To: Dunbar, Bill[dunbar.bill@epa.gov]
From: Tim Bristol, Trout Unlimited
Sent: Tue 9/17/2013 6:31:09 PM
Subject: Bristol Bay in the News September 17, 2013

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Bristol Bay in the News: September 17, 2013

As the American people show overwhelming support for Bristol Bay, one of the mining companies behind the Pebble Mine decided to withdraw from the Pebble Limited Partnership. Citing a desire to focus on projects with the "highest value and lowest risks," UK-based Anglo American announced on Monday that it would no longer join with Canadian company Northern Dynasty Minerals in pursuing building North America's largest open pit mine at the headwaters of one of the world's most productive fisheries.

The news of Anglo American's decision to abandon the Pebble project comes after over 650,000 people expressed support for protecting Bristol Bay during on the EPA's most recent round of public comment on its Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. Nearly 75% of respondents believed that the EPA was right in examining the effects of large scale hard rock mining on this valuable fishery, with numbers even higher in Alaska. In comments coming from the Bristol Bay region, the opposition to the Pebble mine was nearly unanimous.

But, the fight is not over. Northern Dynasty has indicated it still fully intends to pursue the Pebble Mine, which would destroy up to 90 miles of salmon streams and up 4,800 acres of wetland salmon spawning habitat – even without spills or accidents. The EPA should quickly finalize its Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment and use its Clean Water Act authority to ensure the long term protection of Bristol Bay and its fishery. The science supports it, Alaskans support it, and hunters and anglers across the lower 48 support the EPA as well. It's time for our political leaders to come to grips with what business leaders are already realizing: The Pebble Mine is a risk we can't afford to take.

You can find recent stories on Bristol Bay in the articles below.

For more information, visit savebristolbay.org

Tim Bristol

Trout Unlimited Alaska Director

Major backer of Pebble Mine project pulls financial support

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By Juliet Eilperin
The Washington Post

Bristol Bay Native Corporation CEO Jason Metrokin, whose shareholders oppose the mine said in a statement, "We are glad that Anglo American has recognized that the proposed mine is too risky, and we urge Northern Dynasty Minerals to do the same."

Even as he hailed it as "a positive development," however, Metrokin urged the EPA to invoke its Clean Water Act authority "to protect the fishery and water resources of the region and the economic and subsistence values that depend on those resources."… Click here to read more.

Contentious Alaska mining project dealt blow as one partner pulls out

By Becky Bohrer
The Associated Press, in the Seattle Times

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is studying the impact of large-scale mining in the Bristol Bay region after concerns were raised about the project. A final report, expected this year, could affect permitting for the mine.

Tim Bristol, director of Trout Unlimited's Alaska program, said in a statement he couldn't think of a development project in the state's history that has faced such "wide and deep opposition" from Alaska's citizens. Bristol, a mine critic, said Anglo American's decision is no surprise, given

the number of Alaskans who support efforts to protect the Bristol Bay region… Click here to read more.

Anglo American pulls out of Alaska's proposed Pebble mine

By Sean Cockerham
McClatchy Washington Bureau/Anchorage Daily News

WASHINGTON — One of the two companies seeking to build Alaska's Pebble mine is dropping out of the project as scrutiny grows over its impact on wild salmon.

British mining giant Anglo American said Monday it is withdrawing from the Pebble Partnership, a 50-50 venture with Canada's Northern Dynasty Minerals. Anglo American will take a $300 million charge for dropping out.

Anglo American CEO Mark Cutifani said the company wants to focus instead on lower risk projects…Click here to read more.

Northern Dynasty Plunges as Anglo Exits Pebble: Vancouver Mover

By Christopher Donville
Bloomberg

Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd. (NDM), a Canadian metals explorer, fell the most in 15 months after Anglo American Plc (AAL) withdrew from a partnership to develop the Pebble copper project in Alaska.

Northern Dynasty plunged 34 percent to C$1.54 at the close in Toronto, the biggest drop since May 22, 2012… Click here to read more.

Anglo American Abandons "Alaska Gold" Mine

Frontline

The massive British mining company said on Monday that its U.S. subsidiary would withdraw from the controversial Pebble copper mine project in Alaska in order to focus on projects with lesser risks…. Click here to read more.

Anglo American pulls out of Alaska mines project

By Suzanne Goldenberg
The Guardian (UK)

Anglo American's withdrawal and the uncertainty over the project brings a temporary pause to what had been expected to be a long and bitter fight between mining companies and their opponents.

The Pebble mine was seen as one of the most important environmental decisions on Barack Obama's second term agenda – even though it was overshadowed at times by the controversy over the Keystone XL pipeline.

The mining companies and their opponents were gearing up for a big and expensive lobbying and advertising campaign over the project. The two companies in the Pebble venture spent $500,000 last year to lobby members of Congress for its approval… Click here to read more.

Pebble Partner Withdrawal Is Major Blow: Who Could The Next Partner Be?

By Nat Rudarakanchana
International Business Times

Bristol Bay, Alaska, fishermen, whose livelihoods would be affected by the mine, said Monday that three quarters of almost 900,000 public comments submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency backed a critical EPA assessment of mining in the region.

"Even without incident, the mine's footprint would destroy the spawning habitat for the nearly 40 million salmon who return to Bristol Bay each year," said a statement from Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay.

They estimate that the Bristol Bay region supplies about 50 percent of the world's sockeye salmon, and sustains 14,000 jobs in a $1.5 billion industry. They say all that is under threat from the Pebble mine… Click here to read more.

Company pulls out of Pebble project

By Lauren Maxwell
KTVA Anchorage

Those against the mine were excited about the announcement, including Rick Delkittie.

"It's really great news for all the people in Bristol Bay that share our vision," said Delkittie.

Delkittie represents nine tribal governments in the Bristol Bay region, where he said the large majority of residents are against developing the mine.

"It doesn't take an education to understand that's a bad idea for that region," said Delkittie. "That type of project could work elsewhere, it can't work over there."… Click here to read more.

The Owner Of Half Of Alaska's Controversial Pebble Mine Just Backed Out

By Jessica Goad
Think Progress Blog

Today's news comes at the same time commercial fishermen and other groups opposed to the project are celebrating the significant public opposition to the mine. Their analysis of 895,195 public comments submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency on its study of the Bristol Bay watershed found that 73 percent of all comments were in support of the EPA's research on how mining could affect Bristol Bay salmon. In addition, 84 percent of comments from Alaska supported the EPA and 98 percent of comments from Bristol Bay residents supported the EPA… Click here to read more.

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