



BRISTOL BAY RESERVE



March 19, 2020

Via Email To:

Col. Phillip Borders, U.S. Army
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

CC: Senator Lisa Murkowski,
Senator Dan Sullivan

Dear Colonel Borders:

We write to you regarding the impact the COVID-19 crisis is having on the Pebble EIS process. The impacts of this global pandemic are affecting every aspect of our society and everyone's immediate attention is focused, as it should be, on stemming its spread. Nevertheless, there is also a reality for our other ongoing work, including the NEPA evaluation of the Pebble project.

With the major disruptions caused all across the Nation as a result of COVID-19, we respectfully ask the USACE to formally relax the timeline for the development of the Final EIS and extend the deadline for cooperating agencies to provide comments on the Preliminary Final EIS (PFEIS). With requirements for social distancing, offices shut down or minimally staffed, the challenges of teleworking, and because the impacts of the COVID-19 virus will last for an uncertain amount of time, extensions of the timeline and PFEIS comment deadline are absolutely necessary.

We look forward to hearing from you on this very important issue.

Sincerely,



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