

COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN FOR BRISTOL BAY

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11th hour changes to Pebble Mine Permit proves Pebble's "foot in the door" strategy

*Fishermen demand input on drastic changes to Pebble's transportation and infrastructure routes;
Army Corps' maintains fast-tracked permitting timeline*

DILLINGHAM, AK - Friday, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announced a last minute change to the Pebble mine project, choosing the "North Access Route" as the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA). This route not only represents a drastic change from the Draft EIS and the focus of Public and Cooperating Agency comments, it also reveals a more accurate picture of what development of Pebble Mine would look like.

The Pebble Limited Partnership has long maintained that the larger, 78-year mine plan would require an infrastructure corridor north of Iliamna Lake. Throughout the permitting process however, PLP proposed a southern route adequate for a 20 year "smaller mine plan" claiming this alternative would "significantly cut down on Pebble's overall impacts on wetlands." Now, in the final month of an already rushed permitting process, ACOE has accepted a route which reflects PLP's true plans to mine the entire 10.9 billion ton Pebble Deposit rather than the 1.4 billion ton mine vetted in their permit application.

"This bait and switch proves what we've known all along; PLP's permit application is nothing more than a foot in the door, for what would permanently convert the landscape of Alaska's greatest salmon stronghold into a mining district." said Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay Director Katherine Carscallen. "It is unacceptable that after the preliminary final EIS has been prepared and reviewed by expert cooperating agencies, PLP changes its preferred route on the eve of a final EIS to the one that supports its true plan."

In September of 2019 Alaska's Senior Senator warned the ACOE that they must address major flaws in Pebble's permitting process stating, "if they fail to do so then a permit should not be issued." *Carscallen continues; "As Bristol Bay grapples with the impacts of Covid-19 while gearing up the world's largest sockeye salmon fishery, we do not have adequate opportunity for input on this dramatic change and need Alaska's Senators to show leadership and to call for a stop to this flawed process."*

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Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay is a national coalition of fishermen working to protect Bristol Bay, Alaska and the 14,000 jobs, \$500 million in annual income, and \$1.5 billion in economic activity that Bristol Bay's wild salmon provide.