EPA
United States Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Suspends Withdrawal of Proposed Determination in Bristol Bay Watershed

EPA has decided to suspend its process to withdraw proposed restrictions relating to mining the Pebble deposit. The agency reached this decision after hearing directly from stakeholders and the people of Alaska, and considering recent developments, including Pebble Limited Partnership's submission of a permit application to the Army Corps of Engineers. In 2014, EPA issued a Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination that would, if finalized, restrict the discharge of dredged or fill material in the Bristol Bay watershed related to mining the Pebble copper and gold deposit. In a May 11, 2017, settlement agreement resolving outstanding lawsuits between EPA and the Pebble Limited Partnership, EPA agreed to initiate a process to propose to withdraw the Proposed Determination by July 11, 2017. In July 2017, EPA solicited public comment on whether to withdraw the Proposed Determination, and whether the Administrator should review the withdrawal decision if such a decision is made. The comment period closed October 17, 2017. EPA received more than one million public comments. On January 26, 2018, EPA signed a Federal Register Notice announcing that the Proposed Determination will remain in place pending the agency's further consideration of the potential mine's impact on the region's world-class fisheries and natural resources. For information and to read the Federal Register Notice, visit: [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/bristolbay"].

TDD and/or TTY users may call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339 .
Then please give the operator the Bristol Bay phone number: 206-553-0040.

Alaska Dispatch News - Anchorage