From: Shoren Brown, Trout Unlimited
To: Bill Dunbar
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Last week, the EPA's draft Watershed Assessment was front and center as a peer review panel of science experts praised and analyzed the document. They said EPA underplayed the potential long-term impacts of mine development – including roads, pipelines, sewage treatment facilities and housing – on the watershed, fish and wildlife. They also pressed for more information on the effects of mining to migratory birds, other marine mammals and human health.

The panel also expressed concerns about whether the "no failure" scenario considered was realistic as mines experience one kind of failure or another; how any company or government could manage massive mine waste impoundments "in perpetuity;" and whether a mine with a potential 78-year lifespan could or should be permitted.

Although representatives of the Pebble Limited Partnership and Northern Dynasty called the Assessment rushed, inadequate and based on a hypothetical mine plan, EPA Region 10 Administrator Dennis McLerran defended the agency's work. "We think those statements -- that this is rushed and flawed -- are just inaccurate," he said "We have had a very rigorous process and a lengthy process." McLerran added that more than 90 percent of the 220,000 public comments submitted to the agency support the EPA's work on the watershed assessment.

At the same time, a new report shows chronic pipeline spills, uncontrolled seepage, and other failures at operating U.S. copper mines, and finds that the proposed Pebble Mine would have an extremely high likelihood of releasing toxic substances into the Bristol Bay watershed. And, a post in the Mudflats examines the downside of copper mining in Butte, Montana, noting that the Berkeley Pit at the Kelley Mine is now a Superfund cleanup site with major water quality management issues, funded by taxpayers.

For more information, visit www.savebristolbay.org

Shoren Brown
Bristol Bay Campaign Director

Tim Bristol
Trout Unlimited Alaska Director

Scientists hear from Alaskans on controversial EPA mine assessment
Jill Burke
Alaska Dispatch
The controversy over potential mining development in one of the world's most prolific and pristine fishing grounds landed in Anchorage Tuesday, where a scientific panel convened to analyze whether the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's inquiry into the merits and dangers of such activities in Alaska's Bristol Bay region is on the right track...Click here to read more

Science panel hears debate over EPA's Pebble mine report
Lisa Demer
Anchorage Daily News
Twelve scientists began their evaluation of a federal study of a huge proposed mine and whether it can be developed in the Bristol Bay area without harming salmon. They were immediately confronted by the impassioned debate between supporters and opponents of a Pebble copper and gold mine...Click here to read more

Public Weighs in on Pebble Mine at EPA Hearing
Dan Fiorucci
KTUU
The Environmental Protection Agency convened a three-day peer review hearing Tuesday concerning its watershed assessment of the proposed Pebble Mine, which is also the public's last chance to testify before an EPA scientific panel took up the document for review...Click here to read more

Tag team of scientists scrutinizes EPA's Bristol Bay watershed assessment
Jill Burke
Alaska Dispatch
A 12-member panel of scientists assembled to scrutinize the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recent study about the possible effects of mining to fish and waterways in the world's most prolific wild salmon fishing grounds wants to send the EPA back to the drawing board...Click here to read more

EPA Bristol Bay Report Being Reviewed
Kate McPherson
KTVA
It's the largest sockeye salmon fishery in the world. It supports thousands of people, as well as a way of life. The Bristol Bay Watershed is also full of mineral deposits, tempting mining companies to exploit it...Click here to read more

Georgia congressman raises concerns with EPA mine study
AP
Anchorage Daily News
A U.S. House subcommittee chairman has concerns with a federal study of the potential effects of mining in the Bristol Bay region. U.S. Rep. Paul Broun of Georgia says if the Environmental Protection Agency uses the study to preemptively veto mining permits...Click here to read more

