To: McLerran, Dennis[mclerran.dennis@epa.gov]; Holsman, Marianne[Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov]; Soderlund, Dianne[Soderlund.Dianne@epa.gov]; Schuster, Cindy[Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov]
From: Dunbar, Bill
Sent: Wed 1/15/2014 11:13:34 PM
Subject: FW: Begich Responds to EPA Announcement on Bristol Bay

Bill Dunbar

Policy Advisor

U.S. E.P.A. Region 10

206/553-1019

From: Johnson, Michael (Begich) [mailto:Michael_Johnson@begich.senate.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 11:13 AM
To: Dunbar, Bill; Vaught, Laura
Subject: FW: Begich Responds to EPA Announcement on Bristol Bay

EPA Folks, here is our release. It will go out in a little while. We just had another big AK release a couple minutes ago.

From: Kearns, Devon (Begich)
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 2:10 PM
To: Johnson, Michael (Begich)
Subject: Begich Responds to EPA Announcement on Bristol Bay

Giving it a little time between releases. Anyone you need to talk to before we put this out or are we good to go whenever?

MARK BEGICH · ALASKA
U.S. Senator for the State of
Official Website: http://begich.senate.gov
111 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING · WASHINGTON DC 20510 :: (202) 224-3004
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 15, 2014

Contact: Heather Handyside
(907) 350-4846

Begich Responds to EPA Announcement on Bristol Bay

Says Science Will Guide Review of Watershed Assessment and Proposed Mine

In response to today's release of the Environmental Protection Agency's long-awaited watershed assessment report on large-scale mining in the Bristol Bay region, U.S. Senator Mark Begich released the following statement:

"I have always said I will let science be my guide, and my decision whether to support the Pebble project will be based on this report and the views of the thousands of Alaskans who have contacted me about it," said Begich. "The stakes are high for Alaskans and that is why I will be thoroughly reviewing the final watershed assessment and continuing to rely on science for any final decision."

After a petition from nine federally recognized tribes from the region in May 2010, the EPA began a review of potential impacts of mining operations in February 2011. EPA produced a draft watershed assessment in May 2012, followed by a public comment process and an examination by a peer review panel of experts in relevant fields. EPA opened a second round of public comments on the revised draft from April 2013 through June 2013, and today's final watershed assessment includes a further review of the revised draft by the peer review panel.

Begich said he will spend the next few days carefully reviewing the assessment.