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PEBBLE PROJECT  
SCOPING MEETING  
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA  
Taken April 17, 2018  
Commencing at 4:40 p.m.  
Volume I - Pages 1 - 72, inclusive

Taken at  
Dillingham Middle School  
Dillingham, 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 Mike Montone  
4 Chief of Regulatory Division

5 Shane McCoy  
6 Program Manager

7 Katie McCafferty  
8 Project Manager

9 For State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources,  
10 Office of Project Management and Permitting:

11 Faith Martineau  
12 Executive Director

13 For AECOM:

14 Bill Craig  
15 Project Manager

16 Jon Isaacs  
17 Public Involvement Task Lead

18 Jessica Evans  
19 Stakeholder Engagement

20 For E3:

21 Patty Murphy  
22 Stakeholder

23 Taken by:

24 Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

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

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

2 MR. WILLIAM JOHNSON: My name is William  
3 P. Johnson. I am a commercial fisherman, and I am the one  
4 commercial fisherman on the Pebble Advisory Board. And  
5 my -- I've brought up concerns at meetings, and my major  
6 concern is the water within the -- within the area. The  
7 mine location is in a valley which are the headwaters of  
8 the south fork Kuktuli River. And you take that in  
9 consideration with the drill holes that they took -- they  
10 made when they explored for the extent of the ore body,  
11 and some of those bore holes were artesian wells. That  
12 indicates that there is a lot of water located within that  
13 area. So when the mine site elevation is 775 feet,  
14 roughly, and there is 100 feet of overburden, gravel and  
15 soil, and once they get down into the -- down into ore  
16 bodies, their target depth is 1,700 feet. That means that  
17 they will be about 1,000 feet below the level of the  
18 Iliamna Lake, 1,000 feet below.

19 And my major concern is what they're going to do with  
20 all the water that's going to be flowing into the mine  
21 hole, the mine pit itself. And I'm concerned that the --  
22 when they pump the water out, that it's going to dry up  
23 the rivers that feed both the Upper Talarik Creek and the  
24 south fork of the Kuktuli River.

25 So I want the Corps to focus in on what their

1 estimate -- what the estimate is of the water that they  
2 will have -- need to pump out to keep that mine site dry  
3 and if it -- if the water comes in contact with the ore  
4 body, would it become contaminated and have to be treated  
5 separately from the water. I know that they state that  
6 they will -- they have separate areas where they pump  
7 contaminated water and where they pump regular water. I  
8 mean, you know, that you can -- potable water.

9 They say that they are going to pump water into the  
10 Upper Talarik Creek to keep it flowing, but when they pump  
11 that water into that area, it's sterile. I mean, it's  
12 cleaner than the water that's in the creek. And since  
13 Talarik Creek, Upper Talarik Creek is a salmon spawning  
14 area, the condition of the water is that it's not able to  
15 support smolt and juvenile salmon to grow.

16 So they said that they can add stuff to the water to  
17 make it, I mean, available so that the salmon smolt can  
18 survive, but it is still an area that has to be looked  
19 into.

20 And secondly, we have to make sure that the State has  
21 reserved water into the -- into the lake -- I mean, in the  
22 rivers so that salmon can reproduce.

23 That's my comment.

24 MS. WASSILIISIA BENNIS: My name is  
25 Wassiliisia Bennis. I was born and raised in the

1 communities of Dillingham and Ekuk within the Bristol Bay  
2 drainage. My family grew up fishing and living off the  
3 land. I'm here for my family, grandparents, parents,  
4 brothers, sisters, my sons, daughter, grandchildren and  
5 those yet to come.

6 Over the last ten years, I have come and testified  
7 because I see the Pebble Mine taking away our way of life.  
8 It's been over 100-plus years that my family had lived off  
9 this land, and when I think of what the Pebble Mine can do  
10 to harm our traditional values and have a major impact to  
11 our water and land, it breaks my heart and brings tears to  
12 my eyes back then and now.

13 When you are processing our natural resources with  
14 fish from splitting, smoking, salting, canning and  
15 freezing, you cannot speak or teach about it. You have to  
16 experience it and do it hands-on. The process of  
17 gathering subsistence food is something we have done for  
18 generations. The impacts to our traditional values is  
19 invaluable, the impact and loss of our natural resources  
20 from salmon, small and large game, our berries and plants  
21 and our natural renewable resource. I ask you to please  
22 make wise decisions and look at the long-term impacts to  
23 us as indigenous peoples and look at permit protections  
24 for the entire Bristol Bay watershed. I cannot say  
25 nothing more than that has not already been said.

1           And I am not beyond begging you. I am begging you,  
2 begging you to stop this destruction and not be a part of  
3 destroying our lands and our way of life.

4           Thank you.

5           Now I want to present a formal comment from the  
6 Bristol Bay Native Corporation. I'm the chief  
7 administrative officer, and I was authorized to read a  
8 resolution that our full board of directors passed at  
9 their meeting just held. So I want to read it in its  
10 entirety. So if I can start, it's Bristol Bay Native  
11 Association. It's Resolution 2017-06. It's a resolution  
12 affirming BBNA's opposition to large scale metallic  
13 sulfide mining activity in the Bristol Bay watershed and  
14 supporting actions for the protection of our renewable  
15 resources.

16           Whereas, the Bristol Bay Native Association is an  
17 Alaska Native regional nonprofit corporation and tribal  
18 consortium made up of 31 federally recognized tribes from  
19 the Bristol Bay region of Alaska; and,

20           Whereas, villages in the region have a deep cultural  
21 reliance on the harvesting and sharing of renewable  
22 resources like fish for subsistence. The Yup'ik, Aleut  
23 and Athabaskan peoples benefited from these waters for  
24 thousands of years. Traditional practices tie families  
25 together through the passing of knowledge from one

1 generation to the next; and,

2           Whereas, the protection of the world class natural  
3 resource in Bristol Bay and the Alaska Peninsula including  
4 economically and culturally valuable fisheries and  
5 ecosystem which sustains them is in the highest public  
6 interest; and,

7           Whereas, the watersheds of the Bristol Bay and Alaska  
8 Peninsula region support the world's most prolific wild  
9 salmon runs and renewable resources that have been  
10 harvested sustainably for millennia; and,

11           Whereas, the commercial salmon fisheries of Bristol  
12 Bay account for the world's most valuable wild salmon  
13 fishery and typically supplies almost half of the world's  
14 wild sockeye salmon; and,

15           Whereas, the Bristol Bay region is comprised of other  
16 important commercial sports and subsistence fisheries,  
17 including many sports fisheries for numerous freshwater  
18 species in the Bristol Bay watershed; and,

19           Whereas, the Bristol Bay Native Association  
20 recognizes that large scale metallic sulfide mining like  
21 the Pebble Mine will have unacceptable adverse impacts on  
22 the waters, fisheries, wildlife and indigenous people from  
23 the Bristol Bay region; and,

24           Whereas, in 2006 the BBNA board adopted Resolution  
25 06-37 opposing large scale mining in Bristol Bay until

1 studies unequivocally prove it can be done with no net  
2 loss to subsistence resources like fish and wildlife; and,

3       Whereas in 2012, the BBNA board adopted Resolution  
4 2012-04 supporting proactive EPA action using their  
5 authority under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to  
6 impose proposed restrictions on the development of the  
7 Pebble deposit, but litigation has stopped the EPA from  
8 finalizing necessary restrictions to protect fish and  
9 wildlife habitat; and,

10       Whereas, the Environmental Protection Agency's final  
11 Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment of 2014 confirmed very  
12 significant and irreparable losses of fish and wildlife  
13 habitat, spawning streams and lands will occur if the  
14 Pebble deposit is developed at any scale; and,

15       Whereas, in 2014 voters in the state of Alaska  
16 approved the Bristol Bay Forever Initiative with nearly  
17 two-thirds in favor showing support of Alaskans from  
18 across the state to add extra layer of protections for the  
19 1972 Bristol Bay Fisheries Reserve in regards to large  
20 scale metallic sulfur mining and require proof of no harm  
21 in the fishery; and,

22       Whereas, despite after over a decade of BBNA and  
23 other stakeholder opposition to proposed large scale  
24 mining in the Bristol Bay watershed, entities continue to  
25 push forward with their mining proposals in Bristol Bay;



1 and,

2           Whereas, there are different initiatives at the state  
3 and federal level that would contribute to the protection  
4 of the Bristol Bay watershed from large scale metallic  
5 sulfide mining including, but not limited to, amending  
6 Title XVI in the Alaska Constitution, completing EPA's  
7 Bristol Bay 404(c) determination, creating regulations  
8 from the approved Bristol Bay Forever Initiative, creating  
9 a process for designation of Outstanding Natural Resource  
10 Waters at the Kuktuli River, and others.

11           Now, therefore, be it resolved by the full board of  
12 directors of the Bristol Bay Native Association that BBNA  
13 reaffirms its opposition to large scale metallic sulfide  
14 mining in the Bristol Bay watershed.

15           Be it further resolved that the Bristol Bay Native  
16 Association urge stakeholders and decisionmakers to work  
17 together and adopt necessary actions for the protection of  
18 the Bristol Bay watershed from large scale metallic  
19 sulfide mining. The initiatives previously stated are  
20 some ways to achieve this goal.

21           Signed, Fred T. Angasan, Chairman of the Board. The  
22 resolution passed at the foregoing, on the 23rd day of  
23 March, 2017 at a duly called and convened meeting and that  
24 a quorum was present. Signed, Robert Heyano, Secretary.

25           Done.

1                   MR. SHANE MCCOY: Good evening, everybody.  
2 Good evening, everybody. Can you hear me now? Perfect.  
3 Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank you on behalf  
4 of the United States Army for participating in our scoping  
5 process. As there are many individuals who would like to  
6 provide input into the scope of our document, we ask that  
7 you please be respectful of others if they participate.  
8 Please note, all public comments will be made publicly  
9 available, including the contact information of that  
10 commenter.

11                 I'd like to point out a couple of posters over here  
12 today. That is a rough draft of the NEPA process. We are  
13 in the second blue box, the public comment scoping period,  
14 a very important period in the development of the  
15 environmental impact level of analysis. Please note the  
16 other poster to the right gives some tips on providing  
17 effective comments to help inform our scope during the  
18 public comment period.

19                 Your input will be used to inform a range of  
20 alternatives, resource issues to be analyzed, methods used  
21 for analysis, and potential mitigative measures throughout  
22 the evaluation of Department of the Army's permit  
23 application for discharge of dredge and fill material  
24 submitted by the Pebble Limited Partnership.

