UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101-3188

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

October 5, 2020

Mr. Dolan Bloom

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Dear Mr. Bloom:

Thank you for your August 14, 2020, letter to the EPA Administrator Wheeler regarding the proposed Pebble mine in Alaska. The Administrator is recused from this matter and has asked that I respond on his behalf.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for making a final permit decision on the Pebble Project pursuant to Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404. This decision includes determinations of compliance with the Corps permit regulations and the CWA Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines. These Guidelines are used to evaluate proposed discharges of dredged and fill material into waters of the United States. The EPA provided comments and input to the Corps under our Section 404 authorities during several meetings and in letters dated July 1, 2019, and May 28, 2020. The EPA will continue working with the Corps throughout its review of this proposed project.

The Corps issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on July 24, 2020. The Final EIS evaluates impacts of the proposed project and will be used to inform the CWA Section 404 permitting decision. The EPA has participated in the NEPA process as a cooperating agency for several years. The EPA submitted comments on the Draft EIS in a letter dated July 1, 2019, and continues to review documents developed during the NEPA process, including the Final EIS. The next step in the process is for the Corps to issue a Record of Decision, which will lay out the Corps' findings and permit decision. To learn more about the Corps' process and timeline, please visit https://www.pebbleprojecteis.com.

Information about the EPA's activities related to the Bristol Bay watershed and the proposed Pebble Mine can be found online at https://www.epa.gov/bristolbay. As updates become available, we will post information on this website.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER HLADICK Digitally signed by CHRISTOPHER HLADICK Date: 2020.10.05 11:46:07 -07'00'

Chris Hladick
Regional Administrator