

HCR

15

<target><bill>HCR 15</bill><subject>HCR
15</subject><comm>HFSH26</comm></target>



Representative Alan Austerman

Alaska State Legislature

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair
House Fisheries Committee

From: Representative Alan Austerman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. Austerman".

Date: April 10, 2009

RE: House Concurrent Resolution 15—Request for Hearing

House Concurrent Resolution 15 requests that the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences provide an interdisciplinary assessment of the known and probable cumulative environmental and socioeconomic consequences of large-scale mineral extraction in the Bristol Bay area watershed, and directing the Alaska Legislative Council to contract with the NRC for such an assessment.

I am requesting a hearing for HCR 15 at your earliest convenience. Attached you will find a copy of HCR15. My staff will follow this memorandum with a sponsor statement.

I will provide additional backup as it becomes available. Please let Erin Harrington of my staff know if there is anything else we can provide. Thank you for your consideration.

~ Representing Alaska State House District 36 ~

Akhiok | Igiugig | Iliamna | Karluk | Kodiak | Kokhanok | Larsen Bay | Levelock
Newhalen | Nondalton | Old Harbor | Ouzinkie | Pedro Bay | Port Alsworth | Port Lions

Alaska State Legislature

House Special Committee on Fisheries

Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair

Rep. Craig Johnson
Rep. Wes Keller
Rep. Charisse Millett
Rep. Cathy Munoz
Rep. Bob Buch
Rep. Scott Kawasaki



Room 416
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Memorandum

Date: March 25th, 2010

To: Suzi Lowell, Chief Clerk

From: Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chairman
House Fisheries Committee

RE: House Fisheries Committee Schedule

Please note new day, time, and location of meeting.

Monday March 29th

3:00 p.m.

Capitol Room 106

+HCR 15—Bristol Bay Mining Study

+HB 266—Personal Use Fishing Priority

+Bills Previously Heard



Representative Alan Austerman

Alaska State Legislature

Sponsor Statement for HCR 15

HCR 15 is a resolution which requests the Legislative Council to contract with the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences for an independent assessment of the environmental and socioeconomic consequences of large-scale mineral extraction in the Bristol Bay area watershed.

The Pebble Partnership plans to submit applications to permit the Pebble prospect located in the Bristol Bay watershed in 2011. Although Pebble has been conducting multi-disciplinary environmental studies since 2004, and has spent over \$132 million in the effort, little of that information is available for agency or public review at this time. Given the scale and potential impacts of the mine, and the vast quantities of data that will have to be analyzed as part of the permitting process, it will be critical that policy makers and the public have a robust framework for analyzing the proposed project. Trusted, objective, third-party guidance on the issues of concern related to the proposed project itself, as well as the state's large-mine permitting process, will be an essential back drop to constructive dialogue throughout the permitting period.

The National Academy of Sciences was created in 1863 to investigate, examine, experiment, and report upon any subject of science or art. The mission of the academy is to provide policy guidance and scientific and technical analysis for governmental decision making. The academy provides independent advice; external sponsors have no control over the conduct of the study once the statement of task and budget is finalized.

The purpose of this study is to assess critical gaps in existing knowledge that might be necessary to adequately understand, predict, and manage the environmental and socioeconomic impacts that could be expected or anticipated from large-scale mineral extraction in the Bristol Bay area watershed.

The completed report would be made public and would identify pertinent questions to ask the Department of Natural Resources and the Pebble Partnership during each stage of the permitting process. It is important for the legislature to have the best possible information on which to base its policy decisions regarding the potential for development of the Pebble copper deposit, together with the potential environmental consequences of that development.

February 25, 2010

(v.1)

26-LS0883VA

~ Representing Alaska State House District 36 ~

Akhiok | Igiugig | Iliamna | Karluk | Kodiak | Kokhanok | Larsen Bay | Levelock
Newhalen | Nondalton | Old Harbor | Ouzinkie | Pedro Bay | Port Alsworth | Port Lions

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: HCR 15
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): HCR15-LEG-COU-4-13-09 Dept. Affected: Legislature
Title "Directing the Legislative Council to contract for an RDU Legislative Council
 assessment of environmental and socioeconomic....." Component Council and Subcommittees
Sponsor Representative Austerman, Edgmon
Requester House Special Committee on Fisheries Component Number 783

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual	1,000.0							
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	1,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF	1,000.0						
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	1,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: _____

POSITIONS

	FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HCR 15 directs the Legislative Council to contract for an independent review and report by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (NRC) to provide an interdisciplinary assessment of the known and probable cumulative environmental and socioeconomic consequences of large-scale mineral extraction in the Bristol Bay area watershed, including hydrological systems and aquifers, biological resources, and communities, and an assessment of critical gaps in existing knowledge necessary to adequately understand, predict, and manage the environmental and socioeconomic consequences of mineral extraction in the Bristol Bay area watershed.

Costs for previous NRC research projects in Alaska have varied depending on the scope of work. Recent projects have ranged from \$600,000 (Developing a Research and Restoration Plan for Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Salmon) to \$1,600,000 (Cumulative Environmental Effects of Oil and Gas Activities on Alaska's North Slope).

Prepared by: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director
Division Legislative Affairs Agency
Approved by: Pamela Varni, Executive Director
 Legislative Affairs Agency

Phone 465-6626
Date/Time 4/13/09 4:01 PM
Date 4/13/2009

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: HCR 15
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): HCR15-LEG-COU-3-8-10 Dept. Affected: Legislature
Title: "Directing the Legislative Council to contract for an RDU Legislative Council
assessment of environmental and socioeconomic....." Component: Council and Subcommittees
Sponsor: Representative Austerman, Edgmon
Requester: House Special Committee on Fisheries Component Number: 783

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2011	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual	1,000.0						
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	1,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()							
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2011	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF	1,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	1,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
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ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

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Prepared by: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director
Division: Legislative Affairs Agency
Approved by: Pamela Varni, Executive Director
Legislative Affairs Agency

Phone 465-6626
Date/Time 3/8/10 10:44 AM
Date 3/8/2010

The National Academies are...

- Advisers to the nation on science, engineering, and medicine—chartered by the U.S. Congress
- Independent from the government
- Nonprofit, non-advocacy
- Able to draw on leading experts from scientific and technical disciplines

The National Academies consensus reports are...

- Independent and objective
- Peer-reviewed
- Authoritative
- Publicly disseminated

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Washington, DC 20001

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Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

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www.national-academies.org

WORKING WITH THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

A Guide for Prospective Study Sponsors



National Academy of Sciences
National Academy of Engineering
Institute of Medicine
National Research Council

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES
Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

For more than 140 years, the National Academies have been advising the nation on issues of science, technology, and medicine. An 1863 Congressional charter signed by President Lincoln authorized this non-governmental institution to honor top scientists with membership and to serve the nation whenever called upon. Today the National Academies—**National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council**—continue that dual mission.