25                 The United States Army Corps of Engineers Alaska

1 District is required to review the permit application and  
2 will serve as the lead federal agency for the  
3 environmental impact statement level of analysis. In  
4 addition to the district's permit evaluation and decision,  
5 there are two other federal agencies that will need to  
6 evaluate the proposed impacts and make subsequent  
7 decisions. These are the United States Coast Guard for a  
8 bridge over the Newhalen River and the Department of  
9 Interior Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement  
10 for the gas pipeline proposed on the Outer Continental  
11 Shelf. The three federal agencies will use the  
12 environmental impact statement to inform our federal  
13 decisions.

14 We are here tonight because the first step in writing  
15 the environmental impact statement is to determine what we  
16 should analyze in the document. This process is called  
17 scoping. The applicant's proposed impacts as described in  
18 the Department of the Army permit application are of  
19 primary importance to the scope of our document. The  
20 framework of our document must have a nexus to the  
21 proposed impacts under the jurisdiction of the three  
22 federal agencies. We have posters on this wall and a  
23 brief video to describe the proposed project. I will show  
24 the video right after this introduction.

25 You can provide your input into what we should

1 analyze in several ways. There are computers which will  
2 allow you to geo-reference your input directly over there.  
3 You may mail in or hand-deliver your input to anybody with  
4 a name tag on, or you can drop them off at the sign-in  
5 table. You may speak directly to the court reporters in  
6 the rear of the room. Or you may choose to view the  
7 project information and submit your information from an  
8 external computer on our project website,  
9 pebbleprojecteis.com, all one word. We will have  
10 recorders, as well, if you prefer to have transcribed  
11 later. If you have prepared a written statement, please  
12 provide it -- that you will be reading to our recorder,  
13 please provide it to our recorder so that they may  
14 accurately capture the comment you're providing.

15 If you choose to listen to others who are speaking  
16 their comments to a court reporter, please limit the  
17 background noise for the ease of the reporter to precisely  
18 record the individual's input.

19 With that, I will turn on the video.

20 (A video was shown.)

21 MR. SHANE MCCOY: I have been asked what  
22 the Corps' role is in this process. We are the lead  
23 federal agency. Like I mentioned, there are two other  
24 federal agencies that have to make the decision with  
25 regard to the EIS process. Let me be clear. As a

1 permitting agency, the United States Army Corps of  
2 Engineers' regulatory program is neither a proponent nor  
3 an opponent for the project, but instead are tasked with  
4 providing an independent analysis of the potential  
5 alternatives, the potential impacts and potential benefits  
6 of the proposed project.

7 At the end of the NEPA process, at the end of the  
8 environmental impact statement, it is not a decision at  
9 that point, but rather information to be used to --  
10 information to be used to make decisions by the three  
11 federal agencies. The three federal agencies will at that  
12 point develop a record of decision and they will make  
13 their decisions.

14 Understand that right now the scoping period has been  
15 extended an additional 60 days. The close of the public  
16 comment period, this portion of the NEPA, National  
17 Environmental Policy Act, process is June 29. We will  
18 continue to take comments until that time, and that will  
19 inform the scope of our analysis. The comments received  
20 after that time will be added to the public comments for  
21 the next public comment period, which will be at the draft  
22 environmental impact point in the project.

23 At this time, myself, Katie McCafferty, Mike Montone  
24 are here from the Corps of Engineers if you have any  
25 questions about our role or the process. There is an

1 individual from the State, as well, if you have any  
2 questions for the State. And we have other folks here  
3 from our third-party contractor to help also describe the  
4 process.

5 But on behalf of the United States Army, I would like  
6 to thank you for participating in the public process,  
7 taking the time today, helping inform our decision and our  
8 framework for the EIS level of analysis associated with  
9 the environmental impact statement.

10 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Are you  
11 taking questions?

12 MR. SHANE MCCOY: I am not, but I will on  
13 the side.

14 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Can you at  
15 least explain the testimony process?

16 MR. SHANE MCCOY: Yeah. The testimony  
17 process, as I indicated earlier, it is a public process to  
18 provide comments [inaudible]. We have computers that are  
19 linked to our project website. You can go independently  
20 at your own leisure to evaluate and analyze the  
21 information on our website. Understand the Corps' process  
22 is a clear, transparent process. What I mean by that is  
23 the project website has an awful lot of information  
24 available, including the permit application, a bunch of  
25 baseline information, many other studies that we are

1 taking a hard look at to determine what information we can  
2 use in our analysis.

3 Public comments are publicly available. Obviously  
4 the information provided by the commenter, as well as a  
5 whole bunch of other information is on our public website.  
6 We intend to keep it as realtime as possible, including  
7 updating in realtime your comments that you are providing  
8 in our computers tonight.

9 Please do understand that this is the first public  
10 opportunity to help inform the scope of our analysis for  
11 this environmental impact statement. --

12 So again, thank you for taking the time. Thank you.  
13 If you have any questions, please feel free to engage us.  
14 And again there will be another public comment opportunity  
15 at the draft impact statement.

16 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Just one  
17 question for everybody. [Inaudible.]

18 MR. SHANE MCCOY: BSEE is the Department  
19 of Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental  
20 Enforcement. After Deepwater Horizon, BSEE was formed  
21 with BOEM from the Minerals Management Agency. So their  
22 permit authority is they're looking at a right-of-way for  
23 the gas pipeline on the Outer Continental Shelf, specific  
24 to the Outer Continental Shelf.

25 There is a fact sheet available on the table as you

1 signed in that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental  
2 Enforcement has provided and explains what their role is.  
3 Again, the Coast Guard, they have one permit decision to  
4 make with regards to navigation for a bridge over the  
5 Newhalen River. And then our jurisdiction is discharge of  
6 dredge or fill material into the waters of the U.S. or  
7 anything that may affect the course, condition, capacity  
8 or location of navigable waters.

9 MS. BETTY GARDINER: My name is Betty  
10 Gardiner, and I am here representing the federally  
11 recognized Clarks Point Tribal Council. We are located  
12 across the Nushagak Bay just a short distance from here.  
13 Our tribe and all its tribal members are greatly concerned  
14 about the impacts posted by the Pebble Mine.

15 As you may know, the Nushagak River confluences with  
16 the Mulchatna and the Kaktuli Rivers whose upper -- whose  
17 upper reaches lie within, under and around the Pebble  
18 deposit, and over the years, I have become very familiar  
19 with the proposed project. I need you to understand that.  
20 You may think that because Clarks Point is down the river  
21 from where the actual mines will be that we are not going  
22 to be hurt by this mine. That's not true. We are going  
23 to be affected by this mine. There is no doubt about it.

24 As part of the current scoping project, I need you  
25 to -- I got my glasses today and they are just a little



1 bit goofed up. As part of the scoping process surrounding  
2 the Pebble permit application, we have asked that  
3 community members and tribes like the Clarks Point Council  
4 to identify certain areas or topics that I believe are  
5 important for the U.S. Army Corps to review as part of its  
6 environmental impact statement. As such, I would like to  
7 see a full comprehensive analysis of the possible direct,  
8 indirect and cumulative effects to the following:

9 Cultural resources and subsistence. Impacts to cultural  
10 resources (historical and prehistorical sites) and direct  
11 destruction of cultural resources from the Army Corps --  
12 these glasses are just bum.

13 Okay. Impacts to the cultural resources (historical  
14 and prehistorical sites) and direct destruction of  
15 cultural resources from all project components; the  
16 long-term multigenerational impacts to traditional  
17 knowledge; impacts to the subsistence harvest patterns,  
18 subsistence values and beliefs, subsistence hunting and  
19 fishing due to habitat destruction and fragmentation and  
20 loss of access. As the Nushagak River is downriver from  
21 the Koktuli and Mulchatna Rivers, which are primary  
22 sources of our subsistence fish and game harvest, any and  
23 all potential impacts to wildlife, including all aquatic  
24 species, mammals, birds, marine mammals, and big game  
25 species from habitat destruction and loss, behavioral

1 disturbance or accidental environmental damage must be  
2 analyzed.

3 Salmon. Impacts to all five species of salmon and  
4 salmon habitat -- Chinook, coho, sockeye, pink and chum  
5 salmon from the Kuktuli, Mulchatna and Nushagak drainages;  
6 impacts from the destruction of the culverts impacting  
7 fish passage; long-term contamination from mine effluent  
8 and dust deposition in water, accidental spills and  
9 tailings dam failures, pipe failures, water quality,  
10 increased erosion and sedimentation.

11 Surface and groundwater hydrology. Impacts to  
12 surface water from changes in stream flow, dams and  
13 effluent, water balance, flood magnitude and frequency,  
14 wetlands, lakes and ponds filling, surface water  
15 extraction from all proposed Pebble project components and  
16 during construction, operation and closure phases.

17 MS. DIANE WETTER: My name's Diane Wetter.  
18 Like the salmon who return to their natural streams every  
19 summer, I, too, feel a call to return to my birthplace. I  
20 was born and raised in the fishing village of Ekuuk.

21 As far back as I can remember, we fished. I, along  
22 with my family and many others, return each year to  
23 subsist and commercial fish. We are third and fourth  
24 generation participants in the fisheries. Even though so  
25 much has changed, everything that is important is still

1 there. Five species of salmon still return.  
2 Multigenerational families still come together to harvest  
3 the salmon for income and food. Commercial fishing and  
4 putting up subsistence fish is hard work. It's not a  
5 chore, though. It's what I do with love. It is who I am.

6 It is in the moments as I participate in the fishery  
7 I become aware of the importance of this place. My body  
8 and soul are rejuvenated. The small voice deep within  
9 says I am truly home. These sentiments are shared by many  
10 who participate in the fishery, even those who have only  
11 come recently.

12 I am grateful the largest salmon run on the planet is  
13 right outside my cabin. I am grateful that the older  
14 generation still teaches the younger generation to find  
15 fulfillment in hard work. We have a spiritual connection  
16 to this natural world. This entire life is dependent on  
17 salmon. Salmon provide an income. Salmon feed us.  
18 Salmon gather families together. Salmon renews the soul.  
19 In winter I miss all of this, but I have always been  
20 comforted by the thought there is always next year.

21 Pebble Mine, if allowed, there will be no more next  
22 years. Pebble as planned, it will destroy all aspects of  
23 our connection to the salmon. I share my story because it  
24 is also the story of many. I share my story with the hope  
25 that those who threaten this way of life will realize what

1 is truly at stake when it comes to Pebble Mine.

