter. But I will just
17 go ahead and read off my letter to you guys because I
18 already sent it in.

19 My name is Margie Olympic, born in Dillingham, raised
20 in Koliganek on the Nushagak River. I have been living in
21 Newhalen for the past 16 years. My husband and I have
22 four children and one granddaughter. I was raised on a
23 commercial fishing boat in Dillingham, but in the day,
24 back in the day we used to make enough money to support
25 the entire family. Nowadays fishing can only buy a few

1 groceries or just to catch up on bills.

2 My husband was raised on a commercial fishing boat
3 and continues to commercial fish every year in Naknek,
4 which I know that he will never give up because it's in
5 his blood. But he also continues to hold three jobs to
6 make the same amount of income as I do for my one position
7 with Pebble.

8 I am one of only a few currently working for Pebble
9 Partnership. I have been working for Pebble since 2006,
10 12 years. I am very grateful that I have a job that I
11 could put food on the table, pay bills, have private
12 insurance, get what my kids need and want, and enjoy the
13 luxuries of a car, four-wheeler, boat, snowmachine, new
14 furniture. And the best part is I don't have to get up
15 and leave my community. My kids and I -- my kids and I
16 stay home and live.

17 I know a lot of friends and family members that move
18 out of their own hometown to work in the nearest town hub;
19 for instance, the Nushagak and Togiak area and Dillingham.
20 And as for the lake area, that would be Anchorage or
21 Kenai.

22 Why take away a project that would be built safely
23 and have people from the Bristol Bay region work a shift
24 and go home to their families? The cost of living in
25 Bristol Bay is outrageous. \$20 a gallon of milk. Having

1 the Pebble Partnership with employment would help our
2 communities thrive and support their families.

3 With growing up on a subsistence lifestyle, fishing
4 is a part of our life. It is a part of who we are. I
5 take pride from where I come from and what I was taught
6 growing up, but I also know the value of having a job and
7 supporting my family at this age. Fishing does not and
8 could not support me and my family 12 months out of the
9 year.

10 Every community hunter needs some form of gas-powered
11 motor vehicle to a subsistence way of life. It is not the
12 way it's always been. Times have changed. Reality is
13 that we live in a world of a high demand of technology.
14 We need the mineral resources to make them. Everything
15 that we use today needs some form of minerals to make.
16 Pebble Partnership can be a good thing for individuals,
17 businesses, opportunities for new businesses, the borough,
18 the region, the state itself. Don't take away a good
19 opportunity for our local people to work and live and
20 raise a family.

21 If this project can be done safely, I'm all for it.
22 We need to give Pebble a chance to move forward and do it
23 right. Be a voice at the table and steer the changes for
24 development and growth for us here in Alaska. Let the
25 science do its part and take every step to help mold the

1 development of change within our region. Please take into
2 account that this area has been highly studied with
3 leading scientists backing their work. These studies have
4 the importance of fish and water that are evaluated to
5 build a project safely.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Agnes Ryinski [ph].
8 It's marked as a question mark. Okay. Chip Embretson,
9 question mark.

10 MR. CHIP EMBRETSON: I didn't put my name
11 down for it.

12 MR. SHANE MCCOY: It was a question mark,
13 so I thought I'd ask. Tim.

14 MR. TIM ANELON: I see a lot of friends
15 and family here. My dad used to trap, hunt the Kuktuli.
16 We have land over there, Native allotments. I hear people
17 talking, oh, we fish over there, we hunt over there.
18 That's our land. That's our land, too. I don't want
19 people coming to my land, my -- where I have grown up and
20 tell me how I can and can't live. That's the main thing.
21 I don't want somebody telling me how I can and can't live
22 on my -- my land because when I go travel around, I could
23 travel at night. I know where I'm going. But when I go
24 to you guys' land, I don't know where I'm going, so I
25 can't travel at night. You guys can. That's the problem

1 with us. We are all trying to fight over land.

2 I'm a commercial fisherman. I subsist. I don't have
3 to, but that's what I do. I teach my kids that. My
4 grandkids all know about subsistence. You guys all sit up
5 here and talk about, oh, we subsist. We have to live off
6 of fish. We do, too.

7 The best thing is -- we don't get king salmon,
8 though. We get salmon, and as soon as we taste the
9 salmon, that's the best thing we think is the best. The
10 Kvichak fish, when it comes up that river, that's what we
11 think is the best fish in the world. That's the biggest
12 run. We are the caretakers of this lake. We know where
13 all the fish go to, what river they come out of. You guys
14 don't.