EPA in Alaska's Bristol Bay: Questions and Answers
Eric Christopher Adams
Alaska Dispatch
Engineers, biologists, nonprofits, policymakers and a gaggle of media have descended on downtown Anchorage to discuss the controversial draft Bristol Bay watershed assessment. On Wednesday, independent scientists tasked with reviewing the EPA assessment debated 14 specific questions about the impact of mining on the region...Click here to read more

Panel taking comments on Alaska mine study
Associated Press
Ventura County Star
A panel convened Tuesday to begin evaluating the science behind a federal study that found large-scale mining near the headwaters of Bristol Bay could hurt the productivity and sustainability of one of the world's premier salmon fisheries...Click here to read more

Draft watershed assessment goes to peer review
Margaret Bauman
The Cordova Times
A panel of scientists was weighing in Aug. 7-9 on the merits of a draft Bristol Bay watershed assessment, as well as comments from several dozen people speaking passionately in support and opposition of the proposed Pebble mine...Click here to read more

Report highlights risks of Pebble to Bristol Bay
Cordova Staff
The Cordova Times
A new report from a nonprofit group dedicated to protecting the environment from the impact of irresponsible mineral and energy development highlights the risks of proposed large-scale copper mining near the Bristol Bay watershed...Click here to read more

Bristol Bay Native Association first Alaska winners of USDA grant competition
Carey Restino, Bristol Bay Times
Alaska Dispatch
The Bristol Bay region fisheries and seafood processing industry got a federal boost Tuesday when the USDA announced the area was one of 13 nationwide to win the Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge...Click here to read more

EPA Holding Meetings on Bristol Bay Mine in Anchorage
Daysha Eaton, KSKA
Alaska Public Radio
Scientists are gathered at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage this week for a three-day meeting on the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment, which reviews possible mining impacts on Salmon in Bristol Bay. The 12 scientists nominated to the panel faced a crowd of stakeholders Monday in the Tikahtnu Ballroom...Click here to read more

New report highlights risks to Bristol Bay fishery from Pebble Mine
CFBB

A new report released today documents the record of chronic pipeline spills, uncontrolled seepage, and other failures at operating U.S. copper mines, and finds that the proposed Pebble Mine would have an extremely high likelihood of releasing toxic substances into the Bristol Bay watershed — which supports the world's largest wild sockeye salmon fishery...Click here to read more

Pebble Mine and History
Carl Johnson
The Mudflats
Butte, Montana has a couple of distinguishing claims to fame; one controversial, the other, not so much. What is controversial is that Butte boasts to being the headwaters of the Columbia River...Click here to read more

Demand real science in Pebble reviews
Carol Ann Woody
Anchorage Daily News
Key components of science include that it be objective, transparent, and reproducible, as well as passing external review and critique by a panel of experts or peers. As potential impacts of Pebble Mine on Bristol Bay's fishery resources are revealed and discussed, Alaskans should insist on full disclosure of scientific methods, data, and results in addition to critical assessments of related science by a jury of peers...Click here to read more

Pebble Mine opponents strike gold with state judge's residency ruling
Eric Christopher Adams
Alaska Dispatch
Just before the Environmental Protection Agency is set to hold hearings in Anchorage, Alaska, over its draft environmental assessment evaluating impact of large-scale mining on the Bristol Bay watershed, a state judge has issued a ruling likely to become yet another public-relations tool for well-funded opponents of the massive and controversial project...Click here to read more

A banner king salmon run on Nushagak River in Alaska's Bristol Bay
Jill Burke
Alaska Dispatch
Sport fishermen across much of Southcentral Alaska who'd hoped for heart-thumping fights with Alaska's most regal fish, the prized king salmon, have largely walked away with dashed dreams this summer, casualties of a statewide trend of declining runs...Click here to read more

State rips EPA while Pebble foes praise Bristol Bay study
Tim Bradner
Alaska Journal of Commerce
The State of Alaska has submitted a blistering critique to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of its assessment of adverse environmental effects of the proposed large Pebble copper-gold mine in Alaska...Click here to read more

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