Like no other organization, the National Academies can enlist the nation's foremost scientists, engineers, health professionals, and other experts to address the scientific and technical aspects of society's most pressing problems. Each year, more than 6,000 of these experts are selected to serve on hundreds of study committees that are convened to answer specific sets of questions. All serve without pay.

The National Academies are a unique resource. Their reports are viewed as being valuable and credible because of their reputation for providing advice with high standards of scientific and technical quality and independence. National Academies staff will work with potential sponsors to develop a specific set of questions to be answered by a committee of experts.

This guide is intended for prospective sponsors interested in requesting studies from the National Academies. It describes the process for producing these reports—from funding to report dissemination—and explains the sponsors' involvement at each stage. This approach ensures that sponsors receive the best product possible. Checks and balances are applied at every step in the study process to protect the integrity of the reports and to maintain public confidence in them.

Defining and Initiating the Study

Before a contract or grant is signed, National Academies staff and board members work with the sponsor to determine the specific set of questions to be addressed. A formal "statement of task" is developed that defines the scope of the study and serves as the basis for determining the expertise and the balance of perspectives needed on the committee.

Typically, the following steps are taken to ensure that the project is clearly defined and that both the National Academies and the sponsor understand what is expected throughout the study process:

1. Sponsor and National Academies staff meet to discuss task, schedule, and likely costs.
2. When the staff and sponsor have come to a general agreement, staff prepares a prospectus for approval by the Executive Committee of the National Research Council Governing Board. This step ensures the appropriateness of the topic and the scope of the study before a formal proposal is sent to the sponsor.

Most studies are funded by those requesting the advice. Consistent with the congressional charter, experts serving on study committees volunteer their time without compensation. The cost of consensus studies can range from about \$200,000 to more than \$1 million, depending on the breadth and complexity of the issues being addressed and the

length of time needed to produce the desired report. The costs include the expenses of committee meetings, professional staff supporting the committee, report publication, and public dissemination.

Several funding options are available to sponsors. These include contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and purchase orders. A project may have one or several sponsors. Studies typically take from 9 to 18 months to complete, although some urgent studies may be completed in a shorter time and some broader or more complex studies may take a longer time.

Because of their unique origins and status, federal sponsors interested in having the National Academies conduct a study can obtain their services on a sole source basis. The National Academies do not compete for federal contracts. Grants, contracts, and gifts can also be received from states, foundations, and other sources.

A project begins after formal commitments have been received for sufficient funds to complete the study.

Committee Selection and Approval

Selection of appropriate committee members, individually and collectively, is essential for the success of every study. All committee members serve as individual experts, not as representatives of organizations or interest groups. Each member is expected to contribute to the project on the basis of his or her own expertise and good judgment.

Once a project is funded, the National Academies seek nominees for members of consensus study committees from many sources, including the sponsors. However, the president of the National Academy of Sciences (who also serves as chair of the National Research Council) has the sole authority for appointing all members of study committees. Before a committee can be approved, a thorough balance and conflict of interest discussion is held in closed session during the first meeting, and any issues raised in that discussion or during the public comment period are investigated and addressed. Committee members are considered prospective until after this process is completed.

Committee Meetings, Deliberations, and Drafting Report

Study committees typically gather information through: 1) meetings that are open to the public and announced in advance through the National Academies' Web site, 2) submission of information by outside parties, 3) reviews of scientific literature, and 4) investigations by the committee members and staff. In all cases, efforts are made to solicit input from individuals who have been directly involved in, or who have special knowledge of, the topic under consideration. Sponsors are typically invited to make presentations to the committee at its first couple of meetings to discuss the sponsors' expectations for the study. Also, the sponsor is asked to provide as much information relevant to the study as possible.

SPONSOR INTERACTIONS

Sponsor and Academies staff meet to discuss scope, timing and likely cost of project

Sponsor explores available funding options

Staff seek nominees for committee members from sponsor and other sources

Committee's first meeting (sponsor invited to participate in open session)

Public information gathering sessions (sponsors invited)

Sponsor provided with copy of final report and offered a briefing

DEFINING AND INITIATING THE STUDY

COMMITTEE SELECTION AND APPROVAL

REPORT REVIEW

REPORT RELEASE AND DISSEMINATION

NRC Governing Board reviews and approves project

Project starts when funding is formally approved

Prospective membership posted at least 70 days for public comment

COMMITTEE MEETINGS, DELIBERATIONS, AND DRAFTING REPORT

Deliberation and report drafting (closed session)

Full committee signs off on draft report

Committee and Academies sign off on report

Report released to the public

STUDY MILESTONES

In accordance with federal law and with few exceptions, information-gathering meetings of the committee are open to the sponsor and the public, and any written materials provided to the committee by individuals who are not officials, agents, or employees of the National Academies are maintained in a public access file. National Academies staff do their best to schedule committee meetings at times and places convenient to the sponsor and their colleagues, and will provide an agenda prior to the meetings. However, the sponsor does not control meeting plans and agendas.

The committee deliberates in meetings closed to the public and sponsors in order to develop draft findings and recommendations free from outside influence. Brief summaries of these meetings are made publicly available on the National Academies' Web site. All analyses and drafts of the report remain confidential.

Report Review

As a final check on the quality and objectivity of the study, all reports must undergo a rigorous external review by independent experts whose comments are provided anonymously to the committee members. The National Academies recruit independent experts with a range of views and perspectives to review and comment on the draft report. The draft report and review comments are not publicly disclosed.

The review process aims to ensure the report addresses its approved study charge and does not go beyond its statement of task, the findings are supported by the scientific evidence and arguments presented, the exposition and organization are effective, and the report is impartial and objective.

Each committee must respond to, but need not agree with, reviewer comments in a detailed "response to review" that is examined by one or two independent report review "monitors" responsible for ensuring that the report review criteria have been satisfied. The names and affiliations of the report reviewers are made public when the report is released.

If the sponsor does not seek to have a prepublication version of the report, only a final printed report is made publicly available and published a few months after final sign off.

Report Release and Dissemination

The plans for release and dissemination of the approved report will be discussed with the sponsor. Sponsors are provided with copies of the report and offered the opportunity for a briefing in advance of the public release of the report. Pre-release briefings may also be provided to other key executive and legislative branch members. In instances in which there is great interest in the report and careful coordination of its release is necessary to be fair to all concerned, the time between delivery to the sponsor and public release may be short, as little as a day. In no case will sponsors receive reports more than two weeks in advance of their public release. Sponsors may make recommendations regarding dissemination strategies for the report, but ultimately the National Academies are responsible for the final products and their release.