2 MS. CATE GOMEZ: Hi. My name is Cate  
3 Gomez, and I am 16 years old. As I sit here listening to  
4 talk about the proposed Pebble Mine, I slowly start to  
5 become more and more upset about what is going on. None  
6 of this is acceptable. My land, my home, my way of life  
7 just being torn apart like it's a rotten piece of meat  
8 left at the dump with hundreds of hungry bears ready to  
9 eat.

10 I understand that our fish is at risk, but we also  
11 have to look at every other animal that uses this land and  
12 water as a food and water source. It is not just we as  
13 people and our fish being attacked. It is everything:  
14 The birds, the moose, caribou, rabbits, otter, everything.

15 As a student, resident and owner of Bristol Bay, I am  
16 threatened. My own home is being looked at by foreigners  
17 ready to roam in a territory they are nowhere near welcome  
18 to explore. I have been fighting against this mine since  
19 I was 11 years old. I am now 16. Having news like this  
20 about such dangers frightens me.

21 I have spoken in front of many big name people,  
22 including Senator Lisa Murkowski, former administrator for  
23 the Environmental Protection Agency, Gina McCarthy, the  
24 Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and the newly  
25 introduced team of Scott Pruitt's office, each time

1 standing up for what I believe and proving how vital and  
2 sacred our land is to us; each time shedding light on  
3 different views from different aged residents of Bristol  
4 Bay; giving representatives the views coming from the  
5 younger generations.

6 I expect to have land to live off of when I'm older.  
7 I expect that we will still have what is respectively our  
8 own. If destroying property thousands have lived off of  
9 for centuries is what you are trying to accomplish, please  
10 rethink.

11 The United States is a prime example, stolen from the  
12 Natives, saying that it was found by white people, that  
13 they created colonies here. No. All you did was kill  
14 Natives, destroy land, and damage what wasn't yours to  
15 take. Look at the United States now: Wars, violent  
16 protests, mass shootings. We are going down.

17 Alaska is pure. Our land, our environment, our  
18 people is all nothing to be messed with. I am Alaska. I  
19 am the next tribal leader. I am the future. And I am a  
20 rebel to Pebble.

21 MS. SUSIE JENKINS-BRITO: My name is Susie  
22 Jenkins-Brito. I was born and raised in Alaska, and  
23 Bristol Bay is my home. My family makes its life in this  
24 land. We pick berries. We hunt rabbits, moose, caribou,  
25 ducks, grouse and ptarmigan here. Our meals are

1 intrinsically tied to the seasons, but our family's year  
2 begins -- I'm sorry. Our meals are intrinsically tied to  
3 the seasons, our food nourishing our bodies, feeding our  
4 souls. But our lives here in Bristol Bay renew every year  
5 with the salmon. This watershed's rivers weave through  
6 this land as salmon weave through our lives. They create  
7 clear channels and courses for our days and shape who we  
8 are.

9 My husband is a fourth-generation Bristol Bay  
10 commercial drift fishermen. His great grandfather fished.  
11 His grandfather, father and brothers and he all continue  
12 to captain boats in the bay, making our livelihoods. I am  
13 a subsistence and commercial fisherman. Together my  
14 husband and I are raising our nephew and two young  
15 daughters on the values learned while fishing: hard work  
16 environmental conservation, leadership, teamwork, science,  
17 ingenuity, passion.

18 This region is home to the world's largest wild  
19 sustainable sockeye salmon run; 51.3 million, in fact, are  
20 forecasted to return to Bristol Bay by the Alaska  
21 Department of Fish & Game in 2018, and they are only one  
22 of the five species of Pacific salmon that return to these  
23 waters to spawn annually. King salmon, or the mighty  
24 Chinook, stocks have failed along the Pacific Northwest  
25 and throughout Alaska, yet the Nushagak River remains

1 abundant.

2 We are so fortunate, but not by luck. Our fisheries  
3 are our priority. We invest in good management, science,  
4 genetics to direct our harvest and escapement. We protect  
5 our way of life. Pebble undeniably threatens our region,  
6 its people, the elders and youth and my family. It will  
7 tear up the landscape and pose irreversible damage  
8 potential to the waters of not only Bristol Bay, but Cook  
9 Inlet, as well the shores where I spent my childhood.

10 Any risk, regardless of the assumed negligibility, is  
11 a risk too great. If we are speaking in jobs and  
12 economics, the State of Alaska purports the commercial  
13 industry alone provides 14,000 jobs in this region  
14 annually. That's a sizable -- in fact, the  
15 largest economic driver in the region is commercial  
16 fishing and infrastructure that ripples out because of it,  
17 an industry driven by salmon.

18 Sure, there is gold in the Pebble deposit and copper,  
19 as well, but the red gold in the water I will always  
20 choose over the yellow in the ground. And there will  
21 never be a proposal of the Pebble Mine I would support  
22 because the bottom line is this is the wrong mine in the  
23 wrong place. Fish first, Pebble never.

24 MR. ETHAN JENKINS: My name is Ethan  
25 Jenkins. I am 12 years old. Bristol Bay is my home. I

1 subsistence and commercial fish for salmon every summer  
2 with my family here. Fishing is important to me because  
3 the meat that we eat the most of is salmon. The money  
4 made fishing supports our family throughout the year. I  
5 learn lessons on the beach and on the boat that can't be  
6 taught in school. The risk that Pebble is making could  
7 change everything in a very bad way. The pollution could  
8 destroy our fish habitat and land. No Pebble Mine.

9 MS. KILEY CLOUSE: My name is Kiley  
10 Clouse, and I'm 13 years old. My family subsistence  
11 fishes for salmon every summer. My family has been doing  
12 this for at least five generations in Bristol Bay. I plan  
13 to be a commercial fisherman. I'm really against Pebble  
14 Mine, and I do not think they should have the opportunity  
15 to damage our fish, water and land. Bristol Bay has been  
16 my home since I was born, and I do not want it to be  
17 ruined by Pebble Mine.

18 MR. GREGG MARXMILLER: So I would like to  
19 comment on the proposed Pebble project as being not a very  
20 compatible project with this region and its values. I'm a  
21 fisherman here, and I'm worried about the possible  
22 environmental damage that will happen if they do a  
23 large-scale mine or even a small-scale mine with the dam  
24 that they are trying to think about putting in.

25 I've seen where there has been natural disasters all



1 over the world, and there hasn't been an ability for the  
2 government or other people to, like, take care of them or  
3 respond. Look at Puerto Rico without power still. We  
4 look at Katrina and the people that died there. We look  
5 at Flint and the poison water that they have there. And  
6 it's still ongoing. So the response for disasters has  
7 been lacking.

8 And to put in something that isn't a disaster just  
9 putting a ticking time bomb like this mine and waiting for  
10 a possible disaster like what happened to the Fraser River  
11 is not a very good idea. It goes against what I would  
12 expect to be common sense, especially when it's not an  
13 American-owned mining company. And it seems to me that  
14 the money is in the ground, the gold is in the ground;  
15 leave it there for us, you know. Keep it in the ground.  
16 And don't -- don't sell it -- sell it out.

17 And I think, you know, an old proverb says that when  
18 the last tree has been cut down and the last river is  
19 polluted and the last fish has been caught, we will  
20 realize that we can't eat money. And, you know, we have a  
21 very well-managed fishery that has constant returns. It's  
22 the last one. And I think trading that for gold in this  
23 manner is not a good idea. Thank you.

24 MR. FREDERICK ANGASAN, III: In all of the  
25 aspects of our government, there are policies and

1 procedures that are proactive, and there are also ones  
2 that are reactive. And the Pebble Mine cannot be one of  
3 those that falls into the reactive category. And what I  
4 mean is, we should not allow the mine to be developed and  
5 then ten years down the road there be an earthquake that  
6 destroys the tailings dam and then our government says to  
7 the world, maybe we shouldn't have let this mine be  
8 developed.

9 It is up to the Environmental Protection Agency to  
10 determine whether or not the Pebble Limited Partnership  
11 can get the permits necessary to develop the mine. And  
12 the Environmental Protection Agency employs 14,172 people.  
13 That is more than four times the entire population of this  
14 little City of Dillingham. How can all of the collective  
15 mines and brain power of 14,000 educated individuals who  
16 all probably have degrees agree to say that they are  
17 protecting our environment if they allow the Pebble Mine  
18 to develop?

19 I mean, is our existence as Bristol Bay residents  
20 subjective to what I would call reactive policies? I  
21 mean, I do not want our children to be part of the  
22 government's mistake. I do not want our families and our  
23 children to become a Love Canal or a Mount Polley dam in  
24 British Columbia. And what are they going to do when the  
25 tailings dam fails? Not if it fails, but when it fails.

1           And I say that because we live in one of the most  
2 geologically active regions in the world. And that is the  
3 Pacific Ring of Fire. And it is because we live in this  
4 part of the world that we are populated with volcanoes and  
5 earthquakes. And if the federal government, the  
6 Environmental Protection Agency in particular, wants to  
7 make their determination based on statistics, then I have  
8 some here.

9           The Alaska Earthquake Center has reported over  
10 150,000 earthquakes in the last five years, which is an  
11 average of an earthquake being recorded somewhere in  
12 Alaska every 15 minutes. 31 of those earthquakes have had  
13 a magnitude of six or greater. 75 percent of all  
14 earthquakes in the United States with magnitudes larger  
15 than five all happen in Alaska. And the subduction zone  
16 of the Pacific Plate sliding underneath the North American  
17 plate has formed the entirety of the Alaska Peninsula,  
18 which is why this region of the world has so much volcanic  
19 and geologic activity. And this subduction zone produces  
20 very large earthquakes, including three of the 12 largest  
21 earthquakes ever recorded.

22           And I bring that up because the people of Bristol Bay  
23 have undoubtedly been educated on what a tailings dam is.  
24 It's just a giant hole in the ground that holds all of the  
25 water and the toxic waste byproduct of mining. And it is

1 because of the gravity of this mine that we have to  
2 educate ourselves and our children on what a tailings dam  
3 is and what happens when a tailings dam fails.

4 But a tailings dam is designed to -- it is designed  
5 for permanent containment, which is to say it is supposed  
6 to remain there forever. And how can such a structure  
7 remain there forever when it is constructed in one of the  
8 most geologically busy parts of the world? Our ground is  
9 always shifting.

