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PEBBLE PROJECT
SCOPING MEETING
NEW STUYAHOK, ALASKA
Taken April 13, 2018
Commencing at 1:15 p.m.
Volume I - Pages 1 - 79, inclusive

Taken at
Community Building
New Stuyahok, 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 For E3:

17 Patty Murphy
18 Stakeholder

19 Taken by:

20 Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

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

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

2 MR. WASSILLIE GUST, SR.: Okay. We were
3 waiting for Father Alexie to show up here before we
4 started so we can start with a prayer and invocation, but
5 as you all know, there is a potlatch going on, a 40-day
6 memorial for our dear departed sister Suzanna. So with
7 that, those that are here we will start with Christ Has
8 Risen, and we will move forward from there. Okay.

9 (A song was sung.)

10 MR. WASSILLIE GUST, SR.: First of all,
11 thank you all for showing up to come into New Stuyahok.
12 Welcome our guests, the Army Corps of Engineers, those
13 that are from the surrounding villages.

14 As you all know, Pebble Limited Project has been
15 ongoing for Lord knows how many years, and we are
16 continuing to oppose it. And today we are gathered here
17 to give our testimony because the U.S. Corps of Engineers
18 are the ones that are going to be issuing the permit for
19 the project. And we need as much public testimony as we
20 can because this is our land. This is our way of life.
21 This is what sustains us. And we will go from there.

22 So with that, I would like to introduce Shane McCoy,
23 who is the boss, I guess you could say. Don't look like
24 he's a general, but U.S. Corps of Engineers. So we just
25 call him the boss for the time being and we go from there.

1 For those of you -- (speaking in Yup'ik.)

2 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Good afternoon, ladies
3 and gentlemen. On behalf of the United States Army, I
4 would like to thank you for having us today, and I'd like
5 to thank you for taking some time out to participate in
6 this. My name is Shane McCoy. I prefer being called
7 Shane McCoy. I am with the Army Corps of Engineers. I am
8 the lead on the evaluation of the project.

9 With me today from the Army Corps of Engineers is
10 Ms. Katie McCafferty. So if at any time you guys have any
11 questions with regards to our process or our role in the
12 process, either one of us will be available and very open
13 to have that discussion with you.

14 So the way this is going to go today is, the way I
15 envision it is, I'm going to give a brief introduction and
16 try to give an idea of why we are here today. After that,
17 I'm going to show a brief #production of the project, an
18 animation of this project, as proposed today by the Pebble
19 Limited Partnership.

20 At that time I will invite people as they have
21 written their names down and indicated that they would
22 like to provide testimony in front of a large group to
23 provide testimony.

24 Now, that being said, when you are providing
25 testimony, please speak slowly. Speak towards the

1 recorder so that she may accurately capture what we are
2 saying and provide that as a comment in this public
3 process. If you do have written -- prepared a written
4 statement, if you could leave that with our recorder, as
5 well, that would be greatly appreciated. And while people
6 are providing comment, please be respectful. There's
7 already a lot of people here that would like to speak, a
8 lot of people here that would like to hear. So again,
9 please be respectful.

10 So why are we here today? Understand that the Pebble
11 Limited Partnership, the Pebble project has been in your
12 viewshed for a long time, and you have provided testimony
13 on several occasions. That being said, the Pebble Limited
14 Partnership submitted an application to the Army Corps of
15 Engineers in late December last year. The Army Corps of
16 Engineers is required to evaluate a permit application for
17 the discharge of dredged and fill material associated with
18 the construction of the project. Therefore, we initiate
19 this process. And if -- excuse me.

20 It was determined that there -- the analysis for the
21 project would be an environmental impact statement level
22 of analysis. The initial process in the environmental
23 impact statement, which I'm going to call an EIS, is
24 called scoping. It's a public process.

25 And during that public process, we request that you

1 provide us comments to help inform what we will be
2 analyzing in the EIS. Your comments will help us identify
3 specific issues, help identify potential mitigative
4 measures, and provide potential methods for evaluation of
5 the project.

6 Please understand that the Corps is neither a
7 proponent nor an opponent. The intent for the Corps is to
8 evaluate the project in a scientific manner, unbiased
9 manner, and a legally defensible manner. So what I'm
10 going to ask of you guys is to help us inform what the
11 issues and other concerns are that we might analyze in
12 this process. There is a poster on the back on the
13 white -- I assume it's a refrigerator. Katie is walking
14 back there -- that may assist you in providing comments to
15 help inform this process.

16 So the United States Army Corps of Engineers is the
17 lead federal agency for the development of the EIS. There
18 are two other federal agencies that must make a decision
19 with regards to their authorities, two other federal
20 agencies. That's the United States Coast Guard for a
21 bridge over the Newhalen River and the Department of
22 Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
23 for the proposed gas pipeline on the Outer Continental
24 Shelf. Those are the three federal agencies that will
25 have to make a decision based on the information in the

1 environmental impact statement. We have invited other
2 agencies to help us develop the environmental impact
3 statement, but they do not have to necessarily use this
4 document to inform their decisions.

5 Please note, all the comments will be publicly
6 available. The information from the commenter will also
7 be made publicly available, and it will be on the project
8 website, pebbleprojecteis -- all one word -- dot com.
9 Please understand also that the framework of the document
10 must have a nexus to the proposed impacts under the
11 jurisdiction of the three federal agencies. There are
12 posters around the room that depict the proposed project.
13 They will look familiar after you see the animation that
14 we are go to show. It's about a 20-minute video. And
15 make yourself familiar.

16 Now, please understand there was also -- we started
17 the public scoping comment period with a 30-day comment
18 period. The Corps listened -- was asked to and listened
19 and extended the comment period to 29 June.

20 There are options for providing comment. You can
21 either come up today and provide an oral comment to the
22 group, which will be recorded by our recorder. You can
23 use a computer here today, log it into our website, which
24 our website has an interactive mapping feature which -- so
25 as you provide your comments, you can put a tag on that

1 map to show exactly where it is that your comment is
2 relative to. You can provide a comment at a later date at
3 your own convenience at our project website, as well, or
4 you can provide a written comment and drop it off at the
5 sign-in table.

6 With that, again, I would like to thank you guys for
7 coming out. This is a very important part of the start of
8 the project, a very important part of the process where
9 you get to help inform us of what the scope of our
10 analysis is going to be, with the understanding that the
11 next public comment period will be at the draft EIS stage.
12 All comments received will be considered. All comments
13 received after the scoping period will be considered
14 during the draft EIS.

15 That is why we're here today. And again, let's be
16 respectful. Listen to people's comments and understand
17 that we are neither a proponent nor an opponent to the
18 project.

19 Thank you again on behalf of the United States Army.

20 (A video was shown.)

21 MR. SHANE MCCOY: I would like to welcome
22 Father Alexie. Would you like to have an invocation?

23 (Invocation was given by Father Alexie.)

24 FR. ALEXIE: [inaudible] so we can be
25 caretakers of our land, see what we can do to care for our

1 land. Christ is risen. (Speaking in Yup'ik.)

2 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Okay. At this time,
3 again, I'd like to remind everyone to keep the noise down.
4 And if you can stand on this side of the recorder and
5 speak this way so she can see your mouth, it will
6 definitely assist in capturing your comments as accurately
7 as possible.

8 Is John Hanson, Sr. available? Come on up.

9 MR. JOHN HANSON, Sr.: Hello. Good
10 afternoon. My name is John Hanson, Sr. I'm from New
11 Stuyahok, and I sit on the NSTC board, and I'm here to
12 testify.

13 The Nushagak, Mulchatna and Kuktuli are our
14 background for hunting and fishing grounds for years, and
15 we would like to continue that for many more years. We
16 have clean water in all rivers here. We, the people of
17 New Stuyahok, are the voice of our land and subsistence,
18 like land animals and really for our fish. The mine will
19 really affect my hunting and fishing way of life, so I
20 think that the mine shouldn't happen. I don't eat gold.
21 I eat fish and meat. Right now I live like a king here at
22 Bristol Bay at what I do here and loving it. That's how I
23 should see that for my kids and grandkids.

24 What will I do when the mine goes through? There
25 will be no more fish water here, along with fishing and

1 the game I depend on. So we are -- so we are here to
2 voice out and be heard so we can protect Bristol Bay. We
3 know that all mines that open up will always be a disaster
4 when they say that it will work. A dam will go eventually
5 in time. Then what? Who will come and clean up the mess
6 when it's already too late, when all the bad chemicals is
7 coming down? And you guys should know that because New
8 Stuyahok will be the first village to be impacted by that.

9 So next time we need to testify, give us more than
10 three minutes because everything out there means
11 everything to us.

12 Thanks for coming out to New Stuyahok and hear our
13 testimonies. And I hope it helps. Besides, fish is
14 stronger than gold.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Wally Gust.

17 MR. WASSILLIE GUST, SR.: Pebble Limited
18 Partnership, gold, land, air, water. We had the land here
19 and water before gold was discovered, before anything
20 material was discovered. Those are natural. Those were
21 given to us by God, by the Creator for us to take care of,
22 for us to watch over so that the future generations will
23 have a resource, a background to live off the land so that
24 they can sustain themselves. Our job, our elders' jobs,
25 our forefathers before our elders, had the duty to look

1 over the land, to watch over the land for us, for our
2 grandchildren, and for our great grandchildren.

3 And I'll say this here. Today is Friday the 13th.
4 Our counterparts have been telling us that it's taboo.
5 Anytime Friday the 13th happens, it's bad luck. I'm here
6 to tell you today is a great day. Every day is a great
7 day, but today especially because I want to say that
8 today, being Friday the 13th, we are the luckiest people.
9 And I'll close with this by saying for our counterpart not
10 only with the Corps of Engineers, but our counterpart
11 throughout the country and I'm -- it's the western culture
12 that gave us these taboos, that made us believe that if we
13 do certain things it's bad luck. But I'm here to say that
14 it's a lucky day for us because we live off the land here.
15 We survive off the land.

16 And we in closing, I want to say and state that the
17 farming grounds, any place, imagine where the cattle,
18 lamb, pigs, fruits, vegetables and everything that we eat
19 today are in one located area rather than spread out
20 throughout the country. The foods that the white people
21 eat and that we eat, if they are going to be destroyed and
22 disturbed, would they not fight to protect those foods?
23 And that's what we are doing. We are protecting our
24 lands, our foods, our way of life. If that was the
25 reverse, I'm sure there would be stronger opposition to

1 fight for their foods, what they gathered if they were in
2 one located situation like us or like where we are in our
3 region here with the Pebble Mine in our backyards. So
4 take that into consideration.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Randal Hastings.

7 MR. RANDAL HASTINGS: A lot of mine are
8 some questions and concerns like with the tailings storage
9 mine, is the mine tailings, how long are they going to
10 last before they allow seepage into the ground which would
11 go into the water, everywhere else. And the acid
12 generator waste. It says possible acid rain rocks when
13 being used for construction of areas -- structures on the
14 buildings areas. How much is that going to seep into the
15 ground and how much is actually going to be polluted.

