



united
TRIBES OF BRISTOL BAY

 **BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION**

February 13, 2018

Via email and U.S. Mail to:

Philip K. R. Pascall, Chief Executive Officer
First Quantum Minerals Ltd.
14th Floor – 543 Granville Street
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Canada V6C 1X8
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Clive Newall, President & Director
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Re: Bristol Bay, Alaska and the Proposed Pebble Mine

Dear Mr. Pascall and Mr. Newall:

Our organizations collectively represent the interests of fifteen Tribal governments and nine Alaska Native village corporations throughout the Bristol Bay region of southwest Alaska, as well as the interests of Bristol Bay Native Corporation's 10,300 shareholders of Aleut, Eskimo, and Athabascan heritage with ancestral ties to Bristol Bay. In addition, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation represents the economic interests and opportunities for the residents of 17-member communities throughout the region. Together, our organizations represent the economic, cultural, and social foundations of Bristol Bay, Alaska, home of the world's most valuable wild salmon fishery.

Our organizations are opposed to the proposed Pebble mine. We are writing to share information about our opposition and to make it very clear that we will resolutely oppose the Pebble Limited Partnership's (PLP) efforts to build this massive gold and copper mine located in an area that is critical to the region's fisheries and fisheries-based economy and way-of-life.

We are disappointed that First Quantum Minerals entered the framework agreement with Northern Dynasty Minerals (NDM) without consulting the people of Bristol Bay and we urge you not to move forward into an option agreement with NDM or PLP for potential entry into the Pebble Limited Partnership. If the Pebble mine is built, critical habitat for the world's greatest wild sockeye salmon fishery will be put at tremendous risk. For this reason, Pebble mine poses unacceptable threat to the communities, economy, and way-of-life of the region. We ask that you accede to our opposition to this project and end your involvement with the proposed Pebble mine, or, short of that, enter into a dialogue with our organizations about the project so that we may more readily share our concerns with you.


Bristol Bay is home to a 130-year-old commercial fishery that supports 14,000 American jobs in Bristol Bay and generates \$500 million in direct income annually. Nationally, our fishery supports 20,000 American jobs, and generates over \$1.5 billion in annual economic activity. Each summer our commercial and subsistence fishermen harvest a sustainable portion of the more than 50 million salmon returning to the watersheds of Bristol Bay. Our region is also a bucket list destination for hunters and anglers, whose hunting and fishing trips support an additional 850 jobs and add \$60 million annually to the region's economy. Simply stated, the people and communities of Bristol Bay economically and culturally depend on the region's fisheries and our organizations will not risk those resources to a large-scale mining project proposed by foreign interests.

For the past decade, our organizations have opposed and strongly advocated against development of the proposed Pebble mine. The proposed mine entails insurmountable obstacles related to its size, type, and location and poses fundamental risks to the salmon fisheries of the region and the economic and subsistence benefits those fisheries provide. These are problems that cannot be engineered or avoided in any meaningful way. In 2010 our organizations and member tribes requested the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) undertake a public process to carefully tailor prohibitions on proposed Pebble mine's impacts to Bristol Bay's headwaters. In 2014, after years of study and public process, EPA concluded that the proposed Pebble mine would have "unacceptable adverse impacts" on fish populations and streams and issued proposed restrictions on the development of the proposed mine.

Just last month, in a decision celebrated throughout Bristol Bay and by the Governor of Alaska, EPA announced that it will be keeping its 2014 proposed restrictions in place for the pendency of the federal permitting process. The decision will mean that any mine plan PLP pursues will have to meet a high standard and address the "unacceptable adverse impacts" identified by the agency. In fact, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said "It is my judgment at this time that any mining projects in the region likely pose a risk to the abundant natural resources that exist there." This landmark decision and acknowledgment underscores our resolve and commitment to ensure that Bristol Bay is protected for generations to come.

As First Quantum Minerals considers our position and conducts its due diligence, keep in mind that local opposition to the proposed Pebble mine project is unwavering and Pebble is the wrong mine in the wrong place. Our opposition is sincere, science and fact-based, deep, and committed.

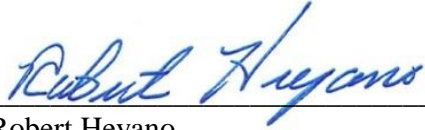
Sincerely,



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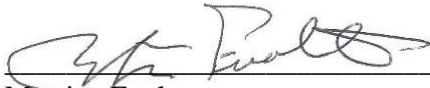
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Cc:

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ATTACHMENTS

1. January 26, 2018 Joint Press Release on EPA’s announcement to suspend the effort to withdraw the Clean Water Act 404(c) Proposed Determination
2. Recent Newspaper Opinion-Editorials
 - *President Trump Wants to Protect American Jobs. He Should Start in Bristol Bay*, by Jason Metrokin, President and CEO of Bristol Bay Native Corporation
 - *Wild Alaska Salmon: A Resource to Celebrate*, by Robin Samuelsen, Chairman of the Board of the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corp.
 - *Opinion: Proposed Pebble Mine a non-starter for Alaska*, by Joe Chythlook, Chairman of the Board of Bristol Bay Native Corporation
 - *New partner won’t change Pebble to gold*, by Norm Van Vactor, President & CEO of the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corp.
3. Economic Value of Bristol Bay, A National Treasure
4. Economic Certainty Needed for Fishing Industries of Bristol Bay
5. Timeline of Protecting the World’s Largest Sockeye Salmon Fishery
6. EPA’s Proposed Determination Brings Economic and Cultural Certainty to Our Region
7. Overwhelming Public Support for EPA Action to Protect Bristol Bay
8. *The Economic Importance of the Bristol Bay Salmon Industry*, Executive Summary, by the Institute of Social and Economic Research at University of Alaska Anchorage
9. Selected 404(c) Petitions to EPA – from Federally-Recognized Tribes and Bristol Bay Native Corporation
10. About Our Organizations
 - About Us Summaries – Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Bristol Bay Native Association, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, United Tribes of Bristol Bay, and Nunamta Aulukestai
 - Bristol Bay Regional Guide
 - Recent Annual Reports and Newsletters
 - Bristol Bay Native Corporation Annual Report 2017
 - Bristol Bay Native Association Annual Report 2017
 - Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation Annual Report 2016
 - United Tribes of Bristol Bay Latest Newsletter Sept. 2017