10 You know, our Bristol Bay region is more than the sum  
11 of all of its parts. And what I mean by that is whether  
12 or not you come from the Iliamna Lake region or the  
13 Nushagak Bay or the Alaska Peninsula, any one of the  
14 people in those communities can rightly say that they are  
15 residents of Bristol Bay.

16 It is not just about the fish. It is not just about  
17 the moose or the caribou or the birds or the berries. It  
18 is our ability to harvest and live off of each one of  
19 those riches that our land provides that gives us our  
20 sense of identity. It is how we relate with ourselves,  
21 how we relate with our family and our friends from this  
22 community to that community. It is how this region  
23 relates with the rest of the state, and it is also how  
24 this state relates with the rest of the world. I mean,  
25 the world knows about our existence because of our land

1 and our riches that the land provides. That you will not  
2 get anywhere else in the world.

3 And how can we align ourselves with a government and  
4 a country that is considering the construction of the one  
5 thing in the world that is a mine that will destroy our  
6 sense of identity? Because if a mine is developed north  
7 of Iliamna Lake, it's going to poison our water and our  
8 land and all of our wildlife. And it will permeate into  
9 every aspect of what defines us as a people.

10 Now, I'm only one man with one voice, but my one  
11 voice is among millions of others that are telling the  
12 Environmental Protection Agency and also the Corps of  
13 Engineers the same message. And that is, do not allow the  
14 Pebble Limited Partnership to construct this mine because  
15 it threatens our existence as a people.

16 I think I said it all.

17 MS. LARHAE ANGASAN: I am Larhae Angasan,  
18 mother of four. Subsistence isn't a convenience for us.  
19 Subsistence is who we are. The Nushagak flows through our  
20 veins. It provides for many families. My family is very  
21 involved with hunting, fishing and gathering all animals.  
22 Harvesting time, we use what we get and waste little. We  
23 also share with many, as our ancestors have. It is  
24 important to keep our land, water and air clean so they  
25 can continue providing for us. Every day we use or eat

1 something that we have gathered from our environment. For  
2 any of the animals that we subsist on to go away, we may  
3 as well be shot.

4 If we don't have compassion for our land, what does  
5 that show for our future and others? We don't want to  
6 make -- we don't want to take any chances on toxifying our  
7 home for a dollar.

8 For the mine to go through, that would be a ticking  
9 time bomb. Will the holding pond hold? All it would take  
10 is one earthquake that would -- that would be our modern  
11 day Hiroshima. Who wants to cook a meal of radiation and  
12 serve it to their loved ones? Would you want to eat it?  
13 If our resources are stripped away, how will we live and  
14 how will that pretty dollar stack up to our wholesome,  
15 organic life? Who will provide for us?

16 Our mighty Nushagak helps me to grow strong children.  
17 Our ancestors took care of this land for us. It is our  
18 responsibility to take care of it for our children and our  
19 future.

20 MR. RICHARD ALTO: To start off with, this  
21 Pebble Mine, if they have that toxic waste in there that's  
22 so huge and it's in liquid form, I never heard of anything  
23 that will last a lifetime or eternity to hold that in  
24 place. And it's going to come out no matter what. There  
25 is earthquakes down there constantly. And if we have a

1 big earthquake, which we are going to have, it rolls in a  
2 wave, and it's going to roll that pool in a wave, and it's  
3 going to spill out.

4 If that don't do it, after that big earthquake we are  
5 going to have a tidal wave, and that's going to -- it  
6 could be 3-, 400-foot high, and that's higher than that  
7 pool is down there. It's a little above sea level. So I  
8 think that's going to wash it out.

9 But either way, it's going to kill the fish, the  
10 Beluga, the halibut, the cod, all the sea life, the clams  
11 on the beaches, the birds. Everything will be wiped out.

12 And our salmon produce, they said \$1.5 billion a  
13 year, and I think our salmon will run forever and  
14 eternity, which it's been running. And I think those will  
15 last a lot longer than that gold and what it's worth. It  
16 ain't worth as much as the salmon, we will make off the  
17 salmon and the halibut and everything else that we  
18 produce. So it's worth way more than the gold that's in  
19 that ground.

20 So it isn't worth it to even dig it up, to damage all  
21 the life, all the sea life and birds and stuff. To kill  
22 all of that is to wipe out all the villages and  
23 everything. There won't be no fishing villages, nothing.  
24 There won't -- we won't have to live there no more. There  
25 is nothing for us to live there for. Everything has been

1 killed. So I don't think it's worth it for them to dig up  
2 this gold. It's -- it's not enough there.

3 So I think -- and if -- and I know we probably can't  
4 stop them from digging up that gold, and they are going to  
5 dig it up. They have done it everywhere else. So I think  
6 if they are going to dig up the gold and make that big  
7 pool of poison, they got to at least take that poison with  
8 them. I don't want it here, not in my bay, not in Alaska.  
9 Take their poison with their gold and ASAP out of here.  
10 So that's what I think.

11 It's going to -- it's going to wipe out a lot of  
12 villages in Bristol Bay. A lot of people are going to  
13 have to move. There is nothing for us to live there for.  
14 We look forward to subsistence fishing and harvesting. We  
15 pickle, smoke -- pickle, smoke, dry, salt and live off  
16 this food, and we won't be able to live off that food  
17 anymore. And we make our income off of commercial  
18 fishing. We won't be able to make that money anymore. We  
19 would have no reason to live in the village no more if our  
20 sea life is all dead.

21 So I'm so scared that they are going to go through  
22 with this gold mine and make that toxic waste. So I would  
23 like everybody to think of an alternative of trying to let  
24 them take their poison with them. If they are going to  
25 take the gold, they have to take the toxic waste, too.



1           That's all I have to say.

2                       MR. CODY LARSON:   So after -- I just  
3 wanted to talk about -- well, a lot of things, but so I've  
4 spent quite a bit of time in that region and brought some  
5 photos today that I think I can give to you as a -- is  
6 that part of testimony is photos, I guess?   So I'll  
7 describe the photos first and then move on to some of my  
8 thoughts about alternatives.

9           So the first photo I'm looking at is a spring, and it  
10 shows some of the upwellings there.   The groundwater  
11 connects there and is open year-round around the Middle  
12 Talarik area.   So when you are hiking around that area,  
13 you come across these springs fairly frequently.   They are  
14 little oases.   And I think there must be some type of  
15 mineral that draws caribou and other animals there for  
16 drinking water.   And I'd like to see some more studies  
17 done on these types of springs and the sort of, like,  
18 biomes that are alive within those springs.   I think they  
19 are probably fairly unique microecosystems, microbiomes.

20           The next is a photo of Lake Iliamna, and this shows  
21 some of the weather and recreation on the lake.   So it's a  
22 fairly large lake and can expect those types of things.  
23 This was brought up by someone else who talked about the  
24 ice heaves.   And I recall in the spring -- so this is the  
25 north shore of Lake Iliamna, these next two pictures.

1 This is the shore ice and the 40-foot-high mounds of ice  
2 that occur during breakup. And this is showing it to  
3 scale with a person and a dog in these images here. So  
4 that's on the north shore, again, kind of between Lower  
5 and Upper Talarik Creek areas on the north or west side of  
6 the lake.

7 And the next two photos are highlighting some of the  
8 nesting and habitat areas for gull, which is -- so the  
9 gull eggs are -- most of the time gulls are flying to  
10 islands, but in this area they actually use the mainland  
11 and drop at the same time. Same thing with the ptarmigan.  
12 They will be all breeding and very active, very loud and  
13 moving the entire area of the north end of the lake there  
14 and use that entire area as breeding grounds, but then  
15 around the first week of June everything becomes silent.  
16 And that's when they all nest and stop calling attention  
17 to themselves because the fox are definitely interested in  
18 their hatch, as well. So these two photos highlight that.

19 And I guess by that I'm trying to highlight the  
20 seasonal -- the importance to specific species during  
21 specific seasons.

22 So that's what brings me to my alternatives in  
23 thinking about timing and timing activities around the  
24 seasons. So with, you know, migrational birds like that,  
25 some of the other birds that are in the area that I've

1 observed in the springtime that are migrating through are  
2 the nesting of the snowy owls. The wolves have dens all  
3 along the moraines. So there is old moraines on the north  
4 side of the lake that leave sort of -- leave mounds in  
5 ripples, and those mounds are a lot of times soft and  
6 sandy, and the fox and the wolves den in those  
7 intermittently, only for a short period of time before the  
8 pups come out.

9 And so that gets me to the alternatives and some  
10 things that should be considered in the plan is like  
11 seasonal blasting periods, so periods when there is not  
12 the migration of tundra swans, cackling geese or neqlegs,  
13 any type of birds at that come through and harvesting  
14 of -- not just the birds coming through, but the hunters  
15 also migrate to the area to harvest the migrating birds  
16 and eggs. And so if we could consider seasonal blasting,  
17 seasonal trucking.

18 So at the same time, looking at that road with the  
19 amount of traffic that road is going to be seeing it's, in  
20 my mind, more of a wall than it is a road. And so if we  
21 can consider seasonal periods of doing that, seasonal  
22 periods of going across the lake, those are things I'd  
23 like to see.

24 And when it comes to the road corridor, I want to see  
25 some studies on the bear migrational -- the bear migration

1 that goes to the McNeil State Game Sanctuary and refuge  
2 and the impact on those -- on that sanctuary. Also look  
3 at the plan for the sanctuary and see if that's within the  
4 scope of what the State designed. So the adjacent State  
5 lands where the transportation corridor is adjacent to the  
6 State lands that are now the McNeil River Game Sanctuary.  
7 And so that plan needs to be incorporated in assessing the  
8 road corridor.

9 Some of the other studies that I haven't seen is the  
10 Nushagak/Mulchatna Rivers and Recreation Management Plan,  
11 and that would be something to be considered and/or put on  
12 the website for others to see what that plan entails. The  
13 Bristol Bay Area Land Management Plan, the tribal air  
14 report, the 2017 tribal air report looking at the impacts  
15 of wind erosion and dust specifically from, you know, the  
16 areas next to Kokhanok and what that -- you know, the  
17 implications of that. So there is also some new  
18 literature that's been compiled by Carol Ann Woody in 2018  
19 print, and it has excerpts from scientific experts on  
20 Bristol Bay and should also be used in consideration.