Studies are published as printed books by the National Academies Press and are posted on the National Academies Web site for public dissemination. Often a prepublication version of the report is given to the sponsor and posted on the National Academies Web site soon after sign off by the committee and National Academies and in advance of the final printed report. This is to provide the information contained in the report as quickly as possible, even as final editing, layout, and publishing are proceeding. In other cases, only the final printed report will be published. In either case, printing of the final report generally takes a few months after final sign off.

For studies with broad interest, the National Academies may prepare separate report briefs or other derivative materials that are widely circulated. Also, committee members and project staff may testify or make public presentations about the content of the reports, once they have been released. Staff and committee members may assist in disseminating the report, such as by providing copies of the report or report briefs and making presentations. Sponsors should be aware that the time and resources needed for dissemination of the report will often be included in the project timeline and budget. Therefore, National Academies staff may recommend that contracts extend several months beyond the expected delivery of the report to allow for anticipated dissemination activities.

NRC The National Research Council

Search

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES NAS IOM NAE

About the NRC

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Program Units

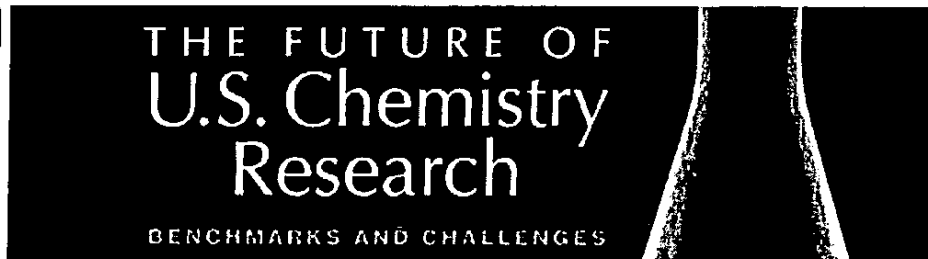
- Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education
- Division on Earth and Life Studies
- Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences
- Institute of Medicine
- Policy and Global Affairs Division
- Transportation Research Board

Quick Links

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Opportunities

- Job Opportunities
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Welcome to the National Research Council

The National Research Council (NRC) functions under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), and the Institute of Medicine (IOM). The NAS, NAE, IOM, and NRC are part of a private, nonprofit institution that provides science, technology and health policy advice under a congressional charter signed by President Abraham Lincoln that was originally granted to the NAS in 1863. Under this charter, the NRC was established in 1916, the NAE in 1964, and the IOM in 1970. The four organizations are collectively referred to as the National Academies.

The mission of the NRC is to improve government decision making and public policy, increase public education and understanding, and promote the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge in matters involving science, engineering, technology, and health. The institution takes this charge seriously and works to inform policies and actions that have the power to improve the lives of people in the U.S. and around the world.

The NRC is committed to providing elected leaders, policy makers, and the public with expert advice based on sound scientific evidence. The NRC does not receive direct federal appropriations for its work. Individual projects are funded by federal agencies, foundations, other governmental and private sources, and the institution's endowment. The work is made possible by 6,000 of the world's top scientists, engineers, and other professionals who volunteer their time without compensation to serve on committees and participate in activities. The NRC is administered jointly by the NAS, NAE, and the IOM through the NRC Governing Board.

The core services involve collecting, analyzing, and sharing information and knowledge. The independence of the institution, combined with its unique ability to convene experts, allows it to be responsive to a host of requests.

The portfolio of activities includes:

- **Consensus Studies:** These comprehensive reports focus on major policy issues and provide recommendations for solving complex problems.
- **Expert Meetings and Workshops:** By convening symposia, workshops, meetings, and roundtables, the NRC connects professionals as well as the interested public and stimulates dialogue on diverse matters.
- **Program and Research Management:** At the request of state and federal agencies, the NRC manages and evaluates research programs, conducts program assessments, and reviews proposals.
- **Fellowships:** The NRC administers several postdoctoral fellowship programs.

Free Scientific Information: Publishing more than 200 reports and related publications each year, the institution is one of the largest providers of free scientific and technical information in the world. Most of it is now on the Web at www.nap.edu.

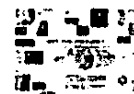
Information about the National Research Council is also available in a downloadable brochure. [PDF 121K]

Highlights

Saving Women's Lives: Strategies for Improving Breast Cancer Detection and Diagnosis



Visualizing Chemistry Poster



New Weekly Podcasts



For more information please contact us via email.

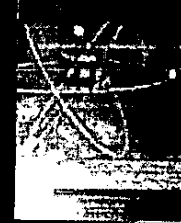
Current Operating Status

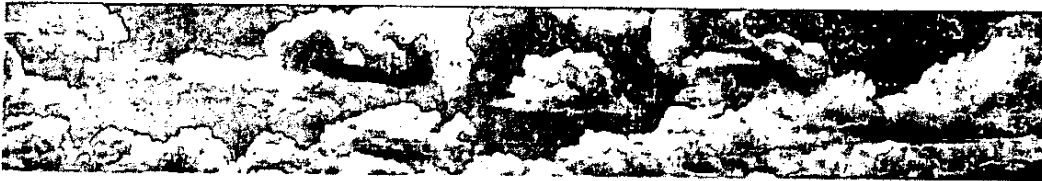
State and Local Guide to

Earth & Life Studies

at the National Academies

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL





The National Academies ARE...

- Advisers to the nation on science, engineering, and medicine—the only institution chartered by the U.S. Congress to do so.
- Independent and objective.
- Non-profit.
- Able to draw upon the nation's top scientists at universities, in industry, and in the government.

The National Academies are NOT...

- Part of the government.
- An advocacy organization.
- Consultants to for-profit entities.
- Laboratories.
- Limited to working for federal agencies—state and local government agencies also sponsor activities.



"From the beginning, the [National Academies have] been a central part of the state of Washington's strategy to develop a new water resources management program for the Columbia River. The credibility and integrity of the [organization], its members, and staff placed it in a unique position to comment on the health and long-term management of this highly valuable resource.

Tom Fitzsimmons
Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor
state of Washington

Providing Science Advice to Help Protect Public Health, Public Safety, and the Environment

For advice on issues of science, technology, and medicine, the nation's leaders turn to the National Academies. Established by Congress and President Abraham Lincoln as an entity separate from government that honors top scientists with membership, the institution serves the nation whenever called upon.

