

Pebble, Permitting & How YOU Can Help PROTECT BRISTOL BAY

In December 2017, Pebble applied for the **dredge and fill permit** it will need from the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**. This is the **FIRST** state or federal development permit Pebble has applied for, and it's a major one that should take several years. The application includes plans for the 1970' deep mine pit, extensive new roads, ice-breaking ferry across Iliamna Lake, 188-mile gas pipeline from the Kenai Peninsula to the project site, 270 MW power plant, and other infrastructure. The USACE is the federal agency leading the review of this application, which centers around an **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**. The EIS (essentially a very long report) will look at the environmental impacts of the mine Pebble wants to build and will be used to help guide the USACE decisions on permitting. An EIS looks at impacts to the natural and physical environment, and how that could impact people (socially, culturally/spiritually, and economically). To protect our water and way of life, we must weigh in at every possible opportunity!

EIS Phase 1: Scoping

The EIS process started with SCOPING, which looks at the **area and impacts** of the proposed mine. Thousands of people weighed in during the comment period; many concerns of Bristol Bay residents, fishermen and scientific experts were ignored in the Army Corps' scoping report.

Phase 2: Draft EIS

USACE and other government entities develop the first draft of the EIS, analyzing the project based on all the issues raised during scoping.

That mostly happens behind closed doors. The Army Corps says it plans to be finish and release the document in January 2019. **The Army Corps has said a 90-day comment period on the Draft EIS is expected to begin in late January 2019.**

Phase 3: Final EIS & Record of Decision

After gathering public comment on the draft EIS, USACE and others go back behind closed doors to turn the draft EIS into a final document. Once finalized, the EIS is released to the public. Then, USACE makes a decision about the dredge and fill permit, and announces the decision.

Along the way, there will be another opportunity for the public to weigh in during a review of historic properties and cultural resources that are impacted – that's called the **Section 106 review**. It requires that impacts to historic and cultural resources be addressed and potentially mitigated.

Phase 4: Permit?

A permit could be issued once the record of decision is finalized. But other possibilities remain.

Under the terms of EPA's settlement with the Pebble Limited Partnership, the proposed 404(c) protections come back into play when the EIS is finalized OR May 2021, whichever comes first.

At this point, the EPA **could** finalize restrictions that protect Bristol Bay from a mine like Pebble.

Because of the 2014 Bristol Bay Forever initiative, the Alaska Legislature must also vote to approve the Pebble Mine. A strong record opposing the project could aid the state in denial at this juncture as well.

That's Not All....

Pebble also needs DOZENS of other state and federal development permits. As of October 2018, they had not applied for any of these.

State requirements will include fish habitat permit, dam safety certification, water reservations and rights, spill prevention and response certifications and more. Each will have it's own process, and some will include public testimony opportunities. The Lake and Peninsula Borough also has it's own permit requirements. **THE MINE CANNOT BE BUILT WITHOUT THESE.** Stay tuned, and we will help you stay engaged in this process every step of the way.