15 Like Pedro Bay, I know the people at Pedro Bay know
16 where all the creeks are. They name all those creeks. I
17 don't know all those creeks' names, but I know where the
18 fish are. Same thing down here. People name creeks that
19 I wouldn't even know what those names are. They just draw
20 them out on a map. Oh, we are going to name that thing
21 Black Lake. I have no idea where Black Lake is. I tell
22 you what: There is a name Black Lake out there somewhere.

23 But everybody goes around and talks about how they
24 commercial fish or they subsist. We do the same thing
25 here. We all do the same thing. We teach our families

1 the same thing you guys do. We all want our kids to grow
2 up eating fish, fresh water. We all want fresh water.

3 But I tell you what I see. My boys, they all work up
4 at the Slope. Three-quarters of them work at the Slope.
5 I don't see them for half of their life. I want to see
6 them all the time. If there is jobs here, they would be
7 here working, but there are not. There is no jobs here.
8 And if there is jobs here, they would be working so their
9 kids could be able to do whatever they want.

10 Right now they are missing their families, too. It's
11 hard to see them growing up, my grandkids growing up, and
12 they can't see their dad because they are out working. I
13 don't know if you guys see that or not, but that's what I
14 see. I have to see that all the time. My kids, one kid
15 is leaving, one kid is coming back. And then my grandkids
16 are sitting there, oh, my dad will be gone. He will be
17 back in three weeks. That's a long time. I don't care
18 what anybody says. That is a long time.

19 I know they are not the only ones. There is a lot of
20 people that work up at the Slope for a living. But that's
21 a long time to be away from your family. My kids say if
22 there is jobs here, I'd rather be here to be around my
23 family.

24 I don't support Pebble Mine, but I'd rather see my
25 kids here. And that's all I have to say.

1 MR. SHANE MCCOY: First of all, again, I'd
2 like to thank everyone who stood up and provided their
3 testimony. Thank you very much on behalf of the Army, the
4 United States Army Corps of Engineers. That is the end of
5 the list of folks that wanted to provide testimony in
6 front of a large group. So at this time, if you would
7 like to provide testimony to our court reporter in
8 private, this is the opportunity.

9 Again, I'd like to thank you all. And again, I'll
10 remind you that there are other opportunities to provide
11 comments in the scoping period which, again, closes the
12 29th of June. You can provide them in writing, mail them
13 to me, drop them off at the sign-in table. You can
14 provide the comments on the website, which is
15 pebbleprojecteis.com, or the computers that are here.

16 And again, I'd like to remind you that people -- on
17 the website there is an interactive map so you can put a
18 dot on the map and tag it with a specific location for
19 which you are making your comments, or you can come and
20 provide a comment to our court reporter.

21 Thank you very much, guys.

22 MS. KIMBERLY WILLIAMS: My name is
23 Kimberly Williams, and I made comments in Kokhanok. I'm
24 offering additional comments to the scoping process that
25 are different from those.

1 For the record, I'm a Bristol Bay Native Corporation
2 board of director and a member chief of the Curyung tribe
3 in Dillingham. I have a Bachelor of Science in biological
4 sciences and a master's degree in public administration.

5 In the past I worked for a tribal and marine mammal
6 commission that focused on sea otters and Stellar sea
7 lions. I'm concerned that the Amakdedori port as
8 identified on Pebble Limited Partnership's application is
9 located in the critical habitat for sea otters and belugas
10 in Cook Inlet. I would ask the Corps to go back to Pebble
11 and look at the alternatives to mitigate for the transport
12 of equipment and materials into the site and the export of
13 ore.

14 I'm concerned with the dredging that is located on
15 figure 3 in the Pebble project EIS. Any time there is
16 dredging, there will be impacts to marine mammals and any
17 fish species in the waters around the port. So this is
18 what concerns me, this dredging area [indicating].

19 Additional comments include concerns with the natural
20 gas pipeline from Cook Inlet over the haul road through
21 Iliamna Lake and up to the mine site. I would ask the
22 Corps to look at, as an alternative, the use of the Donlin
23 gas pipeline and bringing that gas pipeline down to the
24 Pebble site where they need natural gas for the project.
25 It was this past summer that a gas well in Cook Inlet was

1 discharging gas into the inlet. It concerns me that we
2 are going to add an underground pipeline into a lake that
3 we have very little baseline information on.

4 As spoken in previous testimony from others regarding
5 the caribou movement corridor has already suffered from
6 this project when they used helicopters to move equipment
7 to and from the mine site, people have already had social
8 and economic impacts from this project. The voice of the
9 people around the lake about the south and north ferry
10 sites will impact the movement of people and their ability
11 to go to their subsistence sites.

