

State of Alaska Comments – Pebble Project Preliminary Draft EIS, Section 4.1 – Introduction to Environmental Consequences

Agency	Comment No.	Section, Paragraph, and Page #	Cooperating Agency Comment (and Purpose of Comment)	Proposed Resolution (Additions or Deletion of Text)	Response
DNR/ DGGs/ Energy Resources	1	4.1; Table 4.1-1; p. 4.1-12	The cell containing the description of Cook Inlet Oil and Gas Lease Sales includes inaccurate and/or misleading information. The text does not distinguish between state managed and federally managed areas. By mentioning BOEM, the text could suggest that the federally managed OCS area south of Kalgin Island is included in the volume estimates. This is not the case. AOGA's estimates come from the U.S. Geological Survey. In 2011 the U.S. Geological Survey assessed the undiscovered, but technically recoverable oil and gas resources in the Cook Inlet basin, including state waters. Their assessment did not include the federally managed OCS. If the OCS were included, the estimated volumes of undiscovered resources would likely be at least slightly larger. The numbers cited are mean volumes of oil and gas.	Cite the correct source for the estimated volumes of undiscovered, but technically recoverable oil and gas in Cook Basin and state that the estimated mean volumes do not include the federally managed OCS.	Revisions have been made in this cell of the table.
DNR/ DOG/ SPC	2	4.1; Table 4.1-1; p. 4.1-11	re: Donlin Gold description: "The proposed mine would have a total footprint of approximately 16,300 acres. Includes a 312-mile long pipeline to carry natural gas from Cook Inlet to the mine site."	The proposed pipeline is estimated to be approximately 315 miles long. Suggest updating the description.	Revision has been made as indicated.
DNR/ DOG/ SPC	3	4.1; Table 4.1-1; p. 4.1-12	re: "Drift River Oil Pipeline Transportation Project"	This project has been approved/constructed and oil is now flowing through the previously-gas CIGGS-A pipeline; gas is now flowing through the related, new 7-mile Tyonek pipeline. Drift River facilities still exist but the new supply routes are operating; recommend updating this row of the table.	Update has been made as indicated.

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ADF&G/ Habitat/ SPCS	4	4.1.3.2; p. 4.1-4	Section lists several activities that were considered for cumulative effects analyses but does not include the proposed natural gas pipeline.	EIS should include a thorough cumulative effects analysis for the natural gas pipeline.	Comment acknowledged. The cumulative effects section has been revised. Evaluation criteria for identifying RFFAs are explained. Inclusion of the natural gas pipeline in the Pebble expansion scenario is found in Table 4.1-2.