DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALASKA DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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FEB 20 2018

District Commander

Mr. R. David Allnut, Director
Office of Environmental Review & Assessment
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
1200 6th Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

Dear Mr. Allnut:

This responds to your January 29, 2018, letter requesting a meeting regarding my invitation to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 to be a cooperating agency in the development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the evaluation of the Department of Army permit application from the Pebble Limited Partnership (POA-2017-271). Specifically, you requested a meeting to discuss revising my invitation in order to broaden the role of EPA Region 10 as a cooperating agency. As discussed below, I do not intend to revise my invitation.

On February 9, 2018, Ms. Sheila Newman, my Regulatory Division Deputy Chief, met with Mr. Chris Hladick, EPA Regional Administrator for Region 10 and you. The meeting focused on your concerns with my cooperating agency invitation. Ms. Newman considered and addressed your concerns by explaining my intent in inviting each potential cooperating agency was to assign roles in accordance with the decision authority and/or special expertise of each agency. My goal is to reduce duplicate reviews and more efficiently manage the EIS process.

I appreciate the open dialogue and your desire to engage as a cooperating agency on a broader level. However, for the reasons cited above, I maintain my January 9, 2018, invitation to your agency to be actively involved in scoping, developing alternatives, and writing the EIS with respect to the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines analysis. In addition, we will use any analysis and/or proposals you provide to the maximum extent possible, consistent with our responsibility as lead agency.

My team will soon be reaching out to you regarding the scheduling of a Cooperating Agency kick-off meeting to discuss scoping and the EIS milestone schedule. If in the meantime you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Michael Montone, my Acting Regulatory Division Chief by phone at 907-753-2782.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Brooks
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding