

# Pebble Project EIS

NEWSLETTER 2 | FEBRUARY 2019 | [www.PebbleProjectEIS.com](http://www.PebbleProjectEIS.com)



## Draft EIS Notice

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has completed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Pebble Project. The Draft EIS is intended to fully disclose the likely impacts from the proposed project and to offer the public, tribes, and governmental agencies a chance to review and comment. The Final EIS will address all substantive comments on the Draft EIS and is estimated to be released in early 2020.

The Draft EIS is a large document. This newsletter provides an overview of how the Draft EIS is organized, content, how to get a copy, and how to provide substantive comments.

The public comment period will run from March 1, 2019 through May 31, 2019.

The Draft EIS is available for download at [www.PebbleProjectEIS.com](http://www.PebbleProjectEIS.com)



## RELEASE OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



### How to Write a Substantive Comment

Public participation is an important part of developing an EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Submitting substantive and concise comments during the public comment period is an important role the public plays in the NEPA process, and can influence the analysis in the Final EIS.

#### General Recommendations

- **Become familiar with the proposed project** — Review the project website, read the project description, monitor local newspapers, and attend public hearings. The website for the Pebble Project EIS is [www.PebbleProjectEIS.com](http://www.PebbleProjectEIS.com).
- **Learn about the steps** in the NEPA process and opportunities for submitting to the USACE. Public comment periods are during scoping, and at release of the Draft EIS.
- **Keep your comments focused** and as specific as possible on the EIS analysis of the proposed alternatives, potential impacts, and mitigation measures.
- **Submit your comments** within the timeframes announced to ensure that your concerns are considered and addressed during the drafting of the EIS; the comment period is from March 1 through May 31, 2019. Comments will be placed on the project website as we receive them.

#### Tips for Effective Comments

- **Substantive comments** will be considered by the USACE and can contribute to changes in the Final EIS, such as factual corrections and modifications to the alternatives, analyses, and mitigation. Comments that are solution oriented and provide specific examples are more effective than those that simply oppose or support the proposed project.
- In drafting comments on the Draft EIS, try to focus on the **purpose and need** of the proposed action, the **alternatives**, the assessment of the **environmental impacts** of those alternatives, and **mitigation** to further avoid or minimize impacts.



### Participate!

All interested parties are invited to participate in the EIS process. The goals of the public comment period are to:

- Share information about the applicant's proposed project and the alternatives
- Gather comments and suggestions from interested parties to improve the environmental analysis in the Draft EIS
- Capture information that will lead to the development of good mitigation and monitoring measures



The USACE will review all comments, determine how the comments should be addressed, and make appropriate revisions in preparing the Final EIS. The Final EIS will respond to all substantive comments.



Public Hearings

The USACE will collect comments in multiple ways including public hearings, written comments, website, email, and other communication methods. The schedule includes hearings across the project area, as well as in Anchorage and Homer. The public hearing schedule is listed below. The schedule may change on short notice due to weather or other community events. Please check our website for the most current meeting schedule.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

| COMMUNITY    | DATE AND TIME            | LOCATION           |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Naknek       | March 25, 2019, 3:30 pm  | Naknek School      |
| Kokhanok     | March 26, 2019, 3:30 pm  | Community Hall     |
| Newhalen     | March 27, 2019, 3:30 pm  | Newhalen School    |
| Iguigig      | March 28, 2019 3:30 pm   | Iguigig School     |
| New Stuyahok | March 29, 2019, 1:00 pm  | Community Building |
| Nondalton    | April 8, 2019, 3:30 pm   | Tribal Center      |
| Dillingham * | April 9, 2019, 4:00 pm   | Elementary School  |
| Homer *      | April 11, 2019, 3:30pm   | High School        |
| Anchorage *  | April 16, 2019, 12:00 pm | Dena'ina Center    |

\* Participants testifying during the public hearings should anticipate having a time limit

THE DRAFT EIS OUTLINE



Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS  
March 2018



Scoping:  
Meetings and  
Comments



Draft EIS



Public Review  
of Draft EIS:  
Hearings and  
Comments

We Are  
Here



Final EIS



Record of  
Decision

The Draft EIS is organized into chapters to address the specific requirements in NEPA. By understanding the layout of the document ahead of time, readers can more easily find the specific sections they may be interested in reviewing and providing comments.

- **Executive Summary.** Provides overview of the Draft EIS, summarizes draft findings of potential impacts, and serves as a guide for where to find details.
- **Chapter 1: Purpose and Need.** Describes the purpose of the proposed project to inform the range of alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIS.
- **Chapter 2: Alternatives.** Describes alternatives that are analyzed, as listed on page 3, along with others that were considered but not carried forward for further analysis.
- **Chapter 3: Affected Environment.** Describes the baseline conditions of 26 resource topics in the proposed project environment (such as fish and wildlife, water quality, economics, subsistence, commercial fishing, cultural resources, human health, and recreation).
- **Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences.** Analyzes the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, as well as potential mitigation measures relevant to each of the resources from the proposed action and each alternative. This section also includes an analysis of the probabilities and impact of unintended spills or releases of potentially hazardous materials.
- **Chapter 5: Mitigation.** Describes the process of identifying mitigation measures intended to avoid or minimize project impacts. These include design measures, best management practices, standard permit conditions and new mitigation measures that have been developed by resource analysts or suggested through scoping comments.

Additional chapters include an overview of consultation activities, a list of document preparers, and a list of all references cited in the Draft EIS. Many sections in Chapters 3 and 4 also have supplemental information, presented in a technical appendix.