16 And then with the waste rock, when they put it back
17 into the pit, what's going to prevent that from seeping
18 into the ground, groundwater, across the tundra into the
19 rivers?

20 Then the management -- the comprehensive water
21 management plan about discharging the water, how polluted
22 is that water when it goes into the clean water and kills
23 our fish, possibly, or worse? And how stable are the
24 containments where they are going to hold all these
25 tailings? That's a highly seismographic area up there, a

1 lot of earthquakes, ground movement shifts. What's going
2 to prevent the liners and the dams from cracking,
3 bursting, tearing and bleeding all over the land?

4 And then the main issue is no mine is ever a
5 foolproof safe mine. Those of us that live in this area
6 at ground zero will suffer the most. We will lose all our
7 vegetation, our fish, our meat. Not only that, worldwide
8 no more salmon to be spread out around the world that
9 people eat. But the ones that will suffer the most are
10 us.

11 That's it.

12 MR. SHANE MCCOY: There is a question mark
13 by Adrian Wonhola. Would you like to speak?

14 MS. ADRIAN WONHOLA: I'll wait probably
15 till later.

16 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Timothy Wonhola.

17 MR. TIMOTHY WONHOLA: Thanks for allowing
18 me to speak. There is so much to say in my mind that I'm
19 very fearful of, one being our younger generation. They
20 are going to take our places when we are not there
21 anymore. We have to set a foundation for them because I
22 know this much: We are not going to be using some of that
23 like we used to when we were young. Now it is up to us to
24 lay the platform out for the younger generations and their
25 generations yet to come. We can't see that yet, though.

1 A lot of younger generations can't see what we are trying
2 to do. I can see very bad stories like Mount Polley north
3 of -- comes out of Canada, and the mountains push it out
4 toward the Pacific side by Juneau, above Juneau, somewhere
5 around there. I wouldn't want to hear about our tailings
6 going to pieces up there, which I know it will because
7 hard rock mining is very, very bad for anything.

8 I'd like to say this: It is very -- it scares me
9 because there is three cultures that use this area,
10 Bristol Bay region. It is recognized as the red salmon,
11 red sockeye salmon capital of the world. There is no
12 other place like that. Nothing. That's why they try to
13 use fish farms down southeast in case something like this
14 might happen. But I can understand. Why grow a fish farm
15 when there is millions? One day last year was caught one
16 million -- 1.5 million to be exact, somewhere right around
17 that number.

18 And not only that, fish, everybody uses it, even
19 myself. We move to our fish camps, and the season is
20 coming upon that now, which we will see -- start seeing
21 salmon. And each and every one of the ladies that split
22 the fish and put them into their smokehouse are going to
23 start thinking, am I going to keep doing this like maybe
24 ten years from now?

25 We have to -- right now is a moment to clear the path

1 for the younger generations. I am beginning to be an
2 elder, a young one anyway. A baby elder. But I know it
3 is hard to be becoming one because you have to speak out
4 for our younger generations, which many of us have. And
5 that food that goes on the table is no different from what
6 you put on -- my food that I put on my table is no
7 different from what you put on your table. And Corps of
8 Engineers, Army Corps of Engineers won't provide that. It
9 is our yard. That's what we grew up on.

10 Everything that we know is in our head. When we look
11 at the mapping system, when we look at the food that we
12 can go get that we put on our tables, it -- there is no --
13 there is no magic. Please be no -- have no Pebble. There
14 is no magic in it. Right now it's in our table.

15 Again, when Obama was there, it was almost gone, but
16 now it's back on its feet. We have to watch out for that.

17 There is another one that I would like to express is
18 why we should stand up for our salmon because, like the
19 water, it doesn't speak. We are the speakers. We are the
20 user groups. This is our home where it's at. The
21 nurseries, everything that you see around us is all out
22 there. And it's right in our neighborhood.

23 Right now there is four seasons which makes a year.
24 And each of those seasons put the food on our table. Not
25 only fish. There is meat. There is birds. See? So

1 much. And I know if the mine goes to pieces, there goes
2 our culture. It will kill culture like it did in Juneau.
3 There was a culture there, but the miners took over and
4 killed that culture. Let us hang onto our culture for
5 younger generations to be there yet where they can proudly
6 say I am an Inupiat. I'm an Aleut. I'm an Athabaskan.

7 Today it's still alive because our forefathers, our
8 ancestors brought it there. We have to let it live
9 because we are living on it now.

10 I can see, too, as becoming an elder, and I want to
11 pass it on to the younger ones because they are the next
12 major user groups when we are gone.

13 Thank you so much for your time.

14 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Kim Williams.

15 MS. KIMBERLY WILLIAMS: So my name is
16 Kimberly Williams, and I made comments in Kokhanok and
17 Iliamna. I am offering additional comments to the scoping
18 process that are different than those already mentioned.

19 For the record, I am a Bristol Bay Native Corporation
20 board of director and a member chief of the Curyung Tribe
21 in Dillingham. You asked us to comment on the Pebble
22 application.

23 First and foremost, you should return the application
24 back to the Pebble Partnership for an incomplete
25 application. It is impossible for us to fully participate

1 in the scoping process because Pebble has not submitted a
2 complete package for the people to evaluate the impacts to
3 our air quality, water quality and quantity; wildlife and
4 vegetation, including endangered, threatened and other
5 special status species; wildlife movement corridors;
6 soils; watershed flood plains; wetlands and riparian
7 areas; cultural and archeological resources; visual
8 resources and scenic values; recreation; transportation
9 and traffic; public safety and socioeconomic impacts.

10 For example, my previous work at Nunamta Aulukestai
11 included working with scientists like Dr. Carol Ann Woody
12 to identify the anadromous fish around the mine site. She
13 edited the Bristol Bay Alaska Natural Resources of the
14 Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecosystems. I would ask the Corps
15 to include this textbook in other -- in this analysis. We
16 have worked with Dr. Woody to put her work into GIS.

17 I would ask the Corps to have Pebble release the mine
18 plan and the transportation routes using GIS so we can
19 evaluate the impacts to anadromous streams against their
20 culvert schedule summary that shows 73 culverts are needed
21 for salmon stream crossing and 149 culverts for nonfish
22 passage culverts. There are no mitigation measures for
23 the loss of spawning habitat on the north fork of the
24 Kuktuli for this mine site.

25 The application includes almost no baseline data on

1 the lake. In all of the public scoping meetings I have
2 attended so far, this transportation route is of high
3 concern. Not only does it impact the freshwater seals
4 that is a subsistence resource, but it also disrupts their
5 migration patterns.

6 I would emphasize the testimony from Keith Jensen of
7 Pedro Bay who was concerned that a ferry and the ice
8 breakup on the lake could cause marine mammal strikes.

9 I would reemphasize my testimony from Kokhanok and
10 the lack of science data on Iliamna Lake. The application
11 justifies the ferry across the lake to minimize wetland
12 impacts. When you compare the 86 miles for the first
13 corridor route to Williamsport to this application of 65
14 miles of road and a lake crossing, it's a savings of 21
15 miles of wetland impacts, but it has a 18-mile lake
16 crossing.

17 The testimony in Iliamna included concern with the
18 east wind impact to the northern shore terminal site and
19 the side of the road right in their moose hunt area.
20 There are no mitigation measures for the loss of
21 subsistence area for hunting for moose or caribou.

22 To the common person, the company has had 14 years to
23 figure out their application and now to include this new
24 lake crossing is mind-boggling. The company should be
25 required to collect data on the amount of east wind data

1 and the wave height on this lake. I would suggest that
2 they be required to place a buoy in the lake along the
3 corridor to collect the information on wave height and
4 wind, and that data collection should not only be one
5 year.

6 This application, again, is incomplete. It makes it
7 impossible to fully participate in the scoping process
8 because we are throwing up darts to identify our concerns.
9 My participation in the development and finalization of
10 the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment and the subsequent
11 Proposed Determination by EPA that's on hold, that was a
12 lengthy process. The watershed assessment document
13 included a mine scenario that showed the impact to the
14 rivers and streams around the mine site.

15 This application doesn't show how it will manage
16 water at the mine site. The video we watched just says we
17 will capture the water, treat it and then release it based
18 on the needs of those streams. What quantity will be
19 collected during what time of the month, day, year? And
20 what quantity will be released into those streams? What
21 streams will be impacted by flow and by -- and what month,
22 date, et cetera? This we don't know, and we need that
23 information to make a fully-informed decision and to
24 participate in your scoping process.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Moxie Andrew, Jr.

2 MR. MOXIE ANDREW, Jr.: Hello. My name is
3 Moxie Andrew, Jr. Serve under Stuyahok Limited and the
4 land manager for Stuyahok Limited. Like my ancestors
5 before me, I still continue my way of life by living off
6 the land and continue teaching it to my children. Like
7 our ancestors, they were nomadic. They had no boundaries
8 like today we have Stuyahok Limited boundaries, State of
9 Alaska boundaries. But they had no boundaries. They went
10 all over the area. There is a historic landmark that they
11 used to travel from -- go up to the Nushagak to Mulchatna,
12 go to Kuktuli. Not Kuktuli [pronunciation] -- that's a
13 white man's word. Kuktuli.

14 And then one day was nice weather like this. I
15 looked where the site was, and I tried to figure out which
16 route it would be. Kuktuli right through that mine site,
17 and there is a little creek, and that creek goes into
18 Talarik Creek. Our ancestors used to follow that route.
19 That's the shortest route, so it's a historic landmark.
20 They would go that route and they would take it during the
21 spring, during the seasons. There's good geese hunting in
22 that area in the spring. And they would make their way
23 to -- they'd go down the Kvichak to go to fish camps. And
24 to me that's a historical landmark that should be
25 considered.

1 And it's unfortunate today that my lifestyle is being
2 threatened by this Pebble project because I did testify to
3 EPA on the noise, helicopter protocols. I told them that
4 they need to be aware that those grounds are calving
5 grounds. The waterfowl -- it happened to me during
6 exploration. Not with Pebble. With the Shotgun Hills
7 project. Some people know there used to be helicopter
8 traffic, and now waterfowl spring hunting area, I went to
9 Twin Lakes. That's up in the Mulchatna. And I went to
10 hunt. There was too much helicopter traffic diverting the
11 spring waterfowl geese away from where I was -- did a
12 blind, and I thought it would be much better if I go up
13 the river a ways and up the Kononokpuk [ph].

14 These terms are fortunate for our -- on the BBNC
15 website is -- our late elder Harvey Samuelson did the name
16 places with the land department, and you can click on name
17 places. It will give you a better understanding of these
18 Native terms. And he stated without our land, we are
19 nothing. With that website you can see what I'm saying.
20 Kononokpuk. They are in there. They'll have meetings
21 from the elders in our area.