12 And lastly, I am from Dillingham and very concerned
13 with the king salmon that spawn in the Nushagak for some
14 of our king that's based upon in the north fork of the
15 Kuktuli. We are lucky to have these kings that we can
16 share with many families around the region. The placement
17 of a tailings impoundment facility on the north fork
18 directly impacts some of the king salmon spawning grounds.
19 I would ask the Corps to look at what alternatives are
20 available on the placement of tailings impoundment
21 facilities to limit the mitigation to those king salmon
22 spawning on the north fork.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. CHIP EMBRETSON: I guess when it comes
25 to jobs, there is more jobs that can be filled by locals.

1 There will be 1,500 jobs possibly, more jobs than the Lake
2 and Pen Borough has as residents. Housing -- before Tim
3 mentioned the two-week-on/two-week-off way of working, the
4 on-site housing is hard on families, and I would propose
5 off-site housing where they could travel to the mine. And
6 also if the mine shuts down, we might be able to keep some
7 of that housing open so it's not the barracks type housing
8 that would close down with the mine. It would encourage
9 families to move here with their -- with their people or
10 with their workers so that you would have an economy.

11 A economy was talked about, but if everyone is mine
12 based, I don't know what the economy is besides revenue
13 sharing through the borough that would come back to the
14 area. What economy? All services are mine based.

15 You would have to plan for the extension of the mine.
16 Even though they are planning a shutdown now, once the
17 bell has been rung and money has been spent in the area,
18 to take that away -- and even now during exploration it
19 was very -- \$80 million a year, then all of a sudden it
20 went to nothing, and now it's coming back again. I
21 believe it would be unrealistic to think that the mine
22 isn't going to ask for an extension and a pit expansion.

23 As Bristol Bay Native Corporation said, there is no
24 value added to the ore before it leaves our community, so
25 once it's gone, it's gone. The Kenai Peninsula Borough

1 could very well smelt it in their borough. We could move
2 that ore to the Matanuska Valley for manufacturing, and
3 the products could be shipped out of our Anchorage port
4 that's in need of revenue for remodeling the port and for
5 finishing it. So just to get it to deep water and turn it
6 loose to the Asian markets Bristol Bay Native Corporation
7 thought is wrong. There is no value added.

8 When the fishing industry went down, there was a
9 knee-jerk reaction to add value added by a fish processing
10 plant in Anchorage, and that failed. It was too little,
11 too late.

12 The representation to the borough for myself, living
13 in Iliamna for 25 years, the borough recognizes the
14 Iliamna Village Council. They have 30 members. The last
15 census had 109 residents in Iliamna. So about two-thirds
16 of the residents are not represented to the borough
17 through the Iliamna Village Council.

18 I question your government-to-government invites for
19 35 entities that the Corps of Engineers did. I'd like to
20 know who those invites were and if the Port Alsworth
21 improvement -- the Port Alsworth Development Corporation
22 was extended one of those invitations.

23 Also if some of those invitations were to Native
24 entities, they have the same chance to represent
25 themselves through the Lake and Pen Borough that I do.

1 So the State says the borough is my local government,
2 but the borough uses the Iliamna Village Council as my
3 local government. And when I make comments to the
4 borough, I normally get back, run it by the Iliamna
5 Village Council; if they agree, we will look into it. So
6 that is the rub between the borough and me is that they
7 use the village council as my local government.

8 The revenue sharing that will be -- of the tax paid
9 to the borough will be distributed to the Iliamna Village
10 Council as it is now. And it won't be -- the village
11 council has said their purpose is to enhance their tribal
12 membership, not the village at large. If we were to take
13 the housing off of the mine site and put it elsewhere, you
14 would be able to possibly repurpose some of these things
15 after the mine closes in 20 years, rather than closing
16 everything down.

17 Once a road corridor is put in, revegetating it isn't
18 going to keep people off of it, similar to old railroad
19 tracks that have been taken up. That railroad track bed
20 is normally used as a corridor, or old lumber logging
21 roads, once put in, are reused for hunters and people
22 wanting to get into areas that weren't otherwise
23 accessible.

24 The private road to the port is -- should be public.
25 I guess it creates -- will it just be used for Pebble, or

1 will the landowners that are giving them the access for a
2 private road, will they be able to use the road for
3 movement of goods in and out of the borough or Iliamna?
4 That would make -- give them an unfair advantage, unfair
5 advantage, I guess, commercially that some people would be
6 able to use the road, other people wouldn't. And you are
7 going to have to police that road to keep it private.

