

From: Harper, Kate J (DFG)

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To: Weiss, Edward W (DFG) <ed.weiss@alaska.gov>; Meehan, Joe (DFG) <joe.meehan@alaska.gov>; Dye, Jason E (DFG) <jason.dye@alaska.gov>; Bosch, Daniel E (DFG) <dan.bosch@alaska.gov>; Wiita, Amy L (DFG) <amy.wiita@alaska.gov>; Olson, Lisa E (DFG) <lisa.olson@alaska.gov>; McKinley, Lee (DFG) <william.mckinley@alaska.gov>; Brekken, Josh M (DFG) <josh.brekken@alaska.gov>; Benkert, Ronald C (DFG) <ronald.benkert@alaska.gov>; Poetter, Aaron D (DFG) <aaron.poetter@alaska.gov>; Erickson, Jack W (DFG) <jack.erickson@alaska.gov>; DelFrate, Gino (DFG) <gino.delfrate@alaska.gov>

Cc: Rogers, David E (DFG) <david.rogers@alaska.gov>; Ott, Alvin G (DFG) <al.ott@alaska.gov>; Klein, Jill C (DFG) <jill.klein@alaska.gov>

Subject: Updates on Pebble EIS Review

Good Morning,

As I indicated in my email last week, we have begun to receive various sections and subsections of the Pebble Draft EIS for review. This will be the last agency review before the public review draft is released. The USACE anticipates having all sections distributed by Nov. 9 and has issued a Nov. 21 deadline. DNR has already expressed concern to the USACE about the short deadline and the USACE's response was to start issuing bits and pieces of the draft prior to Nov. 9 rather than waiting for the complete document and extending the deadline.

There has been much internal discussion about how to handle this and the consensus is that there is no way for the department to conduct a thorough and defensible review within that timeframe. We need a complete draft document to conduct a proper review, therefore I am holding off on distributing the various sections I've received so far. DNR, as the State lead, is drafting a letter to the USACE identifying the issues we have with the piecemeal distribution of the document and that we will not begin our review until Nov. 9 (or whenever we have a complete document) and will need a 60 day review period. It is unlikely the USACE will agree to this, but we'll have to wait and see. If they do not provide a reasonable review period, we are currently leaning towards NOT providing comments until the public review (which should begin sometime in January). If you have any questions, please let me know. I'll provide additional updates as needed.

Thank you,

Kate Harper

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game

Division of Habitat

333 Raspberry Road

Anchorage, AK 99518

907.267.2261