22 And that route, I went to Kononokpuk. It was even
23 worse. A helicopter came from Iliamna area, landed where
24 we hunt geese, dropped off equipment, and then another
25 helicopter came from Shotgun Hills area, picked them up

1 and brought them over. That year there was no geese.
2 That year I didn't catch anything. But that affected --
3 just the exploration phase. Can you imagine 20 years of
4 this? And everything will be gone. I stress that Humble
5 Project that came here, they did exploration in Kemuk. I
6 was fortunate to be on the same airlines coming from
7 Anchorage to New Stuyahok. There was a helicopter pilot
8 hired. He was boasting. And he's the pilot. And when we
9 landed in Ekwok, I go up to him. New Stuyahok is a no-fly
10 zone area. Don't come in our area. You will disrupt our
11 subsistence and our way of life. And then it seemed to
12 work. He didn't come through our area.

13 And in Koliganek, CEO Greg Beischer for Humble, they
14 did a presentation in Koliganek. I expressed that same
15 thing that there is no-fly zones, and I told him that
16 before he do any project in this area he should come and
17 talk to the communities, the tribal membership to figure
18 out which areas they couldn't fly.

19 And I'm thankful for BBNC. I think that by my word
20 of mouth, the next project in the Chigniks, they had BBNC
21 there. I'm not sure who did that project. And the tribe
22 or the local membership from Chignik, they sat down and
23 probably came up with a fly zone. But there is no
24 regulations on fly zones. And I stressed that.

25 I brought letters to Washington, D.C. from our local

1 community on the 404(c) process. I brought individual
2 letters. And I'm thankful for Nunamta Aulukestai and Kim
3 Williams for having me bring those down. Nunamta
4 Aulukestai paid for our trip to D.C. And I gave it to
5 them. And the next day they had a conference. There was
6 a whole bunch of lawyers, politicians and I raised my hand
7 that they are already affecting my way of life, and they
8 agree and that someone needs to be held accountable
9 because that's the resources that we live on.

10 And today you see modern technology, drones. They
11 can't go near Washington, D.C. capital. Trump is more
12 protected than us. And they can't go into military zones.
13 And states and federal government are coming up with rules
14 and regulations for no-fly zones. Why can't they do that
15 for helicopter because it's -- they are making a major
16 effect on our livelihood. The caribou migrating routes
17 were affected.

18 Iliamna people, they were losing caribou. My friend
19 called me. They want to go hunt caribou. I said, yeah,
20 come on over. Go ahead and use my snowmachine. They came
21 over. Even the moose, I think they dwindled our moose
22 somewhere. They were having trouble with moose and they
23 wanted to hunt moose in our area. I said, yeah, come
24 over. Open anytime. And it's going to be 20 years I
25 think it will have more effect and disrupt our migration

1 patterns, waterfowl patterns.

2 And another thing that I concur with Kim Williams
3 that they should be thrown out. It's not complete. On
4 the video and anything up there, it's not mentioned about
5 the emulsion blasting components they are going to use.
6 It's 96 percent ammonium nitrate -- 94 percent and 6
7 percent is going to be diesel fuel. My concern is there
8 is no plans in there whatsoever. I looked. That's all
9 they said. That's what they are going to use. And there
10 is no plans in place. If that ammonium nitrate go into
11 the rivers, it's going to kill off our salmon, our fish.
12 And they should have stringent plans in place because that
13 is dangerous stuff.

14 They don't show how they are going to transport in
15 that corridor. Are they going to bring it from somewhere,
16 bring it to the port over the land, over the water and to
17 that site? And it's not complete. That's not even in
18 there. That's what I'm concerned about. And they need to
19 have in place less exposure, a little bit of inventory.
20 You got to have good containment. It's not there. That's
21 what I'm real scared about, that ammonium nitrate.

22 And I could have more, but I'll stop at three
23 minutes.

24 Oh, and in closing, I still want to continue my way
25 of life for my children. And to this day, I don't know if

1 that radical person which I'd never vote for is kind of
2 steamrolling this project. You could see it. He hired
3 EPA Scott Pruitt. He's against climate change, against
4 the environment. He put in the Region 10 Chris Hladick.
5 He used to live in Dillingham. He was a former
6 commissioner for the State of Alaska Commerce and Economic
7 Development that exceeds three million. I hope Army Corps
8 of Engineers is not bought by the same person because this
9 morning I was -- should I call him a radical person? I
10 Google it. Boom, it popped up. Guess whose picture was
11 in there? President Trump.

12 And then Army Corps, when you make that decision,
13 look at the moon, clear night. Go look at the moon.
14 Bright yellow, big holes. And when you got to make that
15 decision, would you guys want to see that here? If that
16 Pebble goes through, it's going to happen. More would
17 come in.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Matriona Gust. Matriona?

20 MS. MATRONA GUST: My name is Matriona
21 Gust. And like you guys heard, the majority of our people
22 are against the Pebble Mine. One of the -- one of the
23 concerns I have is we will be the first village if any
24 contamination goes into the stream. I'm deathly afraid of
25 the -- there is no -- the health problems that could arise

1 from the smallest drop of contamination to the people.
2 Our subsistence way of life will be in danger. I want to
3 continue to keep our traditional activities doing the
4 subsistence, you know, with the meat and the fish and the
5 berries.

6 So this Pebble project is not good for our people,
7 our way of life and the -- the land, especially the land
8 because of permafrost. You know, they can say they build
9 a dam to protect the area, but with permafrost and ground
10 shifting all the time, there is going to be cracks and
11 whatnot eventually. And those cracks, like I said, will
12 affect our water.

13 Earthquakes are another thing we have in our state
14 and, you know, there is no -- there is no guarantee, but
15 our subsistence is a guarantee as long as this mine is not
16 here.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. SHANE MCCOY: MaryAnn Gust.

19 MS. MARYANN GUST: Hello. My name is
20 MaryAnn Gust, Bristol Bay resident all my life.
21 Originally from Koliganek, now New Stu. I have -- Pebble
22 says it will provide jobs and improve the economy in this
23 area. What of the fish when they are destroyed?
24 Commercial fishing provides income for many. People come
25 from all over to commercial fish or sport fish. Nushagak

1 River is the richest king salmon river in the world. Many
2 people from all over the world come here for that. And
3 for many people, this is their only income.

4 Pebble says they plan to build a pit that will be
5 huge and safe. There is no fail-safe plan. Eventually
6 something goes wrong. Valley of 10,000 Smokes is not far
7 from this site. Too many volcanoes along the Aleutian
8 Chain always going off. Ground is always shaking and that
9 makes this site very risky and dangerous. Permafrost
10 makes this site very unstable for building anything.
11 Anything built on this will always be shifting with the
12 seasons.

13 Now, when the lands and waters are unsafe around
14 here, when the plants are unsafe to eat or use, when the
15 animals are destroyed or simply not coming around anymore,
16 who will be there to help the people of the land? When
17 people start developing health problems, who will help?
18 Pebble takes the profits from this land, leaving behind a
19 land and water that is destroyed. Who pays for it?

20 Thank you.

21 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Evan Kusma, Sr. There
22 is a question mark. Would you like to speak? Evan Kusma,
23 Sr.?

24 MR. EVAN KUSMA, SR.: Not at this time.

25 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Dennis Andrews?

1 MR. DENNIS ANDREWS: Thank you for coming
2 out here to a subsistence valley. I call my hometown New
3 Stuyahok. I've testified a number of places all around in
4 D.C., Seattle, Dillingham, through EPA. I come from a
5 family from a reindeer herder, fishermen, our folks back
6 then. This salmon has come around -- the first canneries
7 that were built, I think, [indiscernible] did some
8 research was 1886. And this Pebble is talking about only
9 20, 25 years? Think about this fish that come from -- all
10 the way from 1800s that goes to Seattle and burrows in
11 salt. Are we going to give this up? [indiscernible] all
12 that for many, many years?

13 There is no place in this earth, period. These
14 waters that feeds us, not just the rivers. The crabbers
15 out there, herring. It's called Bristol Bay. Lodges, the
16 boroughs from that salmon get income from that renewable
17 resource that hasn't died. It's going to be really hard
18 when my grandsons say, grandpa, what happened? How am I
19 supposed to answer them?

20 You know, berries, greens, birds, animals, they are
21 not injected. They don't go to hospitals. It's all those
22 we put in our stomach. Moose, caribou, you name it.
23 Birds are coming. Freshwater. Fresh, not farmed.

24 Please. I mean, the winds are getting a lot
25 stronger, I've noticed. And the earthquakes. Can you

1 imagine if there is an earthquake a lot closer? Tell me,
2 how far in the ground underneath goes the crack? Is it
3 ten miles? Is it 100 miles? When the ground shakes even
4 out from Kodiak, even out in the ocean, we see on the
5 news, it goes a long ways, buddy.

6 The dams aren't planned right. Like Mr. Moxie there,
7 Andrew, he hit it right on the money.

8 To conclude, please, DNR, don't make a decision to
9 let that mine go. The whole Bristol Bay is my dinner
10 table. Thank you very much.

11 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Bobby Larson.

12 MR. BOBBY LARSON: I want to thank the
13 Army Corps of Engineers for coming to hear us. And my
14 name is Bobby Larson. I'm from Koliganek.

15 I'm very concerned. And I am opposed to this
16 proposed mine that it's on top of the world's largest
17 renewable fishery. Anyone and everything living in this
18 region is going to be impacted in one way or another
19 forever, including the environment. Haven't we learned
20 from Mount Polley? This is the same company that's going
21 to build the 1,750-foot deep, one-mile long tailings pond
22 that we will have to take care of forever. After the land
23 has been raped, disturbed, all the minerals taken from it,
24 and all that's left is going to be a contaminated area
25 that is dead of all life and will affect the area until

1 time immemorial.

2 We have seen the effects of all the helicopter
3 traffic -- what all the helicopter traffic has done to the
4 disappearance and the decline of the Mulchatna caribou
5 herd, which used to be up to 400,000 at one time. And now
6 we are finally starting to see the caribou come back after
7 the majority of the traffic helicopter traffic is gone, or
8 has declined.

9 The airborne effects on a haul road will affect
10 streams -- all streams near and as far as the wind can
11 carry the contaminated ore dust. I still think that the
12 predrilling of the past that Northern Dynasty has done is
13 impacting the area as we speak because of the hydrological
14 effect of the area after drilling over 1,000 drill test
15 hole sites. What would happen if all this went through
16 and an incident like the proposed icebreaker spilled
17 contaminated ore into Lake Iliamna?

18 Please remember that this mine is in the middle of an
19 earthquake zone, also. What and how is the hydrological
20 cycle if there is a very high snow year or a wet season
21 and overflow of contaminated water flows into the
22 headwaters of these river systems?

23 Also, the influx of all the people and equipment will
24 have an effect on the area and will impact our hunting and
25 gathering abilities. The billions of gallons of

1 wastewater, where is all that going to go.

