

**PEBBLE FEIS MEDIA TELECONFERENCE  
OPENING STATEMENT – DAVID HOBBIIE, CHIEF OF THE REGULATORY DIVISION  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – ALASKA DISTRICT  
JULY 20, 2020**

Good morning everyone or afternoon, depending on where you are located. I am David Hobbie, Chief of the Regional Regulatory Division. Welcome to the final media roundtable about the environmental impact statement development for review of the permit application submitted to the Army by Pebble Limited Partnership.

I would like to start by saying thank you to all of the media on the line. From April 2018 to present day, we have hosted 25 monthly media teleconferences. Your continued interest, in depth questioning, and reporting throughout these teleconferences has allowed us to share information with the interested public. You all have played an important role in assisting the Corps by informing your audiences of these actions. For that, thank you!

To recap where we have been, in December 2017, we received an application from the Pebble Limited Partnership for a Department of the Army permit. In the application Pebble requested authorization under two federal laws within the Corps jurisdiction: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. We determined that the impacts proposed in their application constituted a federal action that would require an environmental impact statement. We initiated scoping for the EIS in 2018 over a 90 day period and held 9 public meetings during that time. We published the draft EIS in 2019 with a 120 day public comment period and held 9 public hearings. During the past two years we have traveled to many communities potentially affected by Pebble's proposal and worked diligently with our cooperating agencies to address concerns raised throughout the EIS process.

All of these efforts have resulted in the production of the Final EIS which will be published in the Federal Register this Friday, July 24, 2020. We will also post the Final EIS on our website ([www.pebbleprojecteis.com](http://www.pebbleprojecteis.com)) as soon as it is made publically available.

Critical for folks to understand is that the Final EIS is NOT a permit decision. It will be used by the Corps to inform the final step in the review process which is the record of decision. By regulation, the ROD cannot be finalized for at least 30-days from the publishing of the Final EIS. We anticipate the ROD to be finalized later this year. I reiterate, the Final EIS is **NOT** a permit decision.

With that, thank you again for being here and I am happy to take your questions.