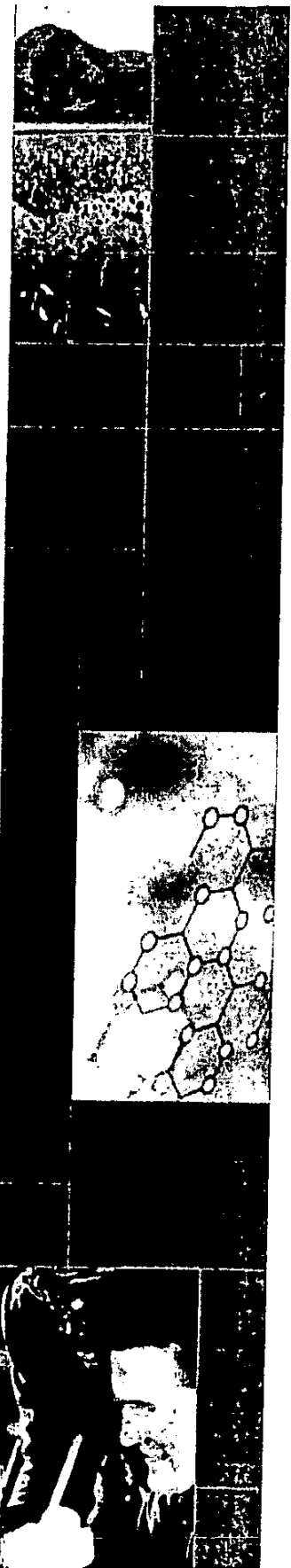
Like no other organization, the National Academies can enlist the nation's foremost scientists, engineers, health professionals, and other experts to address the scientific and technical aspects of some of society's most pressing problems. Each year, about 6,000 of these experts are selected to serve on hundreds of study committees that are appointed to answer specific sets of questions. All serve without pay.

Earth & Life Studies at the National Academies covers a wide array of topics where public policy meets the geosciences, life sciences, chemical sciences, and the environment. In 2004 alone, the National Academies issued reports on the use of forensics in the courtroom, the safety of genetically modified foods, climate change, and the safe disposal of radioactive waste. Many Academies reports influence public policy decisions; some provide program reviews; yet others serve as widely used reference books.

Serving State, Local, and Regional Decision-Makers

As more and more responsibility and initiative shift from the federal government to states and localities on issues such as clean air and homeland security, local officials and resource managers increasingly face decisions that affect public safety, public health, and the environment. Those decision-makers can turn to the National Academies for nonpartisan, nonadvocacy advice on key scientific and technologic aspects of an issue, such as:

- What can be concluded from analyzing the body of scientific research and information to help answer the questions at hand?
- What scientific research still needs to be done?
- What constitutes success, and how will it be measured?

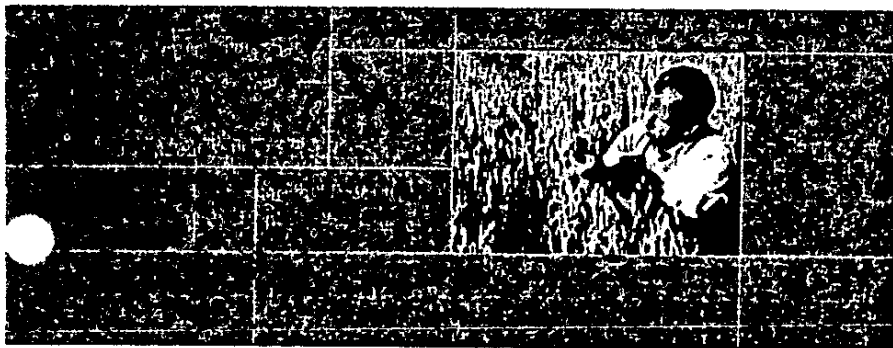


A Wide Range of Products and Services Help Answer Key Scientific Questions

Consensus Reports

About 250 authoritative reports are produced by expert committees each year. The process brings together scientists with diverse backgrounds and points of view who work together to review available scientific evidence, reach consensus, and issue a report with their findings and recommendations in an environment free of political, special-interest, and agency influence. A rigorous peer review and other checks and balances applied at every step of the study process ensure the integrity of the reports. Reports are in three general categories:

- **Regulatory analyses** are designed to help guide regulatory and policy decisions. For example, *Arsenic in Drinking Water: 2001 Update* (2001) provided the basis of the Environmental Protection Agency's decision to reduce the maximum allowable concentration of arsenic in drinking water from 50 to 10 parts per billion, making the nation's drinking water safer.
- **Program reviews** evaluate current or proposed government programs. For example, *The Science of Instream Flows: A Review of the Texas Instream Flow Program* (2005) reviews the state's program for ensuring adequate amounts of water in times of high demand and low supply will benefit.
- **General assistance** reports answer specific questions on diverse topics. The California Department of Food and Agriculture recently sought advice to combat an insect-borne disease that was afflicting grapes grown in California. The state is revising its research programs and strategies on the basis of recommendations in *California Agricultural Research Priorities: Pierce's Disease* (2004).



General Assistance

OYSTER OPTIONS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

Decades of heavy fishing, environmental pressures, and deadly disease have nearly wiped out native oysters in the Chesapeake Bay and a once-thriving oyster industry. Because oysters feed on algae, their disappearance is thought to play a role in the general decline of water quality in the Chesapeake Bay.

At the request of the region, the National Academies reviewed proposed plans to introduce the Suminoe oysters from Asia, which is resistant to the disease that plagues the native species. Opponents feared that the non-native could become an invasive species, displacing the native oyster and potentially harming the ecology of the Bay.

Non-Native Oysters in the Chesapeake Bay (2004) recommends the managed introduction of sterile (non-reproductive) oysters as the most prudent option until more research can be conducted. The report also proposes a new regulatory framework for better management of the process.

WATERSHED SOLUTIONS IN NEW YORK

The state of New York has always enjoyed high-quality water from the Catskills Mountain watershed, which provides about 90% of the drinking water for New York City. Unfortunately, increased housing developments and septic systems, and the impacts of agriculture caused water quality to deteriorate. By the late 1990s, New York City water managers had two choices: build a water-filtration system at an estimated cost of up to \$6 billion or take steps to protect its major watershed.

To help weigh the scientific and technical aspects of its dilemma, the state turned to the National Academies. On the basis of recommendations in *Watershed Management for Potable Water Supply: Assessing the New York City Strategy*, stakeholders decided against building the filtration system and instead began taking recommended steps to protect the watershed at a total projected investment of about \$1 to \$1.5 billion.

Grant Reviews

The National Academies can simplify and enhance the state and local grant-review process by organizing independent peer interviews and reviewing the progress of grant recipients. Experts from across the country who can bring a fresh, broader perspective and credibility to regional programs are selected to serve on grant review committees.

Convening Activities

Convening activities bring together policy-makers, members of industry, scientists, and sometimes the general public to discuss timely issues. The events include workshops, symposia, and roundtables that can have anywhere from 25 to 250 participants. For example, the Disasters Roundtable convenes in Washington, DC several times a year to discuss urgent issues related to understanding and reducing the effects of natural, technologic, and other disasters. Proceedings or workshop summaries are usually produced to capture the information discussed.