8 I've heard Northern Dynasty say that they think they
9 can enhance the fishery with their mine, but I don't
10 understand how they could enhance a fishery when they
11 don't understand the animal. We don't know why they come
12 back to the same creek that they left. We don't know what
13 they do when they go to the ocean for five years,
14 necessarily. And so if you don't understand the animal,
15 how do you think you can enhance the fishery?

16 I feel that the Pebble project has given out money
17 and fat service contracts to propel their mine forward. I
18 have a fuel survey here that says IDC developed the
19 partnership to buy fuel wholesale from Homer and delivered
20 to Iliamna, Newhalen, Kokhanok, Pedro Bay rather than wait
21 on the Crowley fall barge, developed a partnership with
22 Pebble as client, have a \$2 million bridge loan with
23 Pebble awaiting long-term loan with USDA, currently
24 selling heating fuel for 4.35 a gallon and unloaded gas
25 for 4.79. I wonder if that \$2 million has ever been

1 repaid. They used that to create unfair advantage and
2 compete against locals.

3 Ray Williams with his Iliamna Transportation Company,
4 they have built a gas/fuel depot that competed against
5 Crowley Marine. They have built a store that's competing
6 against Iliamna Trading Company. All of these companies
7 have been 30-year institutions in the area. And because
8 they don't have a say, we don't necessarily have -- I'm
9 not a borough member. I'm not a Native. So my opinion is
10 disregarded.

11 I'll leave it at that today.

12 MS. MOLLY DISCHNER: I work for United
13 Tribes of Bristol Bay, a consortium of tribal governments
14 organized to protect traditional Yup'ik, Alutiiq and
15 Dena-ina ways of life in Bristol Bay and fight large scale
16 hard rock mines like Pebble.

17 My background is in journalism and history. I
18 believe strongly in research and public information and in
19 robust public engagement and process. I believe in the
20 value of stories and listening to others.

21 I'm not an expert on mine applications, and I'm not
22 an expert on Bristol Bay life the way other people who are
23 testifying are. I don't have the same depth of knowledge
24 about this region. But as far as I can tell, the
25 application Pebble has submitted is woefully incomplete.

1 Before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers moves forward in
2 the EIS process, Pebble should be required to do more
3 research on its plan.

4 We need to see more baseline data on the
5 transportation corridor, including studies of how the lake
6 is used for winter travel and how the frozen lake supports
7 wildlife like waterfowl, salmon smolt and fresh water
8 seals. How will an icebreaking ferry change all of that?

9 We also need to see a complete economic analysis of
10 this plan before anything moves forward. I don't believe
11 the plan will pencil out, but we need to see the costs
12 lined out from the company itself. We need more
13 information, as well, on the Amakdedori port site, its
14 historical use, its value to wildlife as a pristine bay,
15 and what changes a major deepwater port would bring and
16 the traffic that would come with it.

17 We also need a more robust effort to catalog local
18 knowledge and incorporate the plethora of already existing
19 State, federal and private compilation of local knowledge
20 into the mine studies and analysis. Many of those exist,
21 but so far no one is stepping up to put them all together
22 and make sure they are part of the record. It might not
23 be the Army Corps' direct responsibility to do that, but
24 it needs to happen. And if they are leading the process,
25 maybe they need to make sure it happens.

1 Please do not let this EIS process get rushed. The
2 direct, indirect and cumulative effects of a mine must be
3 thoroughly considered, and identifying those effects
4 requires much more work on the permit application before
5 the EIS can even go forward. Please consider telling
6 Pebble to go back and do more research before this goes
7 any farther.

8 Thank you for listening to me and everyone else who
9 has testified.

10 MS. SAMANTHA HERRICK: My name is Samantha
11 Herrick, and I'm from Pedro Bay. I do not support the
12 Pebble Mine. A mine in this area, no matter the size,
13 will negatively affect the Bristol Bay region. Pebble
14 Mine will contaminate the waters and disrupt and kill the
15 salmon life cycle. Subsistence hunting and fishing will
16 be nonexistent. The noise and increased activity to a
17 delicate area will be harmful to our wildlife. I guess
18 Pebble Mine's proposed -- I'm sorry.

19 There are no promises or no guarantees, no possible
20 way to have a safe, clean mine in Bristol Bay region, not
21 now, not ever. Why bet on it? Why put my culture, my way
22 of life on the line? Pebble doesn't care about my home.
23 They are not the ones who live here.

24 (Proceedings adjourned at 6:30 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 April 2018.

MARY A. VAVRIK,
Registered Merit Reporter
Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission Expires: November 5, 2020

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