

Pebble Project Technical Working Groups

Steering Committee Meeting

(Atwood Building, Room 1270)

Final Minutes

August 23, 2007

Attendees:

Andrea Meyer (DNR)

Tom Crafford (DNR)

Mike Smith (NDM)

Leroy Phillips (COE)

Charlotte MacCay (Bristol/NDM)

Bud Rice (NPS)

Phil Brna (USFWS)

Jeff Estensen (OHMP/DNR)

Tom Brookover (ADF&G)

Dianne Soderlund (EPA)

Doug Limpinsel (NMFS)

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Michael Smith gave an overview regarding the new Anglo American (Anglo)/Northern Dynasty Minerals (NDM) joint venture agreement for the Pebble Project which provided the following points:

- Anglo and NDM have a 50/50 joint venture which requires consensus between the two partners.
- Paul Henry, Vice President of Sustainable Development for Anglo, will be residing in Anchorage.
- The joint venture management structure has yet to be developed
- It is expected that current personnel at NDM associated with the project will remain and be augmented by additional personnel from Anglo.
- Bruce Jenkins will remain an NDM (not partnership) employee, and is expected to stay involved with the development of baseline data and related documents.
- Anglo has stated that it is impressed with the baseline data, particularly noting the involvement of USGS with the collection of hydrology data, and the onsite QA/QC personnel managing sample handling and shipment.

Power Options for Pebble were discussed. Michael Smith made the following points:

- Natural gas is available from the Kenai area. There may be a shortage of cheap natural gas, but natural gas is present if there is a party willing to pay for it.
- Coal generated power, if offered as a possibility, would be considered. But, it is not the project's base case source.
- Hydropower, if offered as a possibility, would be considered. Again, it is not the project's base case source.

- Homer Electric remains the main power contact.

Recent citizen involvement includes:

- Luke Danielson of the Wild Salmon Center in Portland, Oregon, contacted Tom Crafford. He is employed to do a study of the permitting and scientific data gathering processes for Pebble. Other groups are doing similar studies.
- There are individuals hired by the Dillingham Tribal Council presently conducting sampling at Frying Pan Lake.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- The July 19 draft minutes were approved.
- The TWG Protocol and Guidelines were approved with minor changes.
- TWGs will be requested to initially determine and document the objectives and scope of their group. These will be included in their minutes for posting on the web and may also be posted on the web page with the TWG title.
- Criteria for TWG members include: agencies with jurisdiction, regulatory responsibilities and expertise on the subject. An agency does not need to be a formal member of every TWG to have representatives attend.
- USGS chose not to join the wildlife, trace elements, or fish TWGs at this time.
- DNR has a list of consultants that can be contracted for various projects under development and review. One such consultant may be chosen to dedicate to the Pebble Project geochemistry and ARD/ML TWG.
- Team leaders need to accommodate out-of-town members through scheduling and technology. Out of town members should, however, attend the initial meetings in person, if at all possible. Videoconferencing is available at the Park Service and at NDM offices. The Park Service is the best choice as it has several rooms with videoconferencing ability. EPA has limited videoconferencing ability that likely only connects to other EPA offices.
- The goal is to schedule initial TWG initial meetings within the next month.
- TWGs should cc the Steering Committee members with initial meeting information including preparatory materials for their review.
- Federal fiscal year starts after September 30, which may limit funding availability for TWG involvement before that date.

To minimize redundancy and/or gaps in coverage, TWGs should brief each other on their scope and discussions during the NDM agency meetings scheduled for the last week in November in Anchorage.

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STEERING COMMITTEE ISSUES

- It was noted that no policy had been discussed regarding the posting of Steering Committee minutes on the web, as is done with other TWG meeting minutes. It was agreed that Steering Committee minutes would also be posted on the Web.
- Public may also attend Steering Committee meetings.

- Ideally, Steering Committee members should attend all initial TWG meetings and present some prefacing remarks regarding the purpose of the TWGs and the Steering Committees role. The Steering Committee will otherwise sit as audience members and not at the table with the TWG members.