Communications

A variety of derivative products based on reports—including report briefs, posters, web sites, and brochures—are produced to help communicate the content of reports to broader audiences and aid in the public understanding of science. Examples include a question-and-answer wheel on invasive plants that helps people understand the effects of invasive plants. Another example is a Diversity Toolbox brochure that feature best practices for building minority-group education and employment in the chemical sciences.

Grant Review

EVALUATING RESEARCH GRANTS IN OHIO

Since 2003, the National Academies has been providing oversight for research programs in Ohio that were established to foster partnerships between the state's universities and industrial sectors in order to promote the commercialization of research and economic development. The National Academies bring together panels of experts from across the country to review proposals submitted to these programs. Using a set of criteria, the panels identify which ones have the greatest merit for the state of Ohio to consider funding and then review the progress of the grants that are funded.

Convening Activity

GUIDING STEM CELL RESEARCH IN CALIFORNIA

In 2004, the state of California faced a happy dilemma: how best to spend the \$3 billion that voters approved for state-funded stem-cell research. To help guide the state in its research planning, the National Academies convened experts in the field for a 2-day workshop in California. Topics discussed at the workshop included grant-making processes, intellectual property, institutional review boards, facility development, and the development of standards and ethical guidelines.



Working with the National Academies

The National Academies are equipped with administrative tools to work with state and local governments to find answers to key scientific questions. Blanket authorization has been granted for federal sole-source contracts. Research-grant, co-operative-agreement, and contract proposals can be rapidly prepared. Costs vary with the type and scope of the activity. The National Academies have implemented mechanisms to keep costs low and are continuing to review policies and procedures to identify other changes to make the process as efficient as possible.

Sign up for the Earth & Life Studies Gateway at <http://dels.nas.edu> to be notified of reports, events, projects, and news in your fields of interest. National Academies reports are available online in a searchable format at <http://www.nap.edu>.

Contact the Division on Earth & Life Studies:

Division on Earth & Life Studies
The National Academies
500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

E-mail: dels@nas.edu
Phone: 202-334-3600
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Warren R. Muir, Ph.D., Executive Director

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For Testimony on HCR 15

Dr. Keith R. Criddle

Dr. Criddle is the Ted Stevens Distinguished Professor of Marine Policy in the University of Alaska, Fairbanks' Juneau Center for Fisheries and Ocean Science. Dr. Criddle received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of California, Davis in 1989.

Dr. Criddle's research focuses on the intersection between the natural sciences and economics, especially the management of living resources. Dr. Criddle's research has explored topics ranging from the economic consequences of alternative management regimes for the governance of commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries to the bioeconomic effects of climate change in north Pacific fisheries to the evolution of the structure of the Chilean salmon aquaculture industry in response to requirements for traceability and assurance.

He has served on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Scientific and Statistical Committee since 1993 and as an associate editor of *Marine Resource Economics* (1993-2003).

Dr. Criddle was a member of the National Research Council's Committee on the Introduction of Nonnative Oysters in the Chesapeake Bay, the Committee to Review Individual Fishing Quotas, and the Committee on the Evaluation of the Sea Grant Program Review Process.

3/29/10

Timothy Clark

From: Charisse Arce
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 12:31 PM
To: Timothy Clark
Subject: FW: questions as we think about HCR15

FYI

From: Fogels, Edmund J (DNR) [mailto:ed.fogels@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 12:27 PM
To: Lesh, Melanie G (DNR); Erin Harrington; Charisse Arce
Cc: Mylius, Richard H (DNR); Lefebvre, Richard A (DNR); Brakes, Heather K (GOV); Kent, Lynn J T (DEC); Carroll, Samantha J (DNR); Irwin, Tom E (DNR)
Subject: RE: questions as we think about HCR15

Erin, Charisse,

I have answered your questions below (they are inserted in red text). I hope my answers are helpful. I will be participating in this afternoon's hearing by phone, and will be available to answer questions.

Thanks,

Ed

From: Lesh, Melanie G (DNR)
Sent: Fri 3/26/2010 4:48 PM
To: Harrington, Erin D (LAA); Charisse Arce
Cc: Fogels, Edmund J (DNR); Mylius, Richard H (DNR)
Subject: RE: questions as we think about HCR15

Erin,
Excellent questions, Ed Fogels can speak to these points, and hopefully can get you responses prior to Monday. Ed plans to be online (offnet) for the hearing on Monday.
I'll copy Division of Mining Land and Water on this as well as they're a big part of the Large Project process.
See you tomorrow night!

Melanie Lesh
Special Assistant/Legislative Liaison
Department of Natural Resources
400 W. Willoughby Ave.
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907.465.4730
907.723.7364

From: Erin Harrington [mailto:Erin_Harrington@legis.state.ak.us]
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2010 4:36 PM
To: Lesh, Melanie G (DNR)
Cc: Charisse Arce
Subject: questions as we think about HCR15

Hi Mel,

We're doing some prep work and thinking for next week's hearing on HCR15. A couple of questions have just popped out of that. Wondering if your people have any ideas on them.

1. Were the port, road, power and other infrastructure to be developed for the Pebble Project, the likelihood exists for other mineral developments in the area to be developed. Given that, does the department (or the state) have a method for assessing cumulative socioeconomic and environmental impact assessment to assist in the decision of whether it is in the state's best interest to allow the Pebble Project to proceed?

Yes. For a large project such as Pebble, the State is a cooperating agency in the Federal NEPA process, in which an Environmental Impact Statement is produced. The EIS analyzes the potential environmental and social impacts of the project, and includes a cumulative impact assessment of reasonably foreseeable developments that may follow the project. The State uses the EIS in their decision making process.

2. How would DNR use an analysis such as the one called for in this resolution, if it were done by a reputable independent organization such as the National Academy of Science?

The EIS will be a comprehensive analysis which will be written by reputable independent experts hired by the lead Federal agency. If the NAS study provides additional information that the EIS experts have not already incorporated into the analysis, then that information could be considered in the analysis. It would be critical that any such study be timely and fit into the State/Federal mine permitting process, so that the process is not unreasonably delayed.

3. Do you do an independent data gap analysis?

Yes. The EIS process evaluates all baseline data, and if there are gaps, those gaps must be filled.

4. Does the permitting process require independent data collection and analysis from agencies to corroborate the data being gathered by the company?

No. While we don't typically collect additional data for corroboration, the data is carefully scrutinized by the independent EIS experts, and state and federal agency experts. If any of this data is deemed to be inadequate, then additional data must be collected. Typically this is done by the project proponent, however, the agencies or the EIS experts could also collect this data. Sometimes agency staff will visit data collection projects, such as fish sampling sites, to ensure the collection is being done appropriately. Also, some data is collected directly by the agencies—for example, subsistence surveys are often done by the ADFG Subsistence Division.

Thanks. I know it's late on Friday. Thoughts your people can provide on this would be appreciated, but we recognize that this is somewhat last minute. The hearing isn't until late on Monday.