2 Allowing this proposed mine at the headwaters of the
3 world's most productive renewable resource is not using
4 common sense. Not only would it devastate the region, if
5 not deplete the region of wildlife and the world as we
6 know it now, so would the people have to change or move to
7 survive. Please, no on Pebble Mine.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Thomas Tilden.

10 MR. THOMAS TILDEN: For the record, my
11 name is Thomas Tilden. I grew up in the village of
12 Portage Creek, which is downriver from here. I thank you
13 folks for were coming out here to hear us. The first
14 thing I want to point out is that I'm Russian Orthodox.
15 And orthodox folks, every year in January we bless the
16 water. We believe that the water is holy because the
17 water sustains us, not only our plants, but our animals,
18 as well as our salmon. And so we truly believe that the
19 water is blessed. And that's what we want to keep pure
20 and clean.

21 Ronald Reagan once spoke that he said that the 12
22 scariest words were, Hi, I'm from the federal government,
23 and I'm here to help you. I believe Ronald Reagan was
24 wrong. I believe that the 12 scariest words are, Hi, I'm
25 from the Corps of Engineers, and I'm here to help you.

1 If you really want to help us, you have to look at
2 the history of this mine. You have to find out that
3 during the exploration phases of this mine, that it's
4 already changed our culture. It has already changed the
5 routes of the caribou. It has already made changes in our
6 life. It has already has affected us. And this is only
7 during the exploration changes.

8 What is going to happen to us when this mine comes
9 through? It wasn't Cominco or it wasn't Pebble that found
10 that gold up. There it was a priest that was going from
11 Nushagak, Port Alexander to Kodiak. And he found that
12 gold way back in the 1800s. And that gold has been there
13 for a long time.

14 This water that we are trying to protect is our way
15 of life. I think it's a sham that you only come out to
16 our community only one time and listen to how you are
17 going to affect the rest of our lives after this, because
18 we are going to be affected. And it's going to be harsh,
19 not only to us, but you have heard that the salmon is a
20 worldwide product. It is a product that has employed
21 people in Washington and Idaho and California and all
22 across the world, because when you look at our fish
23 plants, you will see that kids come from North Carolina,
24 South Carolina and all around the world to come work in
25 our plants.

1 But it is something that is worth saving. It's very
2 important that you take a look at the studies that have
3 been done. They are not Cadillac studies, but they are
4 Toyota studies. Because they didn't do the best. DNR and
5 Pebble walked hand in hand to put this plan together. And
6 Pebble put the very minimum amount that they could in
7 building this -- this mine.

8 The dam is not a Cadillac dam, but it's a Toyota dam
9 because they are going to get by. They are a corporation.
10 A corporation doesn't give a dang about people. What they
11 want is the profit. They have to provide a profit to
12 their shareholders. And so when they decide that dam,
13 that dam is the cheapest dam that they could build.

14 And when you take a look at the air up in that area,
15 120 miles an hour winds were clocked in that area. How
16 much berries, how much -- how much waste is going to go
17 out and affect the lands and the waters in that area at
18 120 miles an hour? There is going to be a lot of -- a lot
19 of damage that's going to happen when this mine goes
20 through.

21 I went out to the Mount Polley dam, and I looked at
22 that, and they told me that this is the world class, this
23 is the best -- this is the best in the world. Well, look
24 what happened there. It just dissolved and flooded the
25 whole area, ruined the waters in that area. That's what

1 we don't want to happen.

2 When you look at studies about dams in all -- all
3 around the United States, 100 percent of the mines that
4 build dams, they say this dam is foolproof. It is not
5 going to contaminate the water. Ten years later when you
6 take a look at that, 75 percent have failed. 70 percent.

7 That's -- that's what you are asking us to do. You
8 are asking us to take that risk, that we are going to be
9 one of the 30 percent. That's not worth it to us.

10 When you came into this village or when you go to any
11 village in Bristol Bay, how many grocery stores do you
12 see? Where do people -- where do people get their food
13 from? They get their food from the air, the land and the
14 water. That's what they are trying to protect. All of
15 our freezers, all of our smokehouses, all of our racks are
16 filled with our food that sustains us. You let this mine
17 go through, and it contaminates, you took everything out
18 of our freezer. You took everything out of our racks.
19 You took everything out of our smokehouses. We got
20 nothing. That's what we have at risk here.

21 And you are giving us three minutes to defend our
22 lifestyle, our way of life, our economics, our
23 subsistence, our clothing, everything that sustains us.
24 We are given three minutes to testify and talk about how
25 we are going to defend it. Who else -- who else gets that

1 opportunity? Not very many.

2 The scoping period is a sham. 90 days you give us.
3 And you give 120 days to Donlin, which is a smaller mine.
4 120 days. But you give us -- you started out with only
5 30, and then now you are up to 90. That's a sham. We got
6 shortchanged.

7 You have 850 workers that are going to go work in
8 this mine, but you are going to put 20,000 people out of
9 work that depend on fishing. Now, what kind of tradeoff
10 is that? Who is -- who is losing here?

11 I think that what the Army Corps of Engineers needs
12 to do is you need to extend us to 120 -- a scoping period.
13 You need to listen to us. You need to come out and to go
14 to every village. You are not going to Ekwok. You are
15 not going to Koliganek. You need to go to those places.

16 And when you come to Dillingham, you said that you
17 are going to close the mic. We need an open mic in
18 Dillingham. We need to be able to say what's on our mind
19 and how we are going to protect our way because our life
20 has already changed. Things have already happened. The
21 migration of the caribou has changed. We went ten years
22 without seeing a caribou just because those -- that film
23 that you showed that shows those guys doing down the
24 Talarik Creek area, that changed the route of that
25 caribou.

1 And our culture, our life, the people you see here
2 today is going to change if you let this mine go through.
3 Don't let them get away with the Cadillac -- I mean a
4 Toyota when you could make a Cadillac. First of all,
5 don't even build that mine. It's the wrong mine in the
6 wrong place.

7 But thank you very much for coming out and listening
8 to us and hearing us. And I hope you come back again
9 because I'm sure that after this meeting we are going to
10 say oh, shoot, I should have said this, I should have said
11 that. But come again because we need to say more.

12 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Myrtice Evalt is a
13 question mark.

14 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: She
15 submitted written.

16 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Okay. Thank you. Peter
17 Christopher, Sr.

18 MR. PETER CHRISTOPHER, Sr.: My name is
19 Peter Christopher, Sr. Raised here from New Stuyahok,
20 born in Dillingham. I lived here since then, 1950. The
21 way that I grew up is from the elders here in this
22 country, in this Nushagak and Bristol Bay. The elders
23 tell us in the late '70s when Cominco came into New
24 Stuyahok, that person from Dillingham, remember Andy
25 Golia? A lot of you people remember him. He came from

1 Stuyahok, and he informed us that Cominco is coming to New
2 Stu and trying to develop that Pebble. But the elders
3 here in this village says, no mine development.

4 To this day we keep that -- what they want us to keep
5 up objection to any mine development. It's still the
6 same.

7 One of the key things that I had addressed to EPA in
8 Dillingham is that when I testified against the Pebble is
9 that you people need to listen to the federal government,
10 meaning the tribal villages. And for you, United States
11 Corps of Engineers, I wonder what United States stands
12 for. It stands for all American U.S. citizens. They are
13 supposed to listen to us, not to an outside firm, Canadian
14 and British companies. They should listen to our
15 speeches. And I'm so glad our -- I want to compliment for
16 the people that have testified earlier to make statements
17 that they need to come -- have open ears, especially for
18 the people of this region.

19 We have been here for a long time. Our elders
20 brought us up. And they kept this river, two major waters
21 that I'm concerned about: This Nushagak watershed and
22 that Kvichak, because where the mine is at, if it's
23 developed, it will impact both of them. And I'm glad that
24 Tim Wonhola stated that the main concerns would be the
25 future generations. That's the same thing when we wrote

1 that resolution under Nunamta, that we need to protect our
2 land and resources for our future generations already in
3 place. Thank you, Tim.

4 There is one thing will continue no matter who comes,
5 U.S. Corps of Engineers or EPA. We are not going to
6 change from Bristol Bay. We are going to remain
7 objective. We are going to say no to any mine development
8 in this area.

9 My grandson is going to be next to speak. I hope he
10 speaks well. He's so concerned about our salmon that he
11 will tell you.

12 One of the things that I'd like for you as Corps of
13 Engineers, if you guys could please listen to our
14 comments. You have already heard that majority or all are
15 in full objection. There is no percentage of a shortage
16 of being in objection. It's a full 100 percent, all the
17 testimony that I've just heard before me.

18 Thank you. I want to thank all the people from this
19 area and wherever that come in to New Stuyahok. And I'd
20 like to thank the Army Corps of Engineers that they came
21 here. Welcome to New Stu. I'm supposed to say that
22 first, but -- but I will say thank you, and keep that in
23 mind.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Lucas Barn.

1 MR. LUCAS BARN: Lucas Barn. I like the
2 lake trout and the pink salmon. And can't do this to the
3 salmon or they might die. Only we cannot do that to the
4 salmon for us to not get the salmon to die and not smoosh
5 the salmon eggs. And also in there are king salmon,
6 sockeye, coho salmon, chum salmon, and then the lake trout
7 and the pink salmon and the salmon eggs.

8 And then if people catch all the salmon, all salmon,
9 the Chinook or chum they will catch, and the pinks or the
10 salmon eggs. And let them hatch and then let them go, the
11 fish, let them go. And humpies, the dollies. And the
12 males are salmon that are -- the humpies, pink salmon and
13 the pink salmon are [indiscernible] so some creatures --
14 the pink salmon, so they will be swimming, all the fish.

15 So if the king salmon is -- if the eggs are getting
16 eaten from [indiscernible], I am going to tell you the
17 freshwater fish. So the graying, sculpins, lake trouts,
18 trouts, rainbows.

19 Some of sockeye can be big. The males and the
20 females, the female lay eggs, the female sockeye. So the
21 sockeye, we let them go downriver and then upriver. They
22 are like -- they turn red, reddish color. So the female
23 king salmon, they turn yellows and orange, and the males,
24 they turn brown. So like when you catch a king, a Chinook
25 salmon and a coho and a sockeye and a silver, a rainbow

1 trout, a sculpin. [indiscernible] put the sperm in the
2 bags, and put the female -- and so the king salmon can
3 die, and they wash up in the water. They are 25 pounds.
4 They are very heavy.

5 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Is Marie Paul available?

6 MS. MARIE PAUL: Good afternoon. My name
7 is Marie Paul, better known as Pi-pii-aq, my Yup'ik name.
8 I'm from Tuyuryak, Togiak. Daughter of the late Henry and
9 Betty Pavian, wife of Herman Paul, who is originally from
10 Manokotak. Mother of five children, three boys and two
11 girls, and a grandma to five grandchildren.