21 Another concern I've had with the baseline studies  
22 was the timeline, and that many of the comprehensive  
23 surveys that were done in the communities for subsistence  
24 harvest and uses were 2005. And so I'd suggest updating  
25 and redoing the comprehensive household surveys in the

1 communities on subsistence uses.

2           So that's some of the logistical portions. I'm going  
3 to submit and describe another map that I have of the  
4 area, and this is from a website that shows floating of  
5 the Kuktuli River, the takeout and the dropoff points,  
6 some of the costs that these guides charge and then how  
7 that may impact their businesses in recreational use of  
8 the Kuktuli River. So this is just one example of the  
9 many outfitters that use that river as -- well, small  
10 businesses that make a living from the recreation on that  
11 river. And that will be submitted, also.

12           This is the first time I got to see the video, and so  
13 the -- I think what wasn't described in the video and  
14 maybe is online, but I haven't gotten to that point is, so  
15 the low-grade ore that's going to be stored and processed  
16 for later, there is no timeline as to what later is on  
17 that.

18           The other timeline that isn't described is the  
19 removal of the road. So with a four-year construction  
20 plan and 20-year timeline of operations, I'd like to see  
21 the timeline of the road construction -- or road  
22 deconstruction and alternatives to where that's going to  
23 be stored.

24           Some of the questions I still have is whether or not  
25 that substrate will be wind erosion proof because of the

1 wind that comes through the areas -- through that Kokhanok  
2 corridor is -- there probably is some FAA studies out  
3 there because when they build the airports, that's  
4 something they take into consideration. But I feel like  
5 if that road is built with anything smaller than crushed  
6 stone, it will just -- it will blow away.

7       So where that crushed stone is going to come from for  
8 that substrate and then where will that substrate end up.  
9 Is that substrate going to be potentially acid generating?  
10 But yeah, it's a 24-year project. We can't have -- that's  
11 already going to have a permanent tailings dam, we can't  
12 be considering having a permanent road or port facilities  
13 in place, either. All of that needs to go.

14       The last thing I'd like to comment on is sort of a  
15 social impact that I've already seen and that is real, is  
16 tangible, is -- within our region we have -- our community  
17 leaders have really been resilient and been able to solve  
18 every riddle or problem of how to adapt our communities  
19 and cultures to some of the hurdles that globalization and  
20 commercial interests have thrown at our communities.

21       So the commercial fishing industry is something that  
22 was introduced to our communities. And fortunately it has  
23 compatible values to the values within our region in terms  
24 of intact ecosystems, you know, or fishing communities.  
25 And so that industry, as well as the health care industry,

1 so the hospitals and things like that, those are  
2 compatible industries to our values. The education  
3 system, compatible, again, within the regional values.

4 So compatibility of a new set of values with a  
5 different industry outside of what the region has already  
6 had to -- had to become familiar with. So some of the  
7 impacts on our social livelihood and, you know, mitigating  
8 what that will be, what that -- what that value -- the  
9 change in values will be. So mitigation. I think of --

10 I've already seen the change. I've seen fear.  
11 That's something that is real. It's here. You see it  
12 in -- you see it in -- in eyes and faces and conversations  
13 of community and family matriarchs, women who have been  
14 providers for the well-being of our communities, women who  
15 have raised 10 or 12 children and should feel no fear, see  
16 no fear and hear no fear, but it's real and it's here.

17 It's fearing of the unknown. And I don't know how to  
18 mitigate that, is the fear of waiting for a failure, or  
19 waiting for the failure or the fear that your food is not  
20 as it was before or when you grew up.

21 And I -- you know, in conversations I already see  
22 this in, like, the Fukushima incident. So it's something  
23 you can monitor. It's something you can measure for  
24 radioactive isotopes moving through the food webs and food  
25 chains. But even with monitoring and reassurances, there

1 is still a real tangible fear that creates stress and  
2 strains the community health and well-being of the unknown  
3 future impacts of this.

4 Lastly, I guess, appendix D, the closure and  
5 reclamation and details of that and timeline of that,  
6 deadlines on that timeline of, you know, road removal and  
7 having the least adverse impact needs to be outlined and  
8 more detailed.

9 I think that's all I've got.

10 MS. HAILEY CARTY: Ever since I was a  
11 baby, I've eaten fish. My sister Cate Gomez, she watched  
12 me grow up eating fish strips on the counter. My mom is  
13 Courtenay Carty. She is a tribe -- she works for the  
14 tribal. It would pretty much ruin all of Alaska if Pebble  
15 Mine took away all the fish because everywhere at every  
16 potluck we go to there is fish there. And if Pebble Mine  
17 would stop that, there would be no fish in the whole of  
18 Alaska or anywhere, actually. And it would just ruin,  
19 technically, all of us if fish was taken away from us  
20 because it's one of our foods that we eat in the  
21 community.

22 And I don't know what else what to say.

23 MS. COURTENAY CARTY: For the record,  
24 Courtenay Carty. This is my personal testimony. I guess  
25 it's not technically testimony since we are in a scoping



1 meeting, but I guess items for consideration for  
2 development of the Pebble EIS.

3 So I come from a fish biology and cultural  
4 anthropology background and geology. I say my degree is  
5 in fish and rocks. I have a Bachelor of Science in  
6 natural science. I was educated from this region to learn  
7 sign for our people so I could help translate it so it's  
8 meaningful for our community members so that we can use  
9 science to help protect our resources and our traditional  
10 way of life.

11 I worked for a couple years for the Fish & Wildlife  
12 Service, working for the Togiak refuge, as well as the  
13 conservation genetics lab in Anchorage during college, and  
14 then after college graduation I came home and worked for  
15 the Bristol Bay Native Association. I started as a fish  
16 biologist intern and over time worked my way up to be the  
17 department director and ran the natural resources  
18 department at BBNA for three years before leaving BBNA for  
19 a couple years and going into municipal management.

20 Now I'm back into the tribal world, I guess. I'm the  
21 tribal administrator here for the Curyung Tribe. The  
22 tribal administrator is essentially the position  
23 equivalent of an executive director for a corporation.

24 I participated in tribal consultation today with some  
25 Army Corps staff, so things are a little frustrating

1 dealing with the Army Corps and how this scoping process  
2 or taking testimony is in comparison to other federal  
3 agencies that I've worked with in the past; Fish and  
4 Wildlife Service and EPA, most notably.

5 The things that I really think they need to consider  
6 in developing the EIS is significant emphasis needs to be  
7 placed on cumulative effects. Just looking at the mine  
8 site itself or just the transportation corridor, we need  
9 to look at this picture holistically, the whole project  
10 holistically in all of its parts and pieces and not just  
11 permit for one chunk and then the next chunk and then the  
12 next chunk.

13 I think it's really important to look at some of the  
14 anthropological research and incorporate that into the  
15 development of the EIS, especially regarding the  
16 anthropology of the Dena'ina people of the Nondalton/Lake  
17 Clark National Park area, that region. The Dena'ina  
18 people culturally -- in terms of cultural resources in the  
19 NEPA process, most cultural resources are looked from an  
20 archeological standpoint.

21 The Dena'ina, by their very practice of their  
22 culture, they were not a wasteful people. Not that any  
23 people really are, but in all the archeological research  
24 of the Dena'ina, it was very hard to find a midden. And a  
25 midden in archeology is essentially a trash pile that you

1 can learn about prehistoric cultures from or past  
2 civilizations. Middens are almost nonexistent in the  
3 Dena'ina territory. And so looking simply from a  
4 archeological standpoint is going to be completely  
5 inadequate for capturing the living culture that very much  
6 exists on the landscape today.

7 That said, I think that the research published by  
8 William Workman, who is a very significant anthropology --  
9 he was a professor of mine in college at UAA, but he's now  
10 retired, and I don't even know if he's living anymore --  
11 but he was a very significant cultural anthropologist,  
12 focusing on the Dena'ina people and the people of the Cook  
13 Inlet region. All of his research needs to be adequately  
14 reviewed and incorporated into the socioeconomic sections  
15 and cultural resource sections of this document.

16 I feel like a million people are going to speak about  
17 fish, so I'm going to kind of skip over that, other than  
18 fish are obviously an essential part of not only our  
19 cultural and economic resource, but I think spiritually  
20 and nutritionally, as well.

21 I don't know what else -- I talked about fish. I  
22 talked about anthropology. And then geology.

23 Let's talk about geology for a few minutes. I think  
24 it's really important in looking at an ecosystem  
25 holistically to understand that the biology on top of the

1 surface of the earth is driven by the geology beneath it.  
2 For example, if you look, like, at a desert landscape, the  
3 majority of the geology is monolithic, one rock. It's  
4 usually sandstone. And then on top of the landscape, the  
5 ecosystem, it's shrub, grass, some snakes, some lizards,  
6 you know, reptiles and small mammals. It's not a very  
7 diverse ecosystem. There's not a lot of different types  
8 of life, and there's not a lot of abundant life. Likewise  
9 that it's monolithic, it's also very dry. There's not a  
10 lot of water.

11 So if you look at the Bristol Bay ecosystem, we have  
12 this huge, rich, pristine ecosystem, saturated with water  
13 where nearly every hydrological table is interconnected  
14 with the other. We have a vast array of plentiful  
15 resources from multiple different species of large land  
16 mammals to multiple different species of resident and  
17 anadromous fish, as well as marine mammals. I mean, there  
18 are resident and transient seal populations in Lake  
19 Iliamna.

20 So if you look at the diversity of the ecosystem that  
21 we live in in Bristol Bay and then you look at the  
22 geological picture of what everybody is after is all these  
23 different minerals. No wonder that we have such a rich  
24 mineral environment and this rich mineral ecosystem. It  
25 all comes together. The dynamics is because we have this

1 dynamic ecosystem on top because we have this dynamic,  
2 essentially, geological makeup. If we mess with that  
3 balance, we are going to ruin everything. So I think it's  
4 very important that we leave those minerals in the ground  
5 so that we can keep this ecosystem in place. And that  
6 should be considered as part of the EIS.

7 Tua-i. That means enough. Thank you.

8 MS. BRUCE ILUTSIK: My concerns was about  
9 the mine if there is a disaster that was to happen and if  
10 it did affect the price of the fish, does Pebble have a  
11 backup plan that would help to reimburse the fishermen if  
12 something were to happen and affect the prices? Because  
13 if you look at Exxon Valdez in the past when the accident  
14 of that Exxon Valdez happened, the price of fish -- even  
15 though we are in a way different location, the price of  
16 fish went way down. It was upwards of \$2 a pound back  
17 then. After Valdez it started a slow decline in price of  
18 fish.

