EARTHWORKS

RECEIVED
MAR 04 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

February 20, 2014

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
(202) 272-0167

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Re: Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment

Dear Sir or Madam,

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. §552, as amended).

By this letter I am requesting all documents, letters or other materials related to the EPA's January 2014 final Bristol Bay watershed assessment, entitled "An Assessment of Potential Mining Impacts on Salmon Ecosystems of Bristol Bay, Alaska." This includes all documents and letters after the final watershed assessment was released in January 2014 that express support or opposition for the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment or for the EPA to use its authority under Section 404c of the Clean Water Act in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed.

I am making this request on behalf of Earthworks, a national non-profit organization that works with individuals and organizations in southwest Alaska, and throughout the country to reduce the negative social and environmental impacts associated with hard-rock mining. Through publications, commentary to the press, sponsorship of educational programs and events, and the development of an institutional expertise regarding mining policy.

Earthworks has been very active in issues related to the proposed Pebble Mine in Alaska's Bristol Bay, submitting comments on behalf of the EPA's draft watershed assessment, revised draft watershed assessment, and final watershed assessment. We co-host a website dedicated to the Bristol Bay watershed at www.ourbristolbay.com, and we include information on our organizational website at www.earthworksaction.org.

The information will be used by our organization to more effectively educate the public about support for the Bristol Bay watershed assessment, and any further potential public processes related to large-scale mining in Bristol Bay. The information will be featured on OurBristolBay.com a website dedicated to the Bristol Bay watershed, on Earthworks website at www.earthworksaction.org, and our organizational newsletter, which is distributed to thousands. These materials will not be used for commercial use or gain. This request is not meant to be exclusive of any other records which, though not specifically requested, would have a reasonable relationship to the subject matter of this request.

I anticipate that you will make the requested materials available within the statutorily prescribed period. I thus also request that you waive any applicable fees since disclosure meets the statutory standard for waiver of fees in that it is clearly "in the public interest because furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public," 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A). In this regard, I reiterate that Earthworks has no intention of using the information disclosed for financial gain.

Access to the requested records should be granted within twenty (20) working days from the date of your receipt. Failure to respond in a timely manner shall be viewed as a denial of this request and the requesters may immediately file an administrative appeal. Thanking you in advance for your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Gestring

Bonnie Gestring
Northwest Circuit Rider
Earthworks
140 South 4th St. West, Unit 1
Missoula, MT 59801
(406) 549-7361
bgestring@earthworksaction.org
www.earthworksaction.org
www.ourbristolbay.com

EARTHWORKS

FCL 20160167

MISSOULA MT 598

21 FEB 2014 PM 1 L

National FOIA Officer
U.S. EPA
1200 Pennsylvania ave. NW (2822T)
Washington DC 20460

MAR 04 2014

[redacted]