E

Erin Harrington
Legislative Aide to Representative Alan Austerman
State Capitol, Room 502
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-2487
(800) 865-2487
(907) 465-4956 (fax)
www.alanausterman.com



ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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April 13, 2009

Honorable Bryce Edgmon
Alaska State House
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Concurrent Resolution 15, Bristol Bay Assessment by National Research Council

Dear Representative Edgmon,

House Concurrent Resolution 15 (HCR-15) mandates an independent review of the environmental and socioeconomic consequences of large-scale mineral extraction in the Bristol Bay area and directs the Alaska Legislative Council to contract for that independent review with the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences.

HCR-15 is effectively directing that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be developed for the Pebble Project. However, such an EIS would have to be done for a hypothetical project. For this EIS to have any relevance, the mine to be evaluated by the EIS would have to be designed first. All the various parameters, design criteria, assumptions, etc. would have to be developed in sufficient detail to determine whether the proposal was technically feasible. If the "mine design" was not technically feasible, the EIS would be a sham and of no value. Also, before the feasibility of the mine design can be ascertained, a tremendous amount of data would be needed that does not now exist. That data is precisely what the Pebble project has been collecting for the past several years.

The four basic types of data required are environmental, geologic and mining, socioeconomic, and financial. The information required for environmental data includes air, water, soil, wetlands, fisheries, flora, fauna, etc. The information data set required for mining includes: geologic; ore - types, grades, distribution, variability, etc.; metallurgical - hardness, grindability, recovery, processing methods, etc.; mining - production level, mine design and layout, mining method, equipment selection, etc.; reclamation and closure. The socioeconomic information includes a correspondingly detailed and complex set of facts and parameters. These data sets are then used in an iterative process to determine under which, if any, set of financial assumptions the project would be economic.

This is the kind of an evaluation that every large mine, and any other major resource project, must complete before it can obtain the approvals that will be required to operate. The cost to complete such an EIS would be many millions of dollars. To do less would result in a sham and would be a waste of whatever monies were spent. Passage of HCR-15 would also indicate that the Legislature has a total lack of confidence in the professionals that work in the Departments of Natural Resources, Fish & Game, Environmental Conservation, and Community & Economic Development.

HCR-15 should be rejected. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this resolution.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Borell, P.E.
Executive Director



ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

3305 Arctic Blvd., #105, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • (907) 563-9229 • FAX: (907) 563-9225 • www.alaskaminers.org

February 15, 2010

Honorable Bryce Edgmon
Alaska State House
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Concurrent Resolution 15, Bristol Bay Assessment by National Research Council

Dear Representative Edgmon,

House Concurrent Resolution 15 would require an independent review of the environmental and socioeconomic consequences of large-scale mineral extraction in the Bristol Bay area and directs the Alaska Legislative Council to contract for that review with the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences.

We previously commented (April 13, 2009) on HCR-15 and will not repeat the points made at that time. The basic observation made then was that the evaluation proposed by HCR-15 is effectively the same as the exploration and design work now being completed by the Pebble Partnership, plus the EIS that will follow once they file an application. The cost for HCR-15 to complete such an EIS would be many millions of dollars and to do less would result in a sham and would be a waste of whatever monies were spent.

HCR-15 has the potential of having a tremendous adverse impact on mineral exploration throughout the state. These impacts would affect exploration on state, federal and private lands, including Native-owned lands.

Within the mining industry there is no question in anyone's mind that HCR-15 is intended to find some way to harass or derail the Pebble Project. It is also well-known throughout the world that Alaska has an extremely comprehensive and robust permitting system. If a Resolution of this type is passed it will have a chilling affect on anyone contemplating investing in mineral exploration in Alaska. If HCR-15 passes even this one committee, the negative impacts will be felt in this summer's exploration levels.

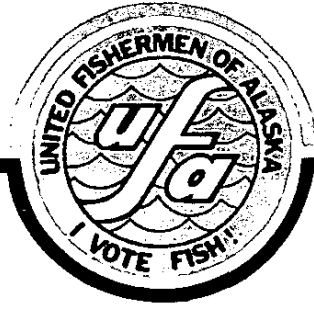
Due to the economic meltdown that occurred in late 2008 and early 2009, exploration investments in 2009 were down significantly. Mineral exploration investments are now beginning to return and a resolution like HCR-15 would send a very wrong message to potential investors and to companies contemplating prospects in Alaska.

HCR-15 should be rejected. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this resolution.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Borell, P.E.
Executive Director

Cc: Committee Members



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172
(907) 586-2820
(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

March 8, 2010

Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Edgmon,

United Fishermen of Alaska supports the intent of SCR 6 and HCR 15 directing the Legislative Council to contract for an assessment of environmental and socio-economic risks of large-scale mineral extraction in the Bristol Bay area watershed. We believe that objective third party scientific review of this issue will arm the state with best possible information on which to base policy decisions regarding protection of Bristol Bay fisheries and essential fish habitat throughout the watershed. Bristol Bay is the most valuable salmon fishery in our state and in the world, and merits a study of the proposed project by a trusted, objective, third-party on the proposed project and the potential risks to fisheries, as well as the state's large-mine permitting process and its capacity to protect Bristol Bay fisheries resources. This will be an essential component for constructive dialogue and debate about the compatibility of the proposed Pebble mine and Bristol Bay's fishing industries.

United Fishermen of Alaska is the largest statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 37 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore waters. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

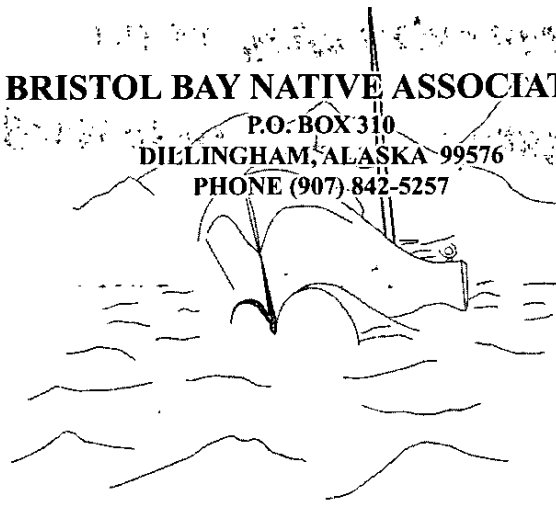
Mark Vinsel
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association • Alaska Independent Tendermen's Association
Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association • Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Reserve
Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association • Cape Barnabas Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
Cordova District Fishermen United • Crab Group of Independent Harvesters • Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Fishing Vessel Owners Association
Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association
Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation
Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative • Sitka Herring Association • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance
Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Catcher Boats • United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
PHONE (907) 842-5257



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- Chignik Lake
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- Curyung
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- Ekuk
- Ekwok
- Igiugig
- Iliamna
- Ivanof Bay
- Kanatak
- King Salmon
- Kokhanok
- Koliganek
- Levelock
- Manokotak
- Naknek
- New Stuyahok
- Newhalen
- Nondalton
- Pedro Bay
- Perryville
- Pilot Point
- Port Heiden
- Portage Creek
- South Naknek
- Togiak
- Twin Hills
- Ugashik

March 9, 2010

Honorable Bryce Edgmon
Alaska State House
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HCR 15, Bristol Bay Assessment by National Research Council

Dear Representative Edgmon,

The Bristol Bay Native Association would like to express our support of HCR 15. We feel this resolution is important because it would provide a third party assessment of the Pebble Project. Based on the credentials of the National Academy of Sciences, we feel it would offer the legislature and the public a solid framework for future decisions regarding mineral extraction in the Bristol Bay watershed.

