

United Tribes of Bristol Bay: Pebble's response to the EPA does nothing to ease concerns of the people of Bristol Bay

DILLINGHAM – Today, the Pebble Limited Partnership released its response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) initiation of the Clean Water Act section 404(c) process to protect the Bristol Bay watershed. Robert Heyano, President of United Tribes of Bristol Bay, issued the following statement about Pebble's response:

“The Pebble Limited Partnership's response to the 404(c) process does nothing to ease our concerns about its plans in Bristol Bay. The fact remains that the Pebble deposit is massive in scope, sits in a sensitive location, and poses severe impacts to the sustainable salmon resource in Bristol Bay. The people of the Bristol Bay region are still faced with the threat of North America's largest open-pit mine being built on top of the world's last great wild salmon fishery that has sustained the region's Tribes since time immemorial. In short, we are tired of being held hostage by the whims of a foreign mining company who has been issuing empty statements and promises for over a decade.

“The EPA initiated the 404(c) process at the request of Bristol Bay's Tribes, and after a three-year scientific study based on Pebble's own documents, backed up our concerns about mining the Pebble deposit. Bristol Bay's Tribes are faced with the looming threat to their jobs, livelihoods, and salmon-based cultures. The EPA has the authority and responsibility to protect the tribes of Bristol Bay and also its economy from mining on the scale of Pebble, and the agency should continue the 404(c) process with all due haste to ensure lasting protections for Bristol Bay's fishery, cultures, and economy.”