Message

From: Opalski, Dan [Opalski.Dan@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/29/2020 5:06:52 AM
To: LaCroix, Matthew [LaCroix.Matthew@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Proposed Pebble Mine

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you, Matt. Feel free to share with others.

DESK STATEMENT:

Today, EPA has elected not to continue its elevation process with the Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Corps' evaluation of the proposed Pebble Mine project. EPA has worked closely with the Corps throughout its review of the proposed project. EPA and the Corps have had extensive engagement, including weekly meetings held over the past few months to discuss various issues related to the proposed project. EPA appreciates the Corps convening these discussions and was pleased that the agencies were able to address many issues. EPA will continue working with the Corps outside of the formal elevation process as the Corps completes its review of this proposed project.

BACKGROUND:

The Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for making final permit decisions pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act, including final determinations of compliance with the Corps permit regulations and the CWA section 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Pursuant to its authority under CWA section 404(b)(1), EPA may provide its views to the Corps regarding a proposed project's consistency with the Guidelines. The 1992 Memorandum of Agreement between EPA and the Department of the Army under Clean Water Act section 404(q) governs the coordination between the Agencies regarding CWA section 404 permit application reviews and elevation of issues of national importance implicated by such applications. The elevation process in the MOA is designed to facilitate coordination and resolve issues arising in the permitting process.

From: LaCroix, Matthew <LaCroix.Matthew@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 3:21 PM
To: Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Proposed Pebble Mine

Dan,

Good afternoon. Could you share the desk sheet with us so we can see how the agency is explaining the letter?

Thanks,

Matthew LaCroix, Biologist
Wetlands & Oceans Section
Water Division
Alaska Operations Office
222 W. 7th Ave. #19
Anchorage, AK 99513

(907) 271-1480

From: Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 1:48 PM
To: Szerlog, Michael <Szerlog.Michael@epa.gov>; LaCroix, Matthew <LaCroix.Matthew@epa.gov>; McCracken, Betsy W. <mccracken.betsy@epa.gov>; Jensen, Amy A. <jensen.amy@epa.gov>; McGrath, Patricia <mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov>; Hough, Palmer <Hough.Palmer@epa.gov>
Cc: Grandinetti, Cami <Grandinetti.Cami@epa.gov>; Chung, Angela <Chung.Angela@epa.gov>; Goodin, John <Goodin.John@epa.gov>; Frazer, Brian <Frazer.Brian@epa.gov>; Kaiser, Russell <Kaiser.Russell@epa.gov>; Wehling, Carrie <Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov>; Kowalski, Edward <Kowalski.Edward@epa.gov>; Steiner-Riley, Cara <Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov>; Johnson, Patrick <johnson.patrick@epa.gov>; Fordham, Tami <Fordham.Tami@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Proposed Pebble Mine

From: Opalski, Dan
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 2:36 PM
To: 'David.R.Hibner@usace.army.mil' <David.R.Hibner@usace.army.mil>
Cc: 'Sheila.M.Newman@usace.army.mil' <Sheila.M.Newman@usace.army.mil>; McCoy, Shane M CIV USARMY CEPOA (USA) <Shane.M.Mccoy@usace.army.mil>; 'David.S.Hobbie@usace.army.mil' <David.S.Hobbie@usace.army.mil>; 'poaspecialprojects@usace.army.mil' <poaspecialprojects@usace.army.mil>; 'mary_colligan@fws.gov' <mary_colligan@fws.gov>
Subject: Proposed Pebble Mine

Colonel Hibner:

Please find attached a letter from the EPA Region 10 Administrator, Chris Hladick, on the above-referenced project.

Dan Opalski
Director
Water Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-1855
FAX: 206-553-1280

My pronouns are he and him.