12 I grew up in a subsistence and commercial fishing
13 family. Every summer we would migrate from Togiak to
14 Dillingham by boat, gathering subsistence food along the
15 way. We stayed in Dillingham in a tent for the whole
16 summer while we all commercial fished. This was the
17 income for the remainder of the year. Prior to going back
18 to Togiak in the fall, we would harvest more subsistence
19 food to bring home. Today my husband and sons are
20 commercial fishermen who also teach our grandchildren how
21 to fish and gather.

22 Salmon of all species have been a very important part
23 of our lives and will continue to be into the future for
24 generations to come. Salmon is dried, smoked, frozen,
25 salted, canned and, best of all, fermented. It is the

1 main source of our diet and income. With a family medical
2 emergency last summer, I had to leave my fish to escort my
3 sister to Anchorage. With the disruption of the
4 subsistence season, I was worried that we may not have
5 enough for the winter, but thankful for family and others
6 who are always willing to share as needed, we made it
7 through the winter.

8 Any interruption on the salmon, among all the other
9 species, all the land animals, including the moose,
10 caribou, beaver, squirrels, et cetera, will dramatically
11 affect our subsistence way of life. Not only will our
12 animals be affected, but our plants and berries, too. Our
13 gathering season is very short, but we make it happen to
14 sustain us through the winter months. Any disruption to
15 our land and to our water will affect us all. The quality
16 of our water is very important. One little mistake or
17 error will wipe it all out.

18 We need to keep everything pure in its original
19 creation for our children and our grandchildren and for
20 many generations to come.

21 Quyana.

22 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Alannah Hurley.

23 MS. ALANNA HURLEY: I'll only go if there
24 is time at the end.

25 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Frances Nelson.

1 MS. FRANCES NELSON: My name is Frances
2 Nelson. I'm Yup'ik from the -- from Koliganek. I'm a
3 member of New Koliganek Village Council, Native Village of
4 Koliganek.

5 I have to apologize if I get emotional. This is a
6 really touchy subject for me. So bear with me.

7 Here we go again. Open pit mining. We said no, and
8 the answer is still the same. It hasn't changed. I'm
9 giving you articles and other testimonials I've done
10 throughout the years that I just gave you.

11 I would like to thank the people of New Stuyahok for
12 inviting and welcoming me to this gathering to share my
13 thoughts and feelings on the issue. You see, as Native
14 people, when we go to someone else's place, we always give
15 them respect and honor because this land is what they
16 utilize for their traditional hunting, fishing, trapping
17 and gathering to provide for their families and to sustain
18 this community.

19 Look, I'm really shaky.

20 Quyana Stuyararamuit.

21 Thank you, Army Corps of Engineers for coming out to
22 take our testimonies and meet the people of the Nushagak
23 River, who happen to be to me personally the most
24 beautiful people in the world.

25 Could I sit down?

1 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Certainly.

2 MS. FRANCES NELSON: Can I have a chair.

3 I come from hardworking, dedicated compassionate,
4 caring, giving people. The ones before me are so
5 important and special to me. Thank you to all the elders
6 and leaders before me. You are so -- you are to me the
7 most absolutely amazing people I know. You see their hard
8 work and dedication have kept our communities alive.
9 Without them, we would not be here. That is where we get
10 our fierce confidence and great boldness from for
11 protecting our land, resources, values, rich Yup'ik
12 heritage and, most importantly, our people.

13 I could go anywhere in the world, nobody would know
14 me. These people have known me my entire life. I love
15 them all and the lives that we share on this river.

16 You see the beautiful Nushagak River, lakes, streams,
17 lush tundra, trees and mountains. Majestic. Call it
18 whatever you want. This is our home and has been for
19 thousands of years. I love the river, lush tundra, trees,
20 just -- just like I love my mom. Just like I love my dad,
21 my children, my beautiful granddaughter. This place is as
22 much a part of me as I am of it. It belongs to me, but
23 most importantly, I, I belong to this place.

24 And this is one of the last wonders of the world, one
25 of the most beautiful places with the most abundant

1 natural resources left on this planet. God decided to put
2 us, us here because he knew that we are the ones to take
3 care of and utilize it in a caring, healthy way. We are
4 the traditional caretakers and stewards of this great
5 land.

6 The salmon and other natural resources need a vast
7 area of land and water to remain healthy. We cannot have
8 a bunch of camps along the river because the salmon depend
9 on the -- depend on it to live and grow. It must remain
10 intact and healthy in order for the salmon and other
11 natural resources to continue to be abundant. I am very
12 concerned about sports fishermen overfishing downriver.
13 There is little to no sportfishing up around Koliganek.
14 It has always been subsistence first. Always. Then
15 commercial and sports last. That is a battle for another
16 day. But I thought I'd add that so everyone can be aware
17 of the issue.

18 I trust that you, Army Corps of Engineers, will make
19 the right decision, protect Bristol Bay from any and all
20 types of large scale development. Our resources feeds the
21 world. I don't know -- I don't know of anyone or anywhere
22 else that can say that. It starts here. It starts here.
23 It starts with us. You see, when you come here, when you
24 come here, we always share what we harvest from the land
25 and water. Why? Because it was given to us by God. So,

1 yeah, amazing. I can say that our resource feeds the
2 world.

3 Without our home, without our pristine, healthy
4 environment, all the natural resources found here are
5 threatened. We, the Yup'ik people of the Nushagak River,
6 are threatened. We have a beautiful rich Yup'ik heritage
7 that is being threatened. If not protected, it will kill
8 the heart and soul from deep within me. It will kill the
9 hearts and souls of my people, Iilgayaramuit, Nushagak
10 River people.

11 From the very beginning, the fight started here.
12 Only a few months after the proposed mine was presented in
13 Ekwok, Koliganek, New Stuyahok and Ekwok all filed joint
14 resolutions opposing the proposed mine and any other large
15 scale development in Bristol Bay. Later other villages
16 followed suit. Environmental groups, organizations and
17 other groups and organizations, philanthropists, and we
18 have organized within our own region to protect Bristol
19 Bay. We have done very well.

20 You are a governmental agency that works for and
21 serves the people. We, we are the people of the Nushagak
22 River. We are the people of Bristol Bay. We say no. We
23 say no to Pebble Mine. We say no to any types of -- any
24 and all types of large scale development in Bristol Bay.
25 I have to remind you that you work and serve the people,

1 not the big mining companies. I want to remind the
2 high-paying executives, work and serve the people. We are
3 traditional users and commercial fishermen. We don't mind
4 hard work and the challenges of what we do and how we
5 live. You see, we don't just talk. We don't just talk.
6 We live it.

7 There is an old ancient song from here, it is
8 Iilgayaa Manaa. It is one of the most -- it is one of my
9 most favorite songs that sings to me deep, deep within me.
10 Some say it was composed 1,000 years ago, but it could be
11 3,000 or 5,000 years old. When translated it goes, we are
12 the people of the Nushagak River. This is how we do
13 things.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Jentelle Brown.

16 MS. JENTELLE BROWN: Hello. My name is
17 Jentelle Brown, and I am 15 years old. I am, I guess, one
18 of the youngest ones speaking, but I'm glad I'm able to
19 because I won't be just speaking for myself, but for my
20 entire generation. I know what you are thinking. I'm
21 only 15 and I probably don't know what I'm talking about,
22 but I do. You can look at me and know that I'm
23 African-American but you can't see that I'm Yup'ik from
24 the tribe of Koliganek, born and raised along this river,
25 born to a proud Yup'ik family. Descendent of hardworking

1 Nushagak fishermen and women.

2 The year I was born was the year Pebble Mine proposed
3 the mine. That same year was the year Koliganek filed a
4 joint resolution against the proposal. Soon after the
5 tribes of New Stuyahok and Ekwok followed because they all
6 knew what would happen to this great land, and I thank the
7 people for doing that.

8 All my life we have been fighting against it. I'm
9 kind of stunned that Pebble Mine is still trying to do the
10 mining, but not really because even at a young age I knew
11 that people like that obviously don't care about the
12 traditional values that we uphold. And if you side with
13 them on the mining, then you don't either.

14 I'm here to keep the traditional values that my mom,
15 Frances Nelson, and my grandparents, Herman and Margie
16 Nelson, have taught me all my life, alive, and to keep my
17 home a home for generations to come because I would love
18 for my kids, my grandchildren and my great, great, great
19 grandchildren to know the place that they come from is a
20 great one. To know that the river I was born on is one
21 they can still eat from.

22 If you allow Pebble Mine to mine, not only will you
23 be contributing to the killing of our fish and the ruining
24 of our water, but our berries and our game. You see a lot
25 of people can't get too many jobs out here, so we depend

1 on our land to provide; and never, not once, have I ever
2 remembered not being able to. But if you allow them to
3 mine, this great land won't be able to.

4 Sure, Pebble Mine can provide some jobs, but what
5 about after they are done? What are we going to depend on
6 then? We will have no fish, no berries, no moose, no
7 caribou, nothing. Once they're done mining, I know
8 they're going to be done with us, too.

9 I'm only 15, but even at this age I'm tired of seeing
10 my people stressed and tired because still they're
11 fighting the same fight over something that is rightfully
12 ours.

13 God's country my Ap'a calls it because like my
14 mother, Francis Nelson, said, God gave it to us knowing we
15 would protect it and its resources. The great elders that
16 I grew up with are aging. And I don't want the ones that
17 remain to remember me as a granddaughter of Herman that
18 didn't help her people. I want them to remember me as one
19 that saved our way of life.

20 So I hope that the Army Corps of Engineers will help
21 us do that by not permitting the mine to mine.

22 Thank you for your time.

23 MR. SHANE MCCOY: MaryAnn Wassilie with a
24 question mark. No? Okay. Matrona Andrew.

25 MS. MATRONA ANDREW: Thank you, guys, for

1 coming. This is the very hot topic, and I'm very glad to
2 be up here. One of the reasons why is Kuktuli is right
3 above us. We would be the first village to be affected by
4 if there was a tailings or some disaster that happened. I
5 know it could happen because I was one of those that went
6 up to Kivalina, and we talked to those people up there.
7 It was very sad.

8 Now, the one day before we left, the family -- there
9 was a family that were going to go and pick berries. I
10 love picking berries, so I gladly go with them. And
11 before we had to go across the bay, a small bay. And when
12 we stopped, I said, look, dead fish, little tiny fish.
13 And then one of the locals said, yeah, and there is lots
14 over there towards the river. We -- we would get that.
15 That would definitely ruin our fish, our main source of
16 food here, not to mention the other wildlife like beaver
17 and our ducks and geese that we are expecting now.

18 I know they said Pebble would bring jobs. I know we
19 are in need of jobs, but maybe our -- maybe we could look
20 at different ways to get jobs. One of the ways -- I'm not
21 happy for taxes, but if it comes to state taxes, maybe I'd
22 be willing to pay state taxes to provide jobs. But surely
23 not the Pebble Mine. I know I sound -- excuse me. My bad
24 cold.

25 But I was really, really amazed at what Kivalina went

1 through. We went and talked to their health corporation.
2 I know we have a lot of cases of cancer, but that would be
3 on the rise for us.