19 But my concern was if there was a disaster at the  
20 Pebble Mine and it impacted the price of fish, is there a  
21 backup plan where Pebble would reimburse the fishermen,  
22 the permit holders, to pay for the lost price for their  
23 fish if it did impact the fisheries. And that's a concern  
24 that I had about this mine.

25 But other than that, its economic development is a

1 job opportunity for many people to get high-paying jobs,  
2 but my concern is, especially with our record-breaking  
3 fishing summer in 2017 and the high price of fish going  
4 way up, I'm just concerned about the -- if there was  
5 anything that did happen, that it would -- if it impacted  
6 the price of fish, that -- is there a backup plan that  
7 would compensate the fishermen for lost income?

8 And I think if that -- if Pebble did put in some kind  
9 of compensation or give back to the permit holders like a  
10 large sum of money like the Exxon did, I think that would  
11 ease some of the tension. But I think right now it's  
12 just -- it would be safer just not to have it at this  
13 moment because the record-breaking fishing season we did  
14 have in 2017 and the price of fish going way up.

15 I don't think it's seems feasible, but ten years with  
16 ago when the price of fish was about 40 cents, I think, at  
17 the lowest, but everyone was -- that's when this Pebble  
18 Mine kind of shot up for economic development. The price  
19 for something -- for job opportunities, but after the  
20 rebound of the price of fish and the record-breaking fish  
21 numbers, I think we should hold off on it for now.

22 Until then, if it does go through, it would be better  
23 to have something that's going to compensate the fishermen  
24 if there is something to happen like mine failure.

25 That was my comment.

1 MS. HANNAH HENDRICKSON: So I just wanted  
2 to start by saying that my name is Hannah Hendrickson, and  
3 that I'm neither a fisherman nor a Native of this region  
4 having been born here, but I am someone who came in to  
5 teach within this community, and I really want to speak  
6 towards my social studies degree and my degree in history.  
7 And that's so much of what we learn in history is the  
8 mistakes that were made in the past and that we need to  
9 learn from those mistakes or else we are doomed to repeat  
10 them. And I really do hope that by this mine not going  
11 through, that we are not becoming something that people  
12 look at at history as a repeat.

13 And when I was looking over on the screens over  
14 there, it talked about the 2,000 jobs that would enter for  
15 people who are working at the mine. And I realize that if  
16 something should go wrong, that a lot more than 2,000  
17 people would lose their livelihood with commercial  
18 fishing.

19 But also that I realize that a lot of your guys'  
20 surveys and that kind of stuff you want to look back on  
21 and see previous ones or ones from around the world, and I  
22 really think that we need to stay true to this region and  
23 have specific surveys and tests done here specifically  
24 because it is so different from everything. And so often  
25 mines do fail. And there's something like 80 percent of

1 mines fail. And I don't want that 80 percent to also  
2 happen here. So I just really stress that they need to  
3 take the time to do the correct surveys and the right  
4 testing here in Bristol Bay rather than just looking at  
5 other places around the world.

6 MS. NICOLE KRAUSE: Camai. My name is  
7 Nicole Krause. My parents are the late Karen Lopez and  
8 the late Martin "Booman" Smeaton. My grandparents are  
9 Betty and Mickey Lopez, Jr. and the late Virginia Johnson  
10 and late "Jackie" Smeaton, Sr. My husband is Travis  
11 Krause of Aleknagik. Together we have three children:  
12 Jean, Riley and KarLee.

13 I was born and raised here in Dillingham, Alaska. I  
14 have strong ties to the Bristol Bay region, to its lands,  
15 waters and culture. I am proud to be Alaska Native Aleut  
16 and Filipino. I was taught to always introduce yourself  
17 and be proud of who you are and where you come from.

18 I want to stress that the Pebble Mine does not belong  
19 here, and it will never have my support. After struggling  
20 for years with different health issues, four years ago I  
21 was diagnosed with severe anaphylactic allergies. To this  
22 day I still struggle to find things to eat that doesn't  
23 come from our lands and waters.

24 17 months ago I gave birth to our youngest daughter,  
25 who is also very severely allergic to foods. For her she



1 can't eat any meat that comes from the store: No beef,  
2 chicken, pork. She can't have any grains, no beans, no  
3 milk, no soy. She's limited on her fruits and vegetables.  
4 Her livelihood depends on our moose, our caribou, birds,  
5 rabbit, beluga, seal, berries, and especially our fish.

6 Allergies just aren't in our household. They are on  
7 the rise everywhere. What are these individuals like  
8 myself and my daughter going to do for food? A serious  
9 question. This is the question I raise to all of you: Is  
10 our clean water, our resource for food nourishment, growth  
11 not worth protecting? Our life staples cannot be bought  
12 at a store. Our life staples are right here, and they  
13 will forever be here so long as Pebble is not.

14 Even before allergies, subsistence has always been a  
15 main staple growing up for more than one reason. It  
16 provides healthy eating, exercise and healing. We have a  
17 spiritual connection to our environment. We have a deep  
18 respect for what our natural self-sustaining resources  
19 provide to our households, our families and friends and  
20 our personal well-being. It gives me great pride that  
21 millions of people around the world travel here to get a  
22 taste of what we eat, live and endure every day.

23 Alaska has unbelievable beauty. Bristol Bay, by far,  
24 is the most beautiful and rich beyond measure with these  
25 natural self-sustaining resources.

1           This project has already proven to devastate all that  
2 we know here. The EPA watershed assessment concluded why  
3 Bristol Bay should be protected. Pebble's exploration  
4 work has already left a mess. And that was just to  
5 explore. Science and history has already proven why this  
6 mine won't work here. Why we are still debating and  
7 having this loom over our heads is unclear to me. You  
8 know the facts just as we do. Let's not pretend that you  
9 don't.

10           Pebble's promise of jobs will be limited and will be  
11 available for a limited time. We don't need a mine to  
12 provide work. We work here every day year-round, and we  
13 have for thousands and thousands of years. We hunt, we  
14 fish, we process, we gather, we clean, we package, we  
15 store, we prepare, we cook, we share, we eat and we  
16 thrive. We know that a mine is not safe and cannot  
17 co-exist here with our fishery and our natural way of life  
18 here in the Bristol Bay.

19           I'm tired of being bullied by the Pebble Mine. I  
20 want our federal and state government and the Army Corps  
21 to stand up for us, to help protect our tribal resources.  
22 It's not only their responsibility. It's the right thing  
23 to do. The Bristol Bay watershed supports the -- the  
24 last -- and largest sockeye salmon cultures on the planet.  
25 We provide over 50 percent of the world's -- the world,

1 the whole world's -- largest sockeye salmon. This  
2 valuable resource is sacred, and it must be protected.

3 It must be made loud and clear the roars of our  
4 people sharing this knowledge with you that there is no  
5 place for a mine here, especially Pebble.

6 A perfect mine does not exist. The cold, hard facts  
7 are that a mine will be devastating here. And there will  
8 be no recovery for its damages once Pebble has finished  
9 destroying everything we value here: Our lands, our  
10 waters, our culture, our way of life.

11 I want to thank you for coming to Dillingham to hear  
12 our real life and serious concerns that our people are  
13 bringing forward, but I also want to share my frustration  
14 that this fast-tracked short-term process with three  
15 minutes of limited opportunity for speaking only allows us  
16 to shed some light to the bigger picture you are all  
17 looking at. I pray today that you are listening and you  
18 do the right thing to stop this madness. Stop Pebble  
19 project. Protect Bristol Bay. Protect our way of life.

20 Quyana. Thank you.

21 MR. CORY HOWARD: My name is Cory Howard,  
22 and I have been coming to Bristol Bay for my entire life.  
23 I'm 24 years old and following in my father's footsteps of  
24 running a small welding and fabrication business. One  
25 shop is based out of Dillingham, Alaska, and the other is

1 based out of Ferndale, Washington. And I think it would  
2 be a big, crying shame to see the world's largest run of  
3 sockeye be devastated just because basically the bottom  
4 line for the mining company is what their dollar -- what  
5 their take-home dollar is. It's not about family. It's  
6 not about friends. It's about how much money they are  
7 putting in their pockets.

8 And it would be not just an effect to our company,  
9 but to all the companies that we go through,  
10 subcontractors, as far as in Alaska here to companies down  
11 in Washington that we deal with. You know, it's -- the  
12 bay brings -- has more to offer than just wildlife,  
13 salmon, which is a huge part of Alaska and Bristol Bay to  
14 their people. And I fully support that, but it's more  
15 than just -- just salmon and wildlife. It's a family and  
16 it's -- it's a business, and people enjoy their time here.  
17 And I would just hate for it to -- I would hate to see it  
18 go away.

19 I think that's it.

20 MS. VALENCIA MANN: My name is Valencia  
21 Mann. I am from Kokhanok, Alaska. Fishing is a part of  
22 my lifestyle, and it is very important to me. Without  
23 subsistence fishing in Kokhanok, there would be no point  
24 in going back every summer because without fish,  
25 everything would be dead. If there was a mine in

1 Kokhanok, my home would be ruined because the dust,  
2 debris, spills and whatever else can happen would have a  
3 big, bad impact on our river where the fish comes from.

4 Kokhanok is known as the home of the east wind. If  
5 you asked anyone from there, you would know how bad the  
6 winds are. Because of the high winds, the dust, debris  
7 and whatever there might be can float down the river and  
8 scare or kill off the salmon. Without salmon there  
9 wouldn't be any other animals because of what most of the  
10 animals eat, which is salmon. They would die, too.  
11 Without any other animals, there wouldn't be any plants,  
12 trees, and everything would be dead because of the impact  
13 living animals have on our environment.

14 As I get older, I want to be able to pass on our  
15 cultural values, and those values include teaching the  
16 young how to fish, hunt and gather. Without the  
17 resources, we would have no way of life. Our young needs  
18 to be able to experience our way of life to be able to  
19 pass it on to our future generations. We don't want  
20 anything ruining our way of life for our culture.

21 MR. TERRY MANN: Army Corps of Engineers,  
22 my name is Terry Mann, former president of the Kokhanok  
23 Village Council, tribal member, and I'm a veteran, which I  
24 am proud to be a part of all of those. I am also a board  
25 member of the corporation APC, which did not ask its

1 shareholders what we thought about the project in our  
2 backyard.

3 I am from Kokhanok, Alaska, a village with the  
4 proposed road, port and life-changing environment right  
5 in my backyard, according to this plan.

