**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**
**ALASKA DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**
**P.O. BOX 6898**
**JBER, AK 99506-0898**

JAN 09 2017

District Commander

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

Dear Mr. Allnut:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, has received a Department of the Army (DA) permit application from the Pebble Limited Partnership (PLP) for the discharge of fill material into waters of the United States to facilitate development of the Pebble copper-gold-molybdenum porphyry deposit as a surface mine.

PLP proposes to develop existing State of Alaska owned mine claims at the Pebble deposit located approximately 200 miles southwest of Anchorage, approximately 60 miles west of tidewater on Cook Inlet and 17 to 19 miles from the nearest communities of Iliamna, Newhalen and Nondalton. PLP's project as proposed would consist of four primary project elements: a mine site, port at Amakdedori, transportation corridor, and natural gas pipeline.

I have determined that an environmental impact statement level of analysis is required pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for review and evaluation of this DA permit application. I am inviting your agency to participate in this endeavor as a cooperating agency in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's' NEPA implementing regulations (40CFR1506.1).

A pre-application meeting was conducted with your staff on 21 Dec 2017 and a complete copy of the DA Permit Application (POA-2017-271) was made available to your agency on 22 Dec 2017. In addition, a draft cooperating agency coordination plan, draft list of federal and state authorities and required actions, and potential schedule was provided on 22 Dec 2017 for agency review and input.

Your agency has special expertise with respect to the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) guidelines. For this reason, you are invited to become actively involved in writing the environmental impact statement. As a cooperating agency your agency's involvement will be specific to those areas under your special expertise.

Cooperating agency specific requirements will include:

a. Participation in prescheduled meetings and providing written agency recommendations for:
   1. Development of a range of reasonable alternatives;
   2. Responses to public comments on the DEIS relevant to cooperating agency area of special expertise;
   3. Input into Corps determination of Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative.

b. Additional required participation:
   1. Participation in scoping and other early stages of the environmental review process;
   2. Participation in the preparation of environmental analyses concerning portions within your special expertise;
   3. Review of relevant sections of the Draft EIS prior to its release for comment by the public and other agencies; and
   4. Writing and/or analysis necessary for the document's preparation.

c. Activities where we encourage your participation to maximize interagency cooperation include:
   1. Workshops and educational meetings;
   2. Consultation on relevant technical studies within your area of special expertise;
   3. Field reviews;
   4. Frequent access to project information and study results;
   5. Use of all above documents to express your views on subjects within your special expertise.

We intend to use the EIS as the basis for the DA permit decision. We will use any analysis and proposals you provide to the maximum extent possible, consistent with our responsibility as lead agency. We intend for the DA permit application review process to proceed concurrently with the EIS process.

In order to give your agency adequate opportunity to determine your participation in this environmental review process, a written response to this cooperating agency invitation is not sought until after the interagency pre-scoping meeting coordinated and scheduled with agencies to take place 18 Jan 2018 at the Atwood Conference Center, Room 104, in Anchorage, Alaska. I ask that you please respond to this cooperating agency invitation by close of business on 29 Jan 2018.

We look forward to your comments and response to this request and to your role as a cooperating agency on the proposed action. In your response, please identify/confirm your agency's single point of contact for future coordination efforts. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EIS, please contact my Regulatory Program Manager, Sheila Newman by phone at 907-753-2712 or by email at poaspecialprojects@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

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