4 I was also at Bethel going to school. And while I
5 was there, there were a lot of people talking about the
6 one village below that one mine. They were doing testing
7 from their hair particles. Just from that hair particle
8 they were finding mercury. Oh, goodness, we don't need
9 more health problems.

10 So for sure, I would say no Pebble Mine. Thank you.

11 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Evan Wonhola.

12 MR. EVAN WONHOLA: My name is Evan
13 Wonhola. And the reason why I wanted to speak was I spoke
14 out before when the Pebble first came in and we stated
15 that we didn't want the mine. Also, I'm one of the people
16 that if you look -- if you look outside or on your way up
17 the hill, all these mountains around this area, I have
18 been through them with -- with our elders. And one of the
19 things that I used to hear before, one of our elders
20 stated that when he was in the hospital in Anchorage,
21 Harvey Samelons stated that he didn't want us to build a
22 mine. And I had no idea what he was talking about.

23 And then Pebble came around, Northern Dynasty. And
24 one of the things that -- because I have been talking to a
25 lot of elders before. And one of the -- Yako Eneguk, our

1 deceased elder, too, he used to tell us in Yup'ik first --
2 I'll say it in Yup'ik. (Speaking in Yup'ik.) And I
3 finally realized what he stated: Our way of life has no
4 value. But I just want you guys to know that since I have
5 been up to Kuktuli and the Swan River and where that
6 proposed mine is supposed to be, on the east side Lower
7 Talarik is where the chemicals are going to be flowing on
8 eastward. That's going to affect the Naknek or even the
9 Iliamna Lake.

10 On the north side, before they had the waste on the
11 Frying Pan Lake, which is on the south end which is on the
12 Kuktuli, but now the Corps of Engineers want to do that
13 north side, and it's going to flow -- it's going to flow
14 into the Swan River lakes. And everything is going to be
15 coming down, coming down here. So what -- what -- what
16 I'm trying to say that we are going to be one of the first
17 villages to be impacted by the -- by the flow, so --

18 And we are still against it. Our elders have taught
19 us how to, you know, live off the land. I'm teaching my
20 kids how to -- my grandkids and everybody else how to live
21 off the land. And right now I'm glad there is a little --
22 little kid that came up and speak.

23 We don't only have sockeye salmon coming through. We
24 have seven or eight species of fish coming up every year,
25 and we depend on those fish every single season, which is

1 four seasons: Winter, summer, spring and fall. So -- and
2 I was surprised because of the fact that we -- we
3 testified before, not -- not to -- to build this mine to
4 Pebble. And now we have Corps of Engineers coming in,
5 which is -- which is a surprise to me. I thought we
6 stated before already that we didn't want no mine.

7 And when I was looking at the slide slow or the --
8 they did pretty doggone good to sell their project to
9 build that mine and everything. Why -- I haven't seen
10 the -- I haven't seen where -- where they should be coming
11 up here during the springtime when we start getting our
12 fish, when all the people are working. Everybody is
13 gathering fish. To see -- to show that on what kind of
14 impact it's going to be on the Natives here that do not
15 speak.

16 And like I stated before, I'm -- I grew up with the
17 elders. When I first came about, I was -- I was so small
18 and I was, you know -- we didn't have no snowmachines. We
19 didn't have no oil, just dogs. And I was one of the
20 fortunate ones to go out Slaving with dogs. So that was
21 the last time.

22 But I see a lot of elders here and I'm glad -- good
23 to see Joe because I know he's still kind of weak. I
24 don't know.

25 But thank you.

1 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Glen Olympic is a maybe.

2 MR. GLEN OLYMPIC: Hello. My name is Glen
3 Olympic. I'm from Iliamna. My concern is about -- I hear
4 about this community, this culture, but I have a culture
5 over here, too. My biggest concern is about the Alaskan
6 pipe, that pipe that you guys are going to try and have
7 the pipe go through. I remember that Alyeska, that was
8 accidental. Someone shot it. Then I heard about Exxon.
9 That was accidental. He ran aground, oil. Lake Iliamna
10 is 90 miles long and about 20 miles wide. How fast will
11 that pipeline affect my culture before I even -- before
12 anybody can respond to get there.

13 Lake Iliamna is number one in the Bristol Bay
14 fisheries for harvest and spawning area. They go up, they
15 go down. They don't stop.

16 But my other question is: Why can't you guys just
17 stop? I'm trying to protect my heritage too, because I
18 got land over there, too. Because I heard about what
19 Moxie said that there is no caribou or moose back there.
20 Ever since the helicopters have been flying in that area,
21 sure, we used to have a lot of that, but now it's gone.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Natalia Wassilliey.

24 MS. NATALIA WASSILLIEY: Hi. My name is
25 Natalia Wassilliey. I was originally raised by my

1 grandparents that used to travel a lot. Even I'm in
2 school, they used to take me out. And we used to live off
3 subsistence. And after fishing when my grandpa didn't
4 make enough money, all they bought was mainly the food,
5 main foods: Rice, sugar, flour, tea, coffee. And we live
6 off the subsistence.

7 Like I said, my name is Natalia Wassilliey. I'm 72.
8 And I'm from New Stuyahok. I call this my home now
9 because I married a man from here. I'm also a grandma and
10 great grandma all together of 40. They are the reason why
11 I have been fighting against Pebble Mine. I want them to
12 grow like I did, living off of our subsistence.

13 I start speaking out because I care for my people,
14 not just my family, our grandkids. For speaking out I may
15 end up with enemies, which I don't care because I am
16 fighting for my people, my rights. All year long we live
17 off subsistence off our land and water. We don't waste
18 anything. In summer when some families have bad luck
19 fishing or have no way of hunting, what we do, we share.
20 I see that a lot. This is like one big family here. I
21 love it here, because we were taught by our ancestors to
22 share.

23 My grandma who died of cancer 40 years ago have told
24 me in our Native tongue -- because every evening she used
25 to tell me stories (Speaking in Yup'ik.) in the evening.

1 One I time she said a white man is going to come and try
2 to take our land away from us because of gold. I don't
3 know how she know this. Our ancestors used to talk about
4 it. (Speaking in Yup'ik.) That means white man will come
5 and try to fight because of the gold and the minerals.
6 Here they died 40-plus, 50 years ago. I don't know how
7 they know about these, but they do. We live off our water
8 like fish, beaver, and off our land: Moose, berries,
9 caribou.

10 You guys let Pebble get permit, we will end up with
11 hardly any subsistence caused from the drainage that will
12 come down from Mulchatna River. It won't only affect our
13 village alone; it will affect the other villages down the
14 line. Fish camps like Portage Creek, Ekwok, Lewis Point,
15 Dillingham, Clarks, Ekuk.

16 And look, I just brought this newspaper yesterday. I
17 mean, I never buy it, but I just picked it up. And on
18 page 10 we have heard of Red Devil Mine. Well, on page
19 10, Red Devil Mine environmental cleanup. The Bureau of
20 Land Management is holding informational meetings to
21 update communities on the status of the Red Devil Mine
22 cleanup.

23 That's what I'm worried about. We will probably have
24 a meeting later about New Stuyahok cleanup.

25 And it also shows that how many villages the BLM will

1 go and talk about contamination at the mine site and
2 provide information on cleanup alternatives, and they put
3 the names of the villages and the dates where they are
4 going to have the meetings right here on page 10.

5 I got scared when I read this. It won't affect only
6 New Stuyahok alone. It will affect the lower villages,
7 fish camps. BLM will probably come to our land if they --
8 Pebble Mine goes through. I'm sorry, but we come here to
9 talk about cleaning up. I don't want to hear that.

10 So I'm proud to see and glad to see a lot of people
11 from all over. Together we could do it. Alone I won't be
12 able to. It will just go in one ear and out the other.
13 But if we continue fighting together like this, Koliganek,
14 Dillingham, Togiak, wherever -- thank you for coming to
15 support all of us here. It's not just us. It's for you
16 guys, too.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Blunka Wassilliey, Sr.

19 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: No.

20 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Wassillie Andrews.

21 MR. WASSILLIE ANDREWS: I thank you for
22 coming to our village. I am Wassillie Andrews, and my
23 Native name, pretty much everyone here is familiar with
24 it. (Speaking in Yup'ik.) Born in Mulchatna, 1951. And
25 I was given that name because I was born sickly, I

1 understand. And my parents came up with that name, and it
2 stuck. And here I am, this far. The elders, we don't see
3 them. They have passed down a way of life to us, the
4 subsistence way of life, the hunting, fishing, gathering.
5 And I'm also a commercial fisherman. So I appreciate what
6 I was taught.

7 And they are the younger generation. And
8 I [indiscernible] on my brother. They have taught me more
9 along the way, Native names and place where we -- you
10 know, bring home the fish to our families. We share. And
11 we appreciate that very much. We share. Like today we
12 celebrated my niece's 40 days. We had a potluck, and
13 everyone was invited to come and share that with us.

14 A way of life we use for thousands of years. Why the
15 land is clean. The water is clean. The air is clean.
16 It's close to us. It's far from us. We bring that food
17 home.

18 We follow Pebble from the beginning when we first
19 heard here. We had elders, Yup'ik Native people, always
20 making sure. They understood what we are talking about,
21 mining. Always have that Yup'ik language translated to
22 them. And they gave us, don't accept it. You get sick.
23 You will die. And that's how they know about the mining
24 industry.

25 Money, it won't get you any place. Food that you

1 eat, you will always have it here. They told us the
2 resources that we have today, ecosystem begins far up
3 river. That's the starting point where our food source
4 begins. And I really have enjoyed listening to them. We
5 work hard to respect, to make sure that we watch out for
6 them, also. They need help, sometimes they are pointed
7 out to us. Sometimes we know because we already -- they
8 already told us to make sure that they have wood to burn,
9 make sure that they have water to burn. So sharing, it's
10 been a wonderful thing for us. Year after year everything
11 recycles.

12 And about four or five years ago I became a tribal
13 member, federally recognized tribe of the village. And
14 what I tell you, I'm a subsistence user. From that
15 position, you know, we share what we have to make sure
16 that what all of us use is protected because federally
17 recognized tribes have responsibility to the government.
18 Federal government has responsibility to the tribe. And
19 you know, for our protection, Corps of Engineers, we like
20 to reach out and say please respond to our needs. Please
21 respond.

22 This time of the year we are in holidays. We are
23 just over that. 30 days is too short. Please make an
24 extension. And next time that you come around, make an
25 extension to where we can, you know, talk about it. I see

1 the elders here older than me that really need that
2 translation to understand so they can be part of -- part
3 with us. They always do participate with us because it
4 was -- it's given to us to share. And with that, also to
5 make sure that we will be able to do that, translate.

6 I know three minutes is a little too short. And if
7 that can be extended more, it would be really great
8 because what we have to share with you -- because you are
9 strangers to us. We are here. We know our area. We
10 would appreciate to have those things available for us.