6 My impacts and the world's -- my world's view: I  
7 have five children, all of whom, without a doubt, love  
8 their way of life. Fishing, hunting and gathering all  
9 play a vital role in their life and the world. We look to  
10 teach them a way of life that has been maintained for  
11 10,000-plus years in harmony with nature. Some changes  
12 along the way, changes which don't jar the ecosystem and  
13 cultural living that we have been accustomed to for  
14 millennia.

15 I stand to guard this way of life, maintaining and  
16 holding on to a way of life that has sustained us for the  
17 ages for as long as possible. Here is a quote from  
18 Pebble: If it's a choice between fish and mining, we go  
19 away. John Shively, former CEO, on the website.

20 Here are some of the -- a few of the impacts that I  
21 have. Dust, debris, spills and high winds. Kokhanok,  
22 where I am from, we call it the home of the east wind.  
23 Ask any pilot who regularly flies in the area. They say  
24 it's like a tunnel of wind, which increases as it comes  
25 from the coast.

1           30 trucks per day going from Iliamna Lake to the  
2 coast is going to cause major dust pollution, noise  
3 pollution and exhaust, contaminating berries, creeks,  
4 rivers, and the very Lake Iliamna, largest lake in Alaska,  
5 which feeds directly the Kvichak River. Impacts from the  
6 trucks' footprint alone will be huge.

7           Kokhanok is worried about the environment. They put  
8 a ban on the metal berry picking device because they were  
9 concerned it would kill the tundra in traditional berry  
10 picking grounds. It was observed that it was happening,  
11 and it was made into an ordinance.

12           At the mine site alone it is calm only 2 percent of  
13 the time, according to Pebble's own study. Hold onto your  
14 hats, folks, was on their website. There will be blasting  
15 and moving of mass unimaginable scales of ground. I can  
16 imagine all the dust from the roads and the mine and  
17 surrounding infrastructure blowing downstream if you were.  
18 On Kokhanok's side, the wind is a horse of a different  
19 color, blowing hard. We have had sustained winds in the  
20 upper 60-miles-per-hour range. Our wind generator  
21 equipment has peaked with gusts over 100 miles per hour.  
22 It's no joke.

23           Fish is the most important resource of the area and  
24 the world. Bristol Bay and the streams at the headwaters  
25 of where fish are born and come to die each year cycle and

1 maintain the ecosystem. Fish provide an abundance of  
2 nutrients to the land, water and wildlife. The last great  
3 salmon run should be held with the highest of standards.  
4 Wild fish is one of the healthiest foods in the world. We  
5 can't fix it with Frankenstein farmed fish, which is a  
6 total flip and is one of the unhealthiest foods around.

7 We have told Pebble our concerns about fish that they  
8 want us to risk in perpetuity. Forever. This is the  
9 choice. Fish. We have said over and over and over again,  
10 fish first. They don't understand what fish first means.

11 This is just a fraction of my concerns, as three  
12 minutes isn't enough time to air all of them. Thank you  
13 for your time. My name is Terry Mann.

14 MS. PAGE O'CONNELL: For the record, just  
15 as someone who has lived in Bristol Bay for 20 years, I'm  
16 now raising a family here. I work in the field of mental  
17 health, and the people here are traumatized by what's  
18 happened to Alaskans to this point, and to have something  
19 like the Pebble Mine happen is -- it's just -- it's  
20 just -- it's wrong. The people -- the culture here is at  
21 stake; the land, the animals, the people.

22 I can't articulate the -- what's -- it's not worth --  
23 I think we need to figure out a different way to survive,  
24 continue to survive on, you know, the subsistence here and  
25 to protect the environment and the animals, the --



1           This mine is -- it doesn't have to happen. And I  
2 think people need to just really think about -- you know,  
3 think about generations from now, think about the health  
4 and well-being. And not just of the people of this  
5 region, but of, you know, the world.

6           I don't know how to say, the resource here or the  
7 natural resources here, the fish, the wildlife, the  
8 healthy -- healthy environment here is -- it's -- you  
9 know, it's only -- it's one of a kind in this world. And  
10 I just -- it's heartbreaking just to think about the  
11 possible consequences of something like this.

12           I wish I had a more scientific type of testimony to  
13 make, but I do -- I work in mental health, and I -- the  
14 people's mental health, the well-being of the people here,  
15 and I think, you know, we are all connected, that -- the  
16 impacts of this mine go much deeper than financial or  
17 resource type of values. I mean, we need to think and  
18 feel deeper about making these decisions that are going to  
19 affect generations.

20           And just -- this mine can't happen. I don't know. I  
21 don't know. The people, the Yup'ik people -- I mean, you  
22 can't put a price on a culture, a people. You can't put a  
23 price on species, animals, a pristine place on this  
24 planet.

25           So the scientific presentations and data, I'm not

1 convinced. I think the corporations have way too much  
2 power in making these decisions. I think there is  
3 conflicts of interest. And I just -- I hope this Pebble  
4 Mine will not continue. And my family, I hope we can find  
5 a different way to -- I hope we can all find alternatives  
6 to having to depend on these resources that some people  
7 are fighting so hard to dig out of the earth. This is not  
8 the place for a mine. I don't know if there are places in  
9 the world that it would be safer, but Bristol Bay is --  
10 it's the wrong place to have a gold/copper mine.

11 That's -- I guess that's all. And I'm sorry I wasn't  
12 prepared, but thank you for listening.

13 MR. STEVE WASSILY: My name is Steve  
14 Wassily, and I am originally from Clarks Point down the  
15 river. And I moved here in 1979 and I have been here  
16 since. And I have three wonderful sons and grandkids.  
17 And believe it or not, I said I'm a fisherman. I'm a  
18 fisherman. I've grown up all my life with fishing.

19 And what I wanted to say was that we lived off the  
20 land around here seasonally when I was growing up. That  
21 was our store. You know how today all the food that you  
22 buy in the stores that are processed and they are finding  
23 cancer in this and that. And I also mentioned, did you  
24 ever watch that real foods video? This is all from the  
25 Lower 48. Do we want that happening in our backyard? I

1 mean, all the chemicals and whatnot. Right now we have  
2 clean water. We are living off the land.

3 Say no to Pebble Mine. And all those that are  
4 working on this environmental and doing this to stop  
5 Pebble Mine hired you to keep it up. If we are going to  
6 live and we are going to survive, it's going to be you  
7 stopping it. So continue. You are doing really good. I  
8 mean, thank you.

9 MS. REBEKAH FONKERT: And I just want to  
10 say that I am adamantly opposed to this mine for many,  
11 many reasons. And the Army Corps of Engineers with their  
12 environmental impact statements needs to look at not just  
13 how it will affect our fishery and our water, but also our  
14 way of life and indigenous culture here. It's not just  
15 fish. It is everything. It is the lives. It's  
16 everything for so many people.

17 And to hurt our fishery in any way is equal to  
18 cultural genocide, in my opinion. And it happened in  
19 Washington, and it could happen here where people lose  
20 their way of life because of the development that ruins  
21 their fish populations.

22 And so I just would like to say, like I said, please  
23 study not just how it will affect our fishery, but our way  
24 of life.

25 And that's about it. I'm going to do a written

1 statement also, but I wanted to come here and say this,  
2 too, while you were here. And I appreciate the Army Corps  
3 of Engineers coming and taking our testimony today. And I  
4 hope they take this to heart. This is everything to us,  
5 to all the people here, the fish is.

6 MR. FREDERICK ANGASAN, III: I spoke  
7 earlier about our federal government having proactive and  
8 also reactive policies with its decisionmaking. And under  
9 the Obama administration, I applauded the EPA and its  
10 decision to employ its 501(c)(3) veto of the permitting  
11 process. And I was disappointed to hear that under the  
12 most volatile president the world has ever seen, the EPA  
13 turned itself into a reactive agency in terms of the  
14 biggest, most controversial mine that I think is the most  
15 controversial mine in the world because of where the mine  
16 is planning to be situated.

17 When I was making my statement again with the mic,  
18 the microphone and the other members in the gym, I had  
19 everybody make an outline of the state of Alaska with  
20 their hand. And the reason why I had people do this is  
21 because I also had them draw an outline between their  
22 pointer finger and their thumb. And this imaginary line  
23 is where Alaska gets meeted with the Pacific plate. And  
24 why I think that is important is because this particular  
25 region is called a subduction zone.

1           And why I think that's important is because the land  
2 that makes up the -- the land that makes up the earth  
3 underneath the Pacific Ocean is pushing itself up into the  
4 North American plate where Alaska is situated. And it is  
5 actually pushing itself under Alaska while simultaneously  
6 pushing the Alaska plate up into the air. And why I think  
7 that is so important is because the most destructive  
8 volcanic eruptions that the world has ever seen have come  
9 from volcanoes that are in subduction zones.

10           Mt. Krakatoa in 1883 was called "the boom heard  
11 around the world." Mt. Krakatoa was a subduction zone  
12 volcano. Mt. Vesuvius in Italy. Mt. Vesuvius in Italy  
13 that buried the City of Pompeii is also a subduction zone  
14 volcano. Those are just two examples of the type of  
15 volcanoes that are called arc volcanoes.

16           And why that is important is because the volcanoes  
17 that are on the Alaska Peninsula, Mt. Redoubt, Mt.  
18 Pavlov, Mt. Veniaminof, Mt. Katmai and Mt. Novarupta, all  
19 of those volcanoes are what are called arc volcanoes. And  
20 why that's important is because each one of those  
21 volcanoes has the potential to bury, completely bury and  
22 destroy everything around them.

23           And I'm placing emphasis on the volcanoes portion  
24 because the volcanoes go hand in hand with the earthquakes  
25 that draw -- that give them the power. And these arc

1 volcanoes that draw their power from subduction zones,  
2 they are tied in with some of the most destructive  
3 earthquakes in the world. And the Aleutians region of the  
4 Pacific Ring of Fire has on record three of the 12 most  
5 destructive earthquakes in recorded history.

6 And what irritates me is that I was reading through a  
7 fact sheet from the BSEE. There is a fact sheet that was  
8 provided to us as part of this meeting here that outlines  
9 that the Pebble Mine is going to be drawing its power from  
10 a 230-megawatt power plant. This power plant is going to  
11 get its power from a 1,100-mile pipeline that cuts  
12 straight across Cook Inlet.

