Roles and Responsibilities

When the Pebble Limited Partnership (PLP) submitted a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit application on December 22, 2017, the US Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District (USACE) was compelled to begin processing the permit application in accordance with 33 CFR 320. The USACE determined that review of the application would require an environmental impact statement level of anlaysis in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. USACE is the lead federal agency for developing the environmental

Role of the Corps

The USACE is responsible for reviewing the permit application submitted by the PLP, and analyzing the potential environmental impacts from the proposed project. As lead agency, the USACE is responsible for identifying, iviting, and assigning roles to cooperating agencies including agencies that also have permitting decisions to make for the proposed project. The USACE will lead the effort to take a hard look at reasonable and practicable alternatives and evalutae the impacts of the proposed project utilizing an interdisiplinary team. At the completion of the environmental impact analysis, the USACE, will issue a Record of Decision related to USACE's authorities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

Role of AECOM

AECOM has been selected as the core group of the interndisciplinary team to provide a fact based independent analysis of the Pebble Project as proposed, identified reasonable alternatives and the no action alternative. AECOM will work solely under the direction of the USACE and will be the primary developers of the EIS. AECOM will also provide support to USACE for scoping and public involvement, development of alternatives to the proposed action, assessment of potential impacts, developing the Draft and Final EIS, and distribution. The AECOM team is made up of specialists and scientists in the biological environment, the physical environment, and the social environment.

Role of Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating agencies have been invited to provide technical support to USACE as the lead agency. Cooperating agencies will be actively engaged in scoping and alternatives development and will then be assigned to technical teams based on the specific reasons they were invited to become cooperating agencies. Although cooperating agencies are involved in preparation and writing of certain portions of the EIS and cooperators may use the EIS for their own decisionsand, the USACE has final authority on the EIS content and decision making.

Role of the PLP

As the applicant, the PLP is required to provide information to USACE related to their proposed project. This includes:

- description of the proposed project,
- background material, completed research, and site information,
- data for the development of maps and figures, and
- other information that may be identified as necessary during preparation of the EIS.

The PLP will not be involved in the development of the EIS beyond this limited scope.