11 And at this time, thank you to everyone, everyone
12 here from other villages that come. I know from your area
13 -- I have been upriver a lot in my younger years, and I
14 see travelers from Dillingham, from Aleknagik, from
15 Togiak, Manokotak. I see them upriver. And they come and
16 share that resource for them to go home.

17 You should see us out there in the wilderness. Boy,
18 we are happy to see you. The wilderness is not silent.
19 We know we can -- every year we gather in Dillingham to --
20 we will get that fish from all over. Norwegians,
21 Italians, they are friends of ours. So I'm anxious to go
22 down there this spring, summer to participate in that.

23 And please help us with the clean water. You know, I
24 am a nonbeliever in Pebble, nonbeliever for the permit
25 because they have left behind -- the first time around

1 they did exploration, they drilled a lot of holes, 1,300
2 of them. And the old folks say you will hurt the mother
3 earth. Water doesn't stop flowing. It continues. And
4 sometimes I see someplace up some of these creeks when I
5 used to go hunting. I thought that might be okay. You
6 have to drag your [indiscernible] some days there's no
7 permits. We appreciate that very much. You know, that
8 mine, it continues time after time. We still share, and
9 I'm glad that our working people are here to join us. We
10 enjoy working with them all. And somebody from BBNA,
11 commissioners, you have a very good reason to extend that
12 to us.

13 And thank you for coming. Thank you, everyone.

14 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Thomas Weedman.

15 MR. THOMAS WEEDMAN: Hi. I'm Thomas
16 Weedman, resident of New Stuyahok. Thank you, Army Corps
17 of Engineers for allowing me to speak on behalf of Bristol
18 Bay. The way I look at Bristol Bay, we are very blessed
19 and very enriched with all of the environment that was
20 given to us by our sovereign God, and we love that. And I
21 can relate, it happened not only to me, but 10,000 people
22 before me, in my past times with our ancestors. I'm very
23 enriched and blessed with that.

24 Just to say that we keep hearing this Pebble Mine the
25 past couple years. So long. I mean, not a couple years.

1 Excuse my wording, but I'm very nervous. I'm not one of
2 those guys that will speak on behalf -- in front of people
3 or anybody. But anyway, I'm speaking from my heart.

4 We are really well blessed in Bristol Bay. I assure
5 you that. And we want to keep it that way. That's why
6 you see people before me. I feel their senses and I'm
7 starting to feel my senses, too, about this -- this Pebble
8 Mine project.

9 From what I see in TV, every mine is a failure. I
10 haven't been to a mine before, but what I seen was a
11 failure after failure after failure. And knowing this to
12 say this on behalf of Bristol Bay, another enrichment is
13 voices, voices from the people.

14 When I went -- I'm a very newly board member to our
15 corporation and time with tribal. And what I hear by
16 saying enrichment in voices, people up north didn't have a
17 voice from several people I went and visit to in our AFN
18 trips. They didn't have no voices. I'm glad for Bristol
19 Bay to speak on their behalf.

20 I didn't know anything about our environment. And I
21 could see a lot of changes what's coming before me. I
22 go -- I go subsistence 200 miles up north from here. And
23 what I learned in my past time, this -- this Alaska
24 Peninsula is our -- is our lifestyle. Most of our
25 lifestyle subsistence points toward east from here. We

1 have everything there. We have water there, water coming
2 down. We have trees growing up all the time. We have
3 clean landscape, so pristine. It's -- it's very
4 unchangeable since the time of earth was accomplished.
5 And we love it like that.

6 And what I see about Pebble Mine where the heart is
7 is a very mountainous area. And that Pebble Mine,
8 so-called mine, is on the doorstep of seismic activities.
9 And you know, the past couple years we had earthquakes in
10 Anchorage. I assure you, Iliamna area felt that seismic
11 activity. I don't know that right offhand, but I do know
12 living here, we know our background.

13 We are just like -- we are like biologists of the
14 land. And we know. And being a subsistence user all my
15 life, where am I going in a month from now is that way
16 [indicating] because of migrating birds that comes to --
17 to these lands is speckle bellies, white-fronted goose and
18 those things -- and those on the land is Mulchatna calving
19 ground for caribou, moose and so forth and whatnot.

20 And if we have a seismic earthquake and wipe out
21 the -- wipe out the Pebble Mine just like that, we can
22 lose all that.

23 Right now our waters are elevated. We have movable
24 water. We have water underneath. I do know that. We
25 have water on top of the surface. And we have water up in

1 the air. And we have movable water in Bristol Bay.
2 That's why this land is very unique in the way God has
3 planned the way Bristol Bay is. That's why we see 57
4 million salmon. How can -- how can you -- how can you
5 comprehend that? And so forth and whatnot.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Alexie Askade?

8 FATHER ALEXIE: Thank you. What I want to
9 make mention and to let everybody know, the church does
10 not support anything that will destroy the land or cause
11 pollution or, you know, cause any kind of illnesses. We
12 promote sanctity of life, and that life is fullness of
13 everything. You know, I feel like -- sitting back there I
14 was thinking, all I can come up and say is thank everybody
15 that came up before me for what you are saying. And you
16 know, to me, I wouldn't have done what I wanted to do
17 today.

18 But what I want to do is thank Thomas for mentioning
19 blessing of water. But we do more. Just last Sunday we
20 blessed meat during Easter service. In August, we bless
21 berries. Sometimes in the fall we bless flowers. It all
22 comes from the land. So you know, so -- so -- so, you
23 know, continue your work. And I want to especially make
24 note that leave life in these foods. Sanctity of life.
25 It's a gift from God. Save it, pass it on and, you know,

1 and continue your faith in Christ.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Joe Chythlook.

4 MR. JOE CHYTHLOOK: Well, it's been my
5 privilege to follow these guys around for the last several
6 days. And I'm glad that so many of you have come out
7 today to speak on what I have been talking about for the
8 last several days. I will not submit any more notes
9 because that's what -- what you heard from the people
10 today.

11 As mentioned, I'm chairman of BBNC board, and these
12 are my people. And these are -- these people represent
13 the majority of the shareholders that have directed me and
14 my board and corporation to take a stance against the
15 Pebble Mine. And it's because of our value system that we
16 share in Bristol Bay.

17 When that land claims was first enacted, the people
18 of Bristol Bay joined together. We have Athabascans. We
19 have Aleuts. We have Yup'ik Eskimos that joined hands
20 together to claim this land. And it's because we live
21 here -- and the logo that BBNC adopted on behalf of our
22 people is to keep the land as it has always been. And
23 just from listening to the people, the way we can best do
24 that is to take care of the environment of the land in
25 which we live: The water, the fish, the game, the birds,

1 the air, the trees. Whatever that the good lord has given
2 us, we have inherited because our ancestors kept it that
3 way for us.

4 And I guess the charge that we have from our
5 shareholders, and even that young little boy that came and
6 talked with us today, is to continue as long as we can to
7 keep that land the way it has been.

8 I recall probably two decades before I was born,
9 there was a mine called Platinum Mine, Western Alaska, by
10 Goodnews Bay. By the time I started realizing what was
11 happening, that mine was in full swing. There were some
12 people that came and worked. Hardly any local people were
13 employed. There were a few people from Goodnews and a few
14 people from Platinum, but the company brought their own
15 people to work.

16 We talk about jobs. People that own corporations
17 bring people that know how to do stuff for them to make
18 money. And so instead of training people to mine, they
19 will bring their own people because they -- they say that
20 the life span of this proposed Pebble Mine will be around
21 60 years. Well, I guess if I were to gauge my life span
22 to that time frame, I would have been dead 15 years ago.

23 And many of our elders are here today because the
24 knowledge that we have learned from our elders has been
25 passed on to us. And we hope that, as we continue as

1 people in Bristol Bay, that we can continue to retain that
2 land.

3 BBNC has many shareholders. We have 10,000-plus.
4 However, about 4,000-plus have remained to stay in Bristol
5 Bay. Just like many of our shareholders here, I have a
6 family. I have three boys. Because of the fact that they
7 needed jobs, they have moved away. One of them is a
8 physician down in Tacoma, Washington. Another one works
9 in -- currently works over in Anchorage helping with
10 developing a fishery for a tribal group down in Alaska
11 Peninsula. And the younger one, I'm glad he came nine
12 years after the next one because he's young enough to
13 still help me go fishing. And he decided to go back to
14 school.

15 But he has a little three-year-old boy that he
16 brought to our place last year because he's about two
17 years old or so, starting to realize what was going on.
18 He noticed that his Ap'a had a power boat. And he fell in
19 love with my boat. And even after they got home back to
20 Anchorage and up in Fairbanks where he's at, one of his
21 conversations to grandma and me was, I want to go see
22 Ap'a's boat. And based on that, I guess it's kind of a
23 charge to his grandpa that I want to see that three-year
24 old grandson of mine continue the lifestyle that I have
25 been involved in for many years.

1 Like most of our people here, as I mentioned the
2 other day, Bristol Bay, I started helping with fishing
3 when I was 12 years old. That's 60 years ago. And by the
4 grace of God, I hope to be fishing until I'm 85. That's
5 when my dad quit. That's ten more years.

6 So please, folks, allow us to continue that.

7 I know, you know, we hear from the opponents that we
8 are saying a false fear. They express that. We are
9 expressing a false fear. But if you know the Yup'ik
10 language and maybe the other languages, we are actually in
11 fear about our way of life. The Yup'ik way of life is
12 called yuya'raq, the way to be a person. And this is
13 where God has placed us to be and to continue to be.

14 So with all the science and everything that -- that
15 BBNC and others have expressed to other agencies prior to
16 testifying before you folks, we still feel that this
17 Pebble Mine is the wrong place. And I -- and it's the
18 wrong time to do it because our people still feel that we
19 don't need it at this time. It may be years from now when
20 all the other resources that we enjoy are not as plentiful
21 as --

22 Life changes. In my 75 years of life, I have seen
23 quite a few changes. But I hope that none of it changes
24 because an agency such as you gives the Pebble Mine a
25 permit to starting a mine.

1 You know, we are residents of the state of Alaska. I
2 worked for State of Alaska for 21 years. And the reason
3 why we, I guess, have a voice in the state of Alaska is
4 because our office is closer than Washington, D.C. Our
5 people are able to go to Juneau. And we have a fish and
6 game process where -- which allows us a voice to
7 participate and to manage the fishery the way our people
8 would like to see it managed. And so I hope that as we --
9 as we continue to talk against the Pebble Mine, that you
10 will -- you will -- as you think about the environmental
11 impact statement, that you will realize we are part of the
12 environment.

13 We have been here for a long time, our people have
14 been, our grandmothers, grandfathers. Some of us have
15 trans- -- I guess moved from Western Alaska and on up to
16 here. A lot of these folks are my relatives. And that's
17 kind of how we are. We are family. But anyway, I guess
18 that's why I wanted to get up here again today to state
19 and mention to you that what I have been mentioning for
20 the last couple of times from Naknek to Newhalen,
21 Kokhanok, you have heard again from the people here. Our
22 people have spoken.

