

TALKING POINTS FOR CALL WITH CHRIS HLADICK

- The pending preemptive veto of the Pebble mine is the result of an overreach by the Obama Administration.
- The failure of this administration to overturn it is seen as an endorsement of this Obama regulatory overreach.
- The Governor believes that the substance behind the veto – particularly the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment – is fundamentally and fatally flawed. For example, the Watershed assessed hypothetical mines that look nothing like the mine plan contained in Pebble’s permit application.
- The Governor also believes that the process used was similarly flawed, particularly in that the Obama EPA tried to veto the mine before the permit application was submitted. This preemptive veto is unnecessary, as EPA retains the ability to veto the mine when the EIS process is complete.
- Given that the substance and process were so flawed, the veto must be withdrawn as soon as possible.
- The Governor would like to see the mine plan considered through a fair process. The veto must be withdrawn for that fair process to take place. The pendency of the proposed veto continues to suggest to the general public that EPA plans to kill the mine.
- Some people in EPA are evidently suggesting that if and when the veto is withdrawn, the EPA must seek notice and comment from the public. That process is unnecessary, is not required by law or regulation, and would only serve to duplicate several recent comment processes on Pebble.
 - Comments have been taken:
 - When the veto was first announced (675,000 public comments received)
 - When EPA proposed to withdraw the preemptive veto (over 950,000 comments received).
 - When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers produced its scoping report for its environmental impact statement (over 170,000 comments received).
 - The Corps will take comments again on its draft EIS in the coming weeks as part of the permit application process.
- Please act to withdraw the veto as soon as possible.