We support HCR 15 and thank you for the chance to comment on this resolution.

Sincerely,

Ralph Andersen
Chief Executive Officer

Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation

P.O. Box 1464 • Dillingham, Alaska 99576 • (907) 842-4370 • Fax (907) 842-4336 • 1-800-478-4370



March 8, 2010

Representative Alan Austerman
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Subject: HCR 15

Dear Representative Austerman,

BBEDC fully supports the Legislative Council to contract with the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences for an independent assessment of the environmental and socioeconomic consequences of large-scale mineral extraction in the Bristol Bay area watershed.

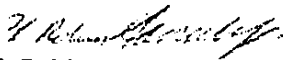
BBEDC is made up of 17 communities within the Bristol Bay region, representing 6 thousand local residents. We are the CIDQ group for the Bristol Bay region and have invested millions of dollars in infrastructure and our fishermen of Bristol Bay. If this mine is going into Bristol Bay then the State of Alaska needs to do everything it can to protect our clean water systems and the fish resources of Bristol Bay.

The majority of our watershed residents rely on the commercial salmon fishery of Bristol Bay today as they did for the last 125 years. This fishery is also very important to the subsistence and sport fishermen of the region.

A mine the size of Pebble does not exist on this earth at this time. Pebble lies with two water systems, the Nushagak and Kvichak Rivers. These river systems can be damaged by the pebble mine and we need to make sure that they are not. Having the NRC do this overview will be another protective measure we can all do to protect Bristol Bay watershed from damage of a very large mine.

We also feel that a mine of this size the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources does not have all the tools they need to protect the waters of Bristol Bay from the potential damage that may happen and having the NRC work on this project will hopefully minimize the environmental consequences of this project. Thank you.

Sincerely,


H. Robin Samuelson Jr.
President/CEO



TRIDENT SEAFOODS CORPORATION

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March 8, 2010

Rep. Alan Austerman
Alaska House of Representative
State Capitol Room 502
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: HCR 15

Dear Rep. Austerman,

I am writing on behalf of Trident Seafoods Corporation to express our support for HCR 15, a resolution requesting the Legislative Council to contract with the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences for an independent assessment of the environmental and socioeconomic consequences of large-scale mineral extraction in the Bristol Bay area watershed.

As a major buyer and processor of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon with substantial investments and broad interest in the health of the fishery resources and fishery-dependent communities in the region, Trident Seafoods welcomes a thorough third-party scientific assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed Pebble Mine project.

Sincerely

John Garner

Director, Salmon Division

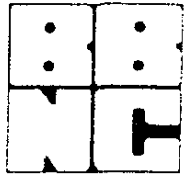
Alaska

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Bristol Bay Native Corporation

Enriching Our Native Way of Life

111 West 16th Avenue, Suite 400 / Anchorage, Alaska 99501 / (907) 278-3602 / Fax (907) 276-3924

March 8, 2010

The Honorable Bryce Edgmon
Chair, House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Room 416
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Concurrent Resolution 15

Dear Representative Edgmon:

Thank you for your co-sponsorship of House Concurrent Resolution No. 15 with Representative Alan Austerman, which allows for the assessment of the impacts of mineral extraction in Bristol Bay. Bristol Bay Native Corporation supports this effort and the further advancement of this resolution, as part of the State of Alaska's responsibility in reviewing the risks of development of the Pebble Mine project on state-owned land.

This resolution allows for independent scientific research at a time that is most critical to the future assessment of the Pebble project. A greater understanding of the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of a project this size, will help formulate an informed opinion for residents of Bristol Bay, citizens of Alaska and lawmakers in future discussions as the mine's permitting process begins. BBNC believes that these stakeholders in the project deserve to have access to the facts of the project from an independent, impartial source, such as the National Academy of Sciences noted in the resolution.

The State of Alaska, as land-owner and policy-maker in the case of the Pebble Mine project, has an obligation to its citizens to seek the best possible information as the potential development of this project moves forward. An adequate understanding of the potential impacts of large-scale mining in the Bristol Bay area watershed is critical to the prudent nature necessary for future decisions.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our corporation's opinion regarding the need for more information on Pebble Mine. BBNC represents the interests of more than 8,500 shareholders with ties to the Bristol Bay region, many of whom are asking the same questions of the environmental and socioeconomic impacts the Pebble project will have. Please contact our office with questions regarding this letter.

Thank you again for your support of this important resolution.

Sincerely,

Jason Metrokin
President & Chief Executive Officer

CC: Representative Alan Austerman



March 11, 2010

Representative Alan Austerman
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

THE TENTH FLOOR
2200 SIXTH AVENUE
SEATTLE, WA 98121-1820
206.728.6000
OPERATION FAX 206.441.9090
SALES FAX 206.728.1855

RE: HCR 15

Dear Representative Austerman:

Peter Pan Seafoods is a processor of Alaska seafood including Bristol Bay salmon. We operate the oldest continually operating cannery in Bristol Bay at our Dillingham plant as well as a shore support facility in Naknek. As such, we are directly invested in the continued health of the Bristol Bay sockeye runs and have intimately observed how these salmon are woven through the cultural and social fabric of the regions communities. We are very concerned about the proposed Pebble Mine's potential detrimental effects on the region and wholeheartedly support your Resolution HCR 15 which would expand our understanding of the environmental and socioeconomic consequences of such a project.

The potential scale of the Pebble Mine project, its mineral wealth and possible job and revenue creation is certainly enticing, especially to a region that is in such need of economic diversification. When it comes time to examine the permitting of this project, the proposed economic activity it generates will be impressive, perhaps even staggering. Because of this, it will be extremely important to have a full and accurate representation of this project's total cost to the environment, its resources and the people of the region to counterbalance. Bristol Bay sockeye is probably the most studied salmon stock, yet we still don't know what causes the cyclic fluctuations in the runs. We don't know why the Kvichak system, formally the largest producer in the region, has crashed over the last decade only to recently begin to recover. Further study likely will not uncover these determining factors but can highlight the level of uncertainty that exists even as developers talk of containing or mitigating potential damages.