23 And we at BBNC, even as a corporation we have learned
24 to listen to our people because that's the ones that we
25 represent. That's the ones that's asked us to advocate

1 for them on their behalf and for our lifestyle together.

2 So thanks again, Mr. Shane -- is it Shane or Sean?

3 MR. SHANE MCCOY: It's Shane.

4 MR. JOE CHYTHLOOK: Well, I hope it never
5 becomes shame. Thank you again.

6 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Delores Larson.

7 MS. DELORES LARSON: Camai. Thank you for
8 this opportunity to speak. For the record, my name is
9 Delores Larson. My Yup'ik name is Myuuaq. I was born in
10 Dillingham and raised in the Native Village of Koliganek,
11 which is the furthest village up the Nushagak River.

12 First and foremost, I am a provider and a lifelong
13 subsistence user. I would like to introduce you to my
14 traditional and subsistence lifestyle and to many of those
15 around me, my family and friends in this region. We share
16 a deep connection to our pristine lands, waters, air, and
17 all the natural and renewable resources, the fish
18 wildlife, wild vegetation, berries and birds.

19 With every season comes food on the table and that
20 sense of security. Our children's dependence on us to
21 provide for them is the same dependence we have on our
22 lands and waters to provide for us.

23 In the summers we fish for kings, reds and silvers.
24 We harvest salmonberries, blue, black and cranberries into
25 the fall. We hunt for moose and caribou, set our net for

1 whitefish. Once the hunting season is over, we haul wood
2 to heat our homes and to light our maqii. Then it's
3 winter. We ice fish for grayling and pike. We have a
4 winter hunting season for moose and caribou. A lot of our
5 people supplement their income by trapping wolves, fox,
6 marten, beaver, wolverine, minks.

7 In the spring the birds migrate back home, and we
8 hunt for ptarmigan, geese and ducks. After the snow
9 melts, we gather wild vegetation: ningaks, sourdocks,
10 chythlook, tundra tea and wild celery. Our fish and
11 wildlife are not only fresh and abundant, but also very
12 lean and healthy.

13 So as you can see, we lead very busy lives all year
14 round. Not only that, we put our lives on the line while
15 fishing, hunting and trapping. We face very extreme
16 weather conditions and need to be prepared for the worst
17 because it is no joke going out into the wild to gather
18 our subsistence.

19 Our spiritual lives are so intertwined with our
20 everyday lives. We just celebrated a very important
21 holiday, the resurrection of Christ, Holy Pascha. And 40
22 days prior to this holiday we are required lent, and that
23 means no fish [sic]. We live along the river system, so
24 all we have access to is salmon and freshwater fish. We
25 give thanks and have deep respect for the land and waters

1 that has sustained our bodies and souls for over a
2 century.

3 Please do not threaten our flourishing lifestyle for
4 short-term interests of a foreign mining company. We have
5 been stressed with the thought of Pebble destroying our
6 livelihoods for over a decade. I am respectively [sic]
7 asking the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use their power
8 to protect our watershed and not allow any mine to develop
9 in our region, particularly the proposed Pebble Mine.

10 The EPA completed a thorough scientific study of the
11 Bristol Bay watershed, and it plainly speaks that even if
12 the proposed Pebble Mine were to run as planned, that it
13 would still have unacceptable adverse effects on our
14 salmon habitat. Impacts like this threaten our culture,
15 our way of life, our primary food sources, and our
16 long-term sustainable economy.

17 Please recognize the importance of listening to the
18 people and the tribes in this area who have great insight
19 into the natural processes at work. We have a great stake
20 in Bristol Bay's future. Our connection to the land and
21 the dependence on it are factors you should consider when
22 making a decision on the proposed Pebble Mine project.

23 I speak on behalf of my family, community and Bristol
24 Bay. The risks from large scale mining development are
25 far too great for the Native people of this land.

1 You have heard this before and you will hear it
2 again. Pebble Mine is the wrong mine in the wrong place.
3 Guyana.

4 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Faith Andrew.

5 MS. FAITH ANDREW: My name is Faith
6 Andrew. I'm the daughter of Wassillie and Lukelia Petla
7 and Cavelila and Anuska Gust, who were nomadic people and
8 commercial fishermen. My family has always lived off our
9 lands. Today my family still goes to fish camp and fall
10 camp to harvest our foods from our lands. 80 to 90
11 percent of our diet is from our lands: Fish, moose,
12 caribou, beaver, porcupine, birds, and all the berries.
13 And like I mentioned earlier, I come from a commercial
14 fishing family.

15 Jobs has always been a concern in our area. Our
16 culture is to take care of each other. So like when we
17 have a shortage of funds, when we go hunting, we share
18 costs for gas to go hunting. And we take care of our
19 elders in our family first, and then when we get enough
20 moose, we share it with the ones that are not able to go
21 out.

22 When Pebble comes, they will provide jobs. But one
23 of my concerns is our -- is our people qualified to, you
24 know, there will be a limit of people. Not everybody will
25 be hired. And when they are done, they will have no jobs.

1 And the effects from the mine can kill off our fish, our
2 hunting areas, our berries, and we will have no jobs, no
3 resources.

4 I have two grandchildren, and my tradition is to pass
5 down our culture. And I want my children and my
6 grandchildren to live off the land as my grandparents and
7 I.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Adrian Wonhola.

10 MS. ALANNAH HURLEY: Camai. (Speaking in
11 Yup'ik.)

12 Hello, everybody. My name is Mancuaq. I was named
13 after my am'a, my great grandmother, who actually came
14 down from the Kuskokwim region at the birth of the
15 commercial fishery and raised my grandma, who is related
16 to many people here. My parents are Desmond and Andrea
17 Hurley, and we were born and raised -- my family and I
18 were born and raised in Clarks Point, and I now live in
19 Dillingham. And today I'm testifying on behalf of myself.

20 I just want to thank everybody that came before me.
21 It's very hard for our people, I mean for me especially,
22 to articulate what we are actually doing here. And I've
23 heard a lot of different agencies have really
24 condescending tones when they talk to us about our stories
25 and our passion and our emotion.

1 But from everything I've heard today, our people are
2 literally fighting for the spirit of everything we come
3 from and everything for the future, everything that makes
4 us who we are and that we hold so sacred. And so of
5 course we are emotional about that. Of course we are
6 passionate about that. And my hope is is that, when
7 people listen to this, you get that. And I hope you find
8 something in your life that you hold so sacred that you
9 will do anything to protect.

10 And that is what this region has done for over a
11 decade because we have no choice in order to protect
12 everything we have been taught to value. Everything that
13 will keep us not only physically sustained on this planet,
14 but spiritually and emotionally is what we are fighting
15 for.

16 So in this process I hope that you will think about
17 the impact of your own bias and your own perspective in
18 this system and in this process and how the government
19 looks at the world maybe very different from the way we
20 look at the world. But that does not make our perspective
21 and our values any less.

22 I guess I would just say one of the most moving
23 testimonies for me today is from Jentelle. She was born,
24 literally, when this had started. And imagine raising
25 your child under siege because that is what our people are

1 facing. We have been under siege from a mining company
2 for over a decade. We have children being born in wartime
3 for us. We are fighting for everything that makes us who
4 we are. And think about how that impacts them. Think
5 about the psychological and emotional impact of being
6 raised under siege in a time of war because that is the
7 equivalent of what is happening to our people.

8 But Jentelle's testimony was so moving because not
9 only has she turned that hardship growing up in that time
10 into something so powerful and recognizing the importance
11 and the value of our people. And that is why I'm so
12 thankful to come from this region because our people have
13 never forgot who they are. And they have raised our
14 children and will continue to raise our children to never
15 forget and always fight to protect that. And so I'm so
16 thankful for everybody that stood up today and tried to
17 articulate that within this process that was never made
18 for us to have a true voice in.

19 So I really hope that you guys consider going to more
20 places extending even beyond 90 days because our people
21 have been fighting this for a very long time. Our
22 opposition doesn't only come from emotion and passion. It
23 comes from science, seeing these types of projects
24 devastate areas around them across history, modern mining
25 even devastate areas around them. It comes from history.

1 All you have to do is look at history and science and know
2 that this does not make sense.

3 And so the last two things I'll say are hope
4 considered within this process that aren't repetitive of
5 what other people have said is that I hope you look at the
6 social impacts on indigenous women because we know that
7 the statistics in developed areas or where areas of
8 development are around indigenous peoples, the rates of
9 violence and suicide and missing and murdered indigenous
10 women specifically skyrocket. So if that were to happen,
11 what does that mean for the rates of violence or missing
12 and murdered indigenous women within Bristol Bay and
13 Alaska? Those statistics are there, and I hope they are
14 included within the EIS to be considered.

15 Lastly I'll just say that the propaganda video that
16 began this hearing, Pebble said that this is an area
17 that's been designated for mining. And that is a complete
18 and utter lie. And I hope the Army Corps takes into
19 account that former mining executives rewrote the Bristol
20 Bay Area Land Management Plan in '05 in the dark of night
21 and were sued later for our tribes for literally taking
22 away 98 percent of the habitat designations across that
23 area plan.

24 This land was never designated for mining until 2005
25 when they rewrote it behind our backs and changed

1 everything to make this area a mining district. And that
2 is what this will become. If Pebble is allowed this
3 baloney plan, this 20-year mine plan that literally is a
4 tenth of what's actually up there, if they are allowed to
5 put in this crazy vast amount of infrastructure, it
6 literally makes all those other claims viable and all of a
7 sudden profitable.

8 So what does mean? We're already seeing the impacts
9 of that. The Groundhog mine by Nondalton is moving
10 forward with exploration because if the infrastructure is
11 put in, what are the cumulative impacts for Bristol Bay as
12 a whole? If we go from being the last great sockeye
13 salmon fishery and the last great salmon culture left on
14 the planet to all of a sudden a mining district because,
15 as you know, there are over 20 large scale active mining
16 claims within the Bristol Bay watershed alone.

17 So the Army Corps cannot ignore the fact that this
18 just isn't about Pebble. It's about a much broader mining
19 district. So I hope those are taken into account.

20 And with that, quyana so much to the people of New
21 Stuyahok for allowing us to come and allowing us to use
22 our voice in your home.

23 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Lindsey Layland.
24 Lindsey Layland.

25 Well, folks, that is the last of the folks that have

1 indicated that they would like to speak in public. We
2 have a little bit of time left if anybody would like to
3 sit down and give their comments to our reporter. We are
4 available for a little bit longer.

5 And again, there is an opportunity to comment online,
6 pebbleprojecteis.com. And just a reminder that the
7 comment period has been extended to 29 June. So there is
8 time. I encourage you to go to our project website.
9 There is information. The permit is fully available.

10 And again, I would like to thank you for allowing us
11 to come into your community and listen to your testimony.
12 It will inform what is in the document.

13 And again I thank you.

14 (Proceedings adjourned at 4:19 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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