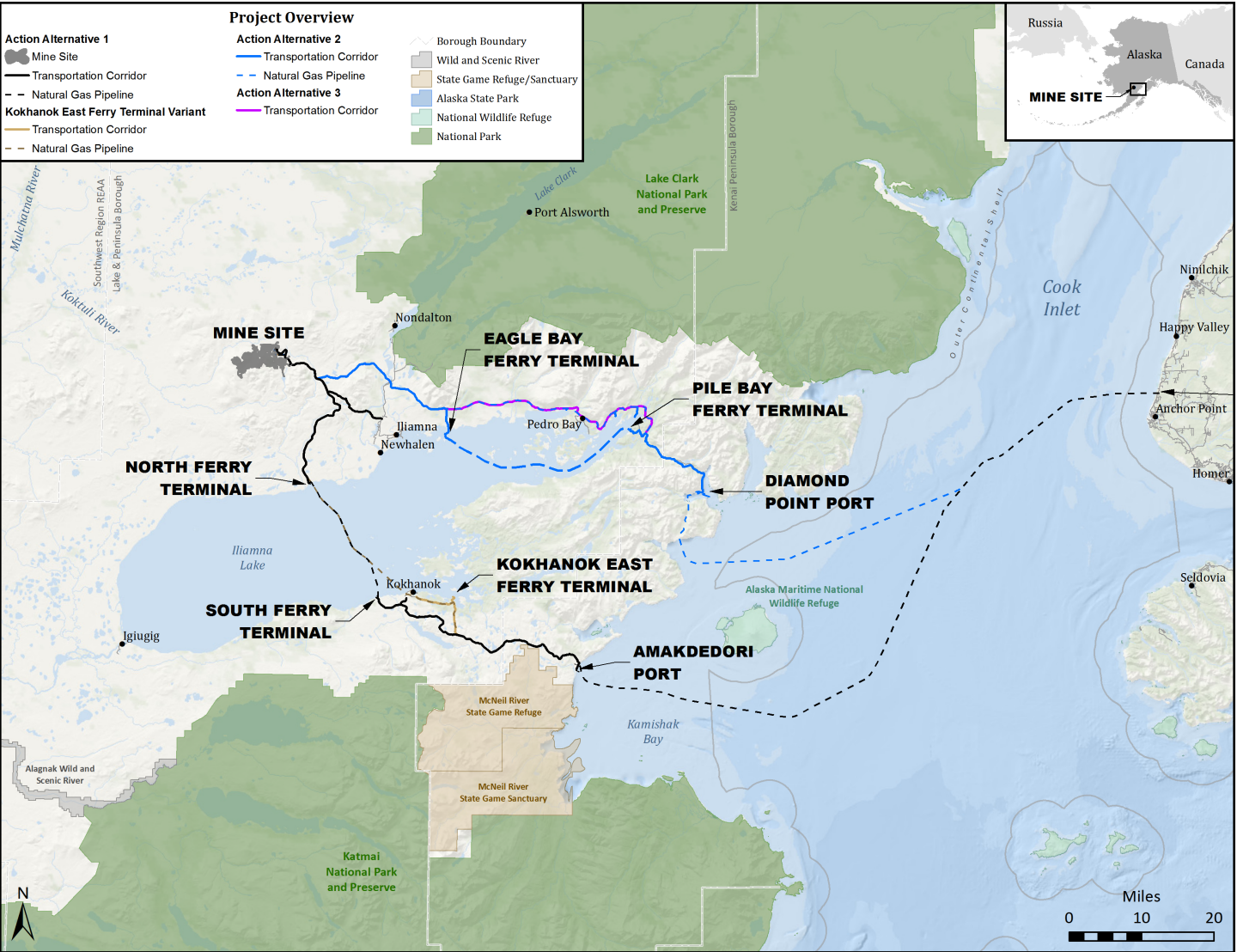


About the  
Alternatives  
Analyzed

- **No Action.** Under this alternative, the USACE would not issue a permit.
- **Alternative 1.** The applicant's proposed action, which includes the mine site, a port at Amakdedori, a ferry across Iliamna Lake, and access roads in between the port and mine. A natural gas pipeline would run from the Kenai Peninsula across Cook Inlet to the port site and follow the road and ferry route to the mine site.
- **Alternative 2, North Road and Ferry with Downstream Dams.** This alternative would include the constructing all dams at the tailings storage facilities using the downstream method (Alternative 1 would construct one tailings storage facility using the centerline method), a port at Diamond Point, a ferry across Iliamna Lake, and access roads in between, although the natural gas pipeline would continue overland from Diamond Point and not cross the lake.

- **Alternative 3, North Road Only.** This alternative would include the mine site, a port at Diamond Point and have a road to the mine site with no ferry. The natural gas pipeline would follow the road route.

There are several variants associated with the alternatives. Variations on any of the alternatives can be interchanged if it is determined to minimize potential impacts to the human and aquatic environment.



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## TO PARTICIPATE...



Providing ample opportunities for the public to submit comments on the Pebble Project Draft EIS is of utmost importance to the USACE. Come to public hearings and share your thoughts regarding project impacts and benefits analysis on alternatives. Give your comment orally to a dedicated court reporter, or electronically submit using one of a number of dedicated laptop computers. You can also bring written comments to a hearing; use the comment form on the

## Let us know about the Draft EIS!

Written comments can be submitted through May 31, 2019. Comments received/postmarked after May 31 will be considered, but may not be included in the comment analysis report. Comments will be reviewed and incorporated into the Final EIS, as appropriate.

project website ([www.PebbleProjectEIS.com](http://www.PebbleProjectEIS.com)), email them ([drafteis@comments.pebbleprojecteis.com](mailto:drafteis@comments.pebbleprojecteis.com)) or send them to:  
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