We are also concerned about the effects this development may have outside the Bristol Bay region. As the desire for healthful food options has increased, the "Alaska brand" has become very important to consumers. The perception is of healthy food products that are natural, sustainable and come from a pristine environment. We've experienced what can happen when this perception is disrupted. While not as dramatic as an oil spill, the development of a large mining operation in such a sensitive area could be a permanent scar in maintaining the perception of the Alaska brand as it now stands.

We appreciate your efforts to focus public and legislative attention on this issue and the serious concerns so many have with the potential development of a large scale mining operation in the heart of the most productive salmon producing region in the world. We need a clear vision of the potential economic gains of this against the damage or loss of a precious continuously renewable resource, the social and cultural costs to the region that is intimately tied to these salmon, and the potential damage to the reputation of Alaska seafood as a whole.

Sincerely

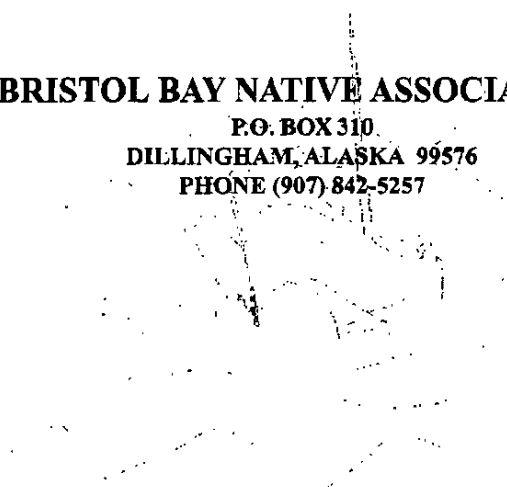
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry D. Collier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "B" at the beginning.

Barry D. Collier
President and CEO
Peter Pan Seafoods, Inc.

cc: Representative Bryce Edgmon
Co-Sponsor HCR 15

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
PHONE (907) 842-5257



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Curyung

Egegik

Ekwok

Ekwok

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Iliamna

Ivanof Bay

Kanatak

King Salmon

Kokhanok

Koliganek

Levelock

Manokotak

Naknek

New Stuyahok

Newhalen

Nondalton

Pedro Bay

Perryville

Pilot Point

Port Heiden

Portage Creek

South Naknek

Togiak

Twin Hills

Ugashik

March 9, 2010

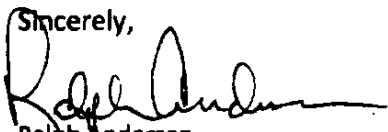
Honorable Bryce Edgmon
Alaska State House
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HCR 15, Bristol Bay Assessment by National Research Council

Dear Representative Edgmon,

The Bristol Bay Native Association would like to express our support of HCR 15. We feel this resolution is important because it would provide a third party assessment of the Pebble Project. Based on the credentials of the National Academy of Sciences, we feel it would offer the legislature and the public a solid framework for future decisions regarding mineral extraction in the Bristol Bay watershed.

We support HCR 15 and thank you for the chance to comment on this resolution.

Sincerely,

Ralph Andersen
Chief Executive Officer



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

March 28, 2010

Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Edgmon,

We, a group of scientists with over 100 years of research experience on salmon ecosystems, particularly in Bristol Bay, express our enthusiastic support of HCR 15 requesting the Legislative Council to contract with the National Research Council to assess the potential risks of mineral development in Bristol Bay. Sockeye salmon have supported the most valuable fisheries in the United States over the last century and most of these fish were produced in Bristol Bay. The sustainability and value of Bristol Bay fisheries is a testament to the exceptional biological productivity of these ecosystems and to the long history of effective, science-based management by the State of Alaska. However, the proposed mineral development may pose substantial new risks to the sustainability of Bristol Bay fisheries. Many of the characteristics that make Bristol Bay watersheds particularly suitable for salmon may, in turn, make them especially vulnerable to environmental impacts from large-scale mining. There is no precedent in Alaska for assessing the potential environmental impacts of mineral development, such as that proposed for Bristol Bay, in an ecosystem with the biological, geological, and hydrological characteristics of Bristol Bay.

The National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences was established to provide third party, independent, science-based assessments of politically contentious issues like those that have developed around mineral development in Bristol Bay. You can expect that the NRC will provide a fair, technical, and timely assessment of the potential cumulative risks of large-scale mineral development to the ecosystems and economies of Bristol Bay. The current permitting system relies heavily on science provided by the mining industry which can not be considered an independent and objective assessment of potential risks. An NRC evaluation of the potential risks would add considerable credibility to the permitting process and would help clarify the ongoing debate over the compatibility of sustainable fisheries and industrial scale mining in Bristol Bay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Schindler', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Daniel Schindler, Professor, University of Washington (deschind@uw.edu)

and

Dr. Ray Hilborn, Professor, University of Washington (rayh@uw.edu)

Dr. David Montgomery, Professor, University of Washington (dave@ess.washington.edu)

Dr. Thomas Quinn, Professor, University of Washington (tquinn@uw.edu)

Dr. James Seeb, Professor, University of Washington (jseeb@uw.edu)

Dr. Lisa Seeb, Professor, University of Washington (lseeb@uw.edu)

March 29, 2010

Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801



Dear Representative Edgmon:

Despite all the acrimony that has arisen around the Pebble Prospect, there is no dispute the stakes are high. The Pebble Mine, if built, will be one of the largest projects of its kind ever undertaken in the world. It will also be located in one of the last great wild salmon ecosystems left on earth. Reasons enough for all Alaskans to insist our State provide extraordinary assurances that the best science, open to public scrutiny, will be brought to bear to answer the ultimate question whether such an unprecedented mine can be built without undue risk to the unrivaled salmon resources of Bristol Bay. It is our belief that such assurances would not be credible if the science, as developed by the proponent of the mine, is not subject to critical review and examination by an independent and experienced panel of nationally recognized experts, the kind of panel that can be convened by the National Academy of Sciences. For this reason I, and the Board of Directors of the Nushagak-Mulchatna / Wood-Tikchik Land Trust, encourage you and your fellow lawmakers to authorize a National Academy of Sciences review of the science and the engineering plans put forward in support of the development of the Pebble Prospect before any State permit to mine is considered.

The Land Trust is a conservation organization created by Native corporate, tribal, sport and commercial fishery and conservation interests to protect critical salmon habitat in the Nushagak and Togiak River watersheds. Since inception in 2000, the Land Trust has participated in the acquisition of conservation protections for nearly 22,000 acres of Salmon habitat located on private lands.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,
THE NUSHAGAK-MULCHATNA / WOOD-TIKCHIK
LAND TRUST

Tim Troll, Executive Director

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