13 I am very irritated that the Army Corps of Engineers  
14 does not outline any kind of risk assessment of this  
15 particular region plan of this mine because Cook Inlet is  
16 the most geologically active zone in Alaska. I mean, the  
17 whole Pacific plate is pushing right into Cook Inlet. And  
18 Cook Inlet, of course, is home to the second strongest  
19 earthquake ever recorded. You know, that is the great  
20 earthquake of 1964. But what also does not get any  
21 recognition is the 8.7 magnitude earthquake of Rat Islands  
22 three years later in 1967.

23 But why I think that's important in terms of the  
24 development of this mine is because there is no earthquake  
25 risk assessment in any kind of wording or preparation or

1 plan or development anywhere in the environmental impact  
2 statement. How can they overlook such a huge, huge risk  
3 factor such as an earthquake that happens? Alaska has a  
4 recorded earthquake every 15 minutes. Every 15 minutes  
5 the Alaska Earthquake Center records an earthquake  
6 somewhere within the state.

7 It baffles me that the Army Corps of Engineers, if  
8 they looked into it at all, they have failed to include  
9 any kind of risk assessment or plausibility of any kind of  
10 earthquake preparation into their mine development plan,  
11 their pipeline development plan, their ferry station  
12 building. There is no -- I cannot find a single line in  
13 the paperwork that I was given that shows me that they  
14 have accounted for the possibility of an earthquake and  
15 what they plan to do in the event that that happens.

16 There are 14,000 educated minds that make up the  
17 Environmental Protection Agency. How can no one within  
18 that agency provide us with any kind of information  
19 related to that specific risk of an earthquake in Cook  
20 Inlet? You know, up till now, my sole focus has been on  
21 my family and my home and my region of Bristol Bay, but  
22 today I have learned that my home region is not the only  
23 region that will be affected. There is a whole other  
24 ecosystem and an even greater number of people and  
25 resources that would be affected by the development of

1 this mine.

2           There it is. I mean, they are showing the video of  
3 the road development that cut across the Alaska Peninsula  
4 so that they can make their 12-inch pipeline underneath  
5 Cook Inlet. If they create this pipeline, it is going to  
6 be destroyed. This pipeline is going to be wrecked by an  
7 earthquake. It doesn't matter how much planning they put  
8 into it. They cannot know that it will withstand the  
9 forces that comes with living in Alaska.

10           I mean, I am so aggravated now. On top of the risk  
11 of the mine itself, they cannot create their own power  
12 right there on their own site. They have to borrow their  
13 power from another source of water -- another land that  
14 cuts through another source of water that is 1,200 miles  
15 away. When were they going to tell us this? When were  
16 they going to share with us that there is a whole other  
17 region of our state that will be affected by the  
18 development of the Pebble Mine?

19           It is not the Pebble Mine's responsibility to share  
20 this information with us. It should be, but it's not.  
21 But I do think that it is the responsibility of the  
22 Environmental Protection Agency and of the Army Corps of  
23 Engineers to plug this into their administration and their  
24 planning and their oversight to know that this region of  
25 the world is one of the most geologically active and to



1 also know that this is also the most wrong part of the  
2 world to construct anything that could be broken.

3 I was nervous initially about sharing this  
4 information because I was not sure exactly what I would  
5 say, but I have come to feel strongly enough that any  
6 nervousness or hesitation has gone away from me because  
7 this is -- I don't understand how this could have been  
8 overlooked; if not overlooked, then how it would not be  
9 shared.

10 I think that's all I have.

11 MS. ANDREA HURLEY: My name is Andrea  
12 Hurley. I'm originally from Clarks Point. I'm an  
13 ex-fisherman/woman. I fished from 1970 to 1999. And I  
14 think they should not do the Pebble Mine because the  
15 reason -- I have a lot of reasons why.

16 Number one, if they put in the Pebble Mine here in  
17 Bristol Bay or up wherever it is, I think what's going to  
18 happen is it's going to ruin our Native way of life of  
19 living, our animals that we live off the land, the moose,  
20 the caribou, the porcupine, ducks, geese, our berries, our  
21 salmon, number one. And if it comes down to Bristol Bay,  
22 we won't be able to have our salmon anymore. We won't be  
23 able to subsistence fish because of the poison in the  
24 mine.

25 And I think that it is wrong. Whoever wants to do

1 that Pebble Mine could -- they need to think about  
2 families with children, our elderly people, the way we  
3 live off the land. And they think they could -- just  
4 because the Pebble Mine does make big money, they think  
5 they could live off their money? Hell, no. You are going  
6 to see your money one day, and the next day you are not  
7 going to see it.

8 And you do that Pebble Mine, you guys will ruin our  
9 land, our subsistence way of life, our way of living, and  
10 all that bad stuff in the mine will make our people get  
11 sick, our elderly people, our families, our children, our  
12 crops. You think about that. Money is nothing in this  
13 world.

14 The number one important thing in our lives is our  
15 families, our children, our elderly people, our community  
16 that live off the land and all of us. You don't think of  
17 money. Money is nothing. Money, you see it one day and  
18 the next you could burn it, just like that mine. That  
19 mine could go to hell because, I tell you, you guys do  
20 that, you are wrong.

21 You go down to Albuquerque and you go all over where  
22 they do those mines, you see how those people are living  
23 off their land, pretty darn sad. The world will end  
24 anyway. Why do a mine? We got to live off our land. We  
25 got to pick our berries. We got to make -- pick our

1 berries, put up our subsistence, hunting. That's the way  
2 we teach our kids in our families and our grandkids.

3 Now these days people worry about money. Money is  
4 nothing. They could go get a diploma, graduate from high  
5 school, graduate from college, get a job, a real job and  
6 make money that way, not by the mine.

7 MS. HOLLY WYSOCKI: So I'm Holly Wysocki.  
8 I work here in Dillingham, grew up in Koliganek. I've  
9 worked for the Pebble Partnership back in about 2005; '3,  
10 '4 and '5. I've seen the damage that they have done while  
11 in the early phases. And I've seen the pollution of gas  
12 from transporting fuel out to the site, the amount of easy  
13 mud that's hazardous put into the ground, which is not  
14 really any good for the land.

15 The reason why I think we are responsible to keeping  
16 Alaska the way it is is for Alaskans to speak up for the  
17 jobs, to keep the wildlife and the renewable resources  
18 clean and safe. And I don't think that having a company  
19 from a different country come in and make a lot of money  
20 off of something that does not help the people or the  
21 region -- the money will be transported out, the land will  
22 be ruined, and we will be stuck with hazardous waste for  
23 life. It's self-destruction. It's -- it's not a good  
24 thing for Alaskans.

25 And that's it.

1                   MR. GARY CLINE: Well, my name is Gary  
2 Cline. I was raised here in Dillingham, and my family is  
3 originally from Aleknagik. I suppose I'm here to speak  
4 about my concerns regarding Pebble's permit application.  
5 In particular, I'm concerned about the environmental  
6 impacts that it may have on our wildlife and our salmon.  
7 You see, I just -- 2010 I recently -- seems like it was  
8 yesterday -- graduated from Fort Lewis College with a  
9 bachelor's degree in international business.

10                  And one of the reasons why I moved back home and  
11 after studying in Germany and Colorado, I was seeing the  
12 amount of, I suppose, shortage on water in southwest Four  
13 Corners area of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada. And  
14 that's where I really realized how special Bristol Bay is  
15 with the amount of resources that we have and which was  
16 like my calling to come back home because I didn't realize  
17 how tied I felt to salmon and how much I was emotionally  
18 or even spiritually connected to harvesting them.

19                  So this year I have recently applied for a loan to  
20 buy a commercial drift permit. I'm waiting on whether or  
21 not it will be approved or not. I'm still in the process.  
22 But it's for \$150,000. And when I look at this project,  
23 I'm immediately concerned of what that can do to my  
24 livelihood after I buy a permit and still have to make  
25 these loan payments, just like my student loan payments.

1 I'm looking at the Nushagak and the Bristol Bay  
2 season forecast this year, and we are supposed to have  
3 over 51 million salmon return. Around 22 million salmon  
4 are supposed to go up the Nushagak River. That's roughly  
5 40 percent of all Bristol Bay's salmon run up one river.  
6 And here we are talking about building a mine site off a  
7 tributary of the Nushagak River. So when I look at that,  
8 possibly 40 percent of salmon in one river in Bristol Bay  
9 could be impacted. And that's the bay that I grew up  
10 fishing and I plan to fish the Nushagak this summer.

11 One thing that I'm not sure -- what's special of the  
12 Koktuli is the amount of coho and king salmon in those  
13 rivers, or those creeks. King salmon have been declared  
14 in a state of emergency, I believe, in 2015. And  
15 fortunately we are blessed here to have a robust amount of  
16 king salmon. And I don't know what that will do to our  
17 residents if our prized kings went away.

18 Anyhow, I wanted to come here and speak about my  
19 concerns. I'm going to look more thoroughly into the new  
20 proposed permit application. I've spent years studying  
21 this project before this permit application was submitted.  
22 Now I realize that they are viewing a smaller footprint.  
23 But I'm worried as soon as they open the doors, there is  
24 so much other mining claims in this whole area that could  
25 disrupt the beauty and sustainability of our fisheries.

1           Back when I was studying it, I was fortunate to  
2 travel to Williams Lake in British Columbia right after  
3 the Mount Polley mine breach. And I was shocked because  
4 that mine was -- it seems like the footprint to Pebble's  
5 original plan was so much smaller. Now if they are  
6 targeting something like Mount Polley, the amount of  
7 debris that that whole -- that the tailings pond  
8 demolished, it demolished all those enormous trees that  
9 they have in Williams Lake. I mean, geez, those trees are  
10 humongous. They even make that video Carver Kings on it  
11 where they build log homes from. But it changed the whole  
12 landscape where it breached, and it changed the color of  
13 the Quinehaw Lake.

14           And I'm not sure the amount of sulfide is in that ore  
15 body, but I know there is sulfide concentrate here. And  
16 just the thought that something like that could breach and  
17 go up the -- down the Kuktuli down to the Nushagak River  
18 with possible acid mine drainage, it's frightening to my  
19 lifelong investment of trying to purchase this permit and  
20 live here for the rest of my life. And I just became a  
21 father, and I plan to pass down that permit to my  
22 four-month-old kid.

23           And I certainly hope the state of Alaska will listen  
24 to the Bristol Bay residents, or U.S. Army Corps of  
25 Engineers.

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That will be all.

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

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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

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

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

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

My Commission Expires: November 5, 2020



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