

EPA DA McCabe Meeting with Alaska Tribal Leaders, Alaska Native Corporation Leaders, and the Conservation Alliance Regarding EPA's CWA Section 404c Review Process for Pebble Deposit Area.
Topic: "Discussion on Bristol Bay with Alaska Tribal Leaders, Native Corporation Leaders and Conservation Alliance"
Meeting date: Wednesday, September 21, 2022
Who requested the meeting?: The Conservation Alliance
Location: Virtual on Teams and EPA HQ WJC North 3346 conference room
List of outside individuals or organizations that attended (including affiliation): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason Metrokin (President and CEO Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC)) • Russell Nelson (Chair, BBNC) • Kim Williams (Board Director, BBNC) • Daniel Cheyette (VP Land, BBNC) • Peter Van Tuyn (Outside Counsel, BBNC) • Matt Gall (Vice President of Federal Relations, Strategies 360) • Delores Larson (Deputy Director, United Tribes of Bristol Bay (UTBB)) • Thomas Tilden (UTBB) • Karla Jensen (UTBB) • Matt Newman (Native American Rights Fund (NARF)) • Megan Congon (NARF) • Garvin Federenko (President and Chief Executive Officer, Bristol Bay Native Association) • Robin Samuelsen (Chair, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC)) • Dan Kanninen (Bristol Bay Defense Fund) • Michael Jackson (Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association/Commercial Fisherman for Bristol Bay) • Taryn Kiekow Heimer (NRDC) • Tim Bristol (SalmonState) • Nels Ure (Commercial Fisherman for Bristol Bay) • Dan Kanninen (Arc Initiatives) • Lauren Pollack (Arc Initiatives) • Megan Dapper (Cassidy and Associates) • Sam Snyder (True Blue Strategies) • Rick Halford (Former President, Alaska State Senate) • Norm Van Vactor (Commercial Fisherman, Formerly Chair of BBEDC) • Hans Cole (Patagonia) • Penn Newhard (Backbone Media) • Conor McElyea (The Conservation Alliance) • Shoren Brown (The Conservation Alliance)
Did EPA decide which Individuals or organizations would attend?: No
List of EPA attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janet McCabe • Navis Bermudez • Elizabeth Skane • Rosemary Enobakhare • Avivah Jakob • Catherine Diaz • Dan Opalski

Was there an agenda: No
Did EPA/outside individuals or organizations set the agenda? No
Did EPA/outside individuals or organizations run the meeting? No
Summary of topics discussed (including individual advice/feedback provided to Agency): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introductions</i> • Welcome from Janet McCabe; comment period has closed. We will make decisions based on science and according to the law with a laser focus on the communities that rely on this environment • Representatives from UTBB provided the following perspectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our salmon depends on clean continuously flowing water. When we first suggested 404c the mine was only proposed; now we have a real plan. ○ The letters you've received represent the unity of this coalition. You have the ability to do this timely, legally. Pebble has been a threat for a long time, we advocate for 404c b/c we believe it's the right tool to solve the problem. This action can save the fishery. Thanks to the R10 staff for working with us and having an open door. ○ UTBB-Regional tribal consortium repping about 80% of the pop of BB. ○ Thanks for all you've done and reopening 404c. While we're grateful we want to reiterate the need to finalize this issue ASAP. • Conservation Alliance—letter to EPA from 400 businesses expressing support for this action. • True Blue – noted large volume of public comments in docket, and many from Alaskans, BB residents, tribal groups, and others with interest in this action. Also, noted there were record breaking salmon return this year • BBNC—EPA's CWA 404c review process has a long history. Opposition to developing the Pebble deposit goes back decades. It's rooted in BB but it goes well beyond. Competitors for the fishery resources didn't always get along but opposition to this project has brought them together. We're hopeful we don't have to come back to you on this, hope the decision is done in a timely matter • EPA – thanked organizations for the discussion and sharing perspectives. Shared the agency's goal of completing 404c review process within regulatory timeframes. Reiterated that the agency's decisions would be based on science and the record. • EPA noted that docket had posted almost 580k comments.
Were next steps/follow-up discussed?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region 10 Regional Administrator will be in the region in early October to help inform his decision-making and confirmed would make his next decision no later than December 2.
Were materials provided? No