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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**POLL SHOWS BRISTOL BAY RESIDENTS  
OVERWHELMINGLY REJECT PEBBLE MINE**

**ANCHORAGE** - Northern Dynasty, the company proposing to build the Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, is telling its shareholders that most local residents are behind the mine. But a poll conducted last week shows that is not the truth. The survey found that 82.4 percent of those surveyed in the Bristol Bay and Lake Peninsula Boroughs oppose the Pebble Mine. Opposition is even higher in the Bristol Bay Borough at 89.2 percent and higher still in the villages directly impacted by the mine at 90.1 percent opposed.

The Hellenthal & Associates true random digit survey has a 95 percent confidence level, with a margin of error of plus or minus 4.85 percent. Three groups worked together to pay for the survey - Renewable Resources Coalition, Nunamta Aulukestai and Alaska Wild Salmon Protection, Inc. A total of 407 adults were surveyed via telephone between October 14 and 17, 2009.

"Anglo American promised not to proceed with the mine if it did not have local support," said Anders Gustafson, executive director of the Renewable Resources Coalition. "The promoters of the mine are telling investors that locals support it, but this survey proves otherwise."

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The survey not only showed that Alaskans are overwhelmingly opposed to the Pebble Mine, it also determined that nearly three out of four Bristol Bay and Lake Peninsula Borough adults do not trust the state's large mine permitting process to protect salmon. Nearly 70 percent also said they consider Pebble Mine to be a very serious threat to Bristol Bay salmon fishing.

Results of another survey, conducted by Craciun Research Group for Nunamta Aulukestai last month, showed that 79 percent of Bristol Bay shareholders opposed the Pebble Mine.

Renewable Resources Coalition (RRC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the vitality of Alaska's hunting and fishing resources and the lands and waters they need to survive. Learn more about RRC at [www.renewableresourcescoalition.org](http://www.renewableresourcescoalition.org).

Nunamta Aulukestai, which means Caretakers of the Land in Yupik, is made up of eight village corporations that have come together to carefully manage the future of Bristol Bay. Visit the web site at [www.nunamta.org](http://www.nunamta.org).

Alaska Wild Salmon Protection, Inc. is a group committed to protecting the largest salmon fishery left on earth - Bristol Bay.

# # #

# BRISTOL BAY AND LAKE PENINSULA BOROUGHES PEBBLE MINE SURVEY

October 14th to 17th, 2009

Sample size = 407 margin of error  $\pm$  4.85%

## Introduction and Methodology

This report presents an analysis of a survey of Bristol Bay and Lake Peninsula Boroughs registered voters. The survey measured properties of Bristol Bay and Lake Peninsula Boroughs adults' demographics, behaviors and attitudes concerning the proposed Pebble Mine project.

Research typically involves estimating the characteristics of a designated population. Because of the costs of conducting a census of all items in a population and the adequacy of sample results, sample statistics were used to make statistical inferences concerning population parameters.

Four hundred and seven (407) Bristol Bay and Lake Peninsula Boroughs adults were interviewed between October 14th and 17th, 2009. Interviewing was conducted by telephone on a random digit basis. That is, random numbers were computer generated for the last two digits of the suffix of each workable telephone prefix in Bristol Bay and Lake Peninsula Boroughs. All Bristol Bay and Lake Peninsula Boroughs adults who are accessible by telephone had an equal chance of being interviewed.

This survey is a true random digit survey. Other research firms promote "supervoter" surveys. Those surveys are not true surveys of voters or supervoters. Their sample does not include unlisted or underlisted adults and, therefore, cannot be generalized to adults or supervoters. They only are surveys of adults whose telephone numbers can be determined from a telephone directory. They save the researcher money, to the detriment of their clients' desire for accuracy.

The areas of Alaska surveyed for the general population survey were as follows:

AREAS OF ALASKA	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	MARGIN OF ERROR
Bristol Bay.....	248.....	60.9%.....	<u>+</u> 6.32%
Lake Peninsula.....	159.....	39.1%.....	<u>-</u> 7.75%
TOTALS.....	407.....	100.0%.....	<u>+</u> 4.85%

## **Margin of error**

At a 95% confidence level, the empirical proportions reported in this survey can be projected, within plus or minus 4.85%, to the entire Bristol Bay and Lake Peninsula Boroughs registered voter population. This means one can be 95% sure that the frequencies reported in this survey are within  $\pm 4.85\%$  of the true Bristol Bay and Lake Peninsula Boroughs registered voter population proportions.

## **Summary and Analysis**

Opening Pebble mine is opposed by 82.4% of the adults in the Bristol Bay and Lake Peninsula Boroughs. Opposition is even higher in the Bristol Bay Borough with 88.2% opposed. And opposition (90.1%) is highest in the villages directly impacted by Pebble Mine.

Also, Bristol Bay and Lake Peninsula Borough adults (89.2%) believe that opening Pebble mine is a very serious or somewhat serious threat to Bristol Bay salmon fishing. Sixty-nine point eight (69.8%) consider Pebble Mine to be a "Very serious threat" to Bristol Bay salmon fishing.

Finally, 73.4% of Bristol Bay and Lake Peninsula Borough adults do not trust "the State's large mine permitting process to protect salmon."

In summary, opposition to opening Pebble Mine is overwhelming opposed by adults in the Bristol Bay and Lake Peninsula Boroughs. And Bristol Bay and Lake Peninsula Borough adults consider Pebble Mine a threat to Bristol Bay salmon and do not believe the State's permitting process will protect salmon.

The questionnaire with results follows.

# BRISTOL BAY AND LAKE PENINSULA BOROUGH'S PEBBLE MINE SURVEY

October 14th to 17th, 2009  
 Sample size = 407 margin of error  $\pm$  4.85%

HELLENTHAL AND ASSOCIATES  
 2200 Vanderbilt Circle  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
 (907) 276-1001 or  
 277-2315 (fax)

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am calling for Hellenenthal & Associates. We are conducting a public opinion research survey of Alaskans. Your telephone number was randomly selected. The questions I need to ask will take a few minutes. All of your responses will be completely confidential.

S1. Is this telephone number \_\_\_\_\_?

S2. Am I talking to you at a place where you live?

S3. Are you 18 years or older?

IF YES, THEN PROCEED TO QUESTION #1

IF NO, THEN ASK....

Is there anyone home who is 18 years old or older?

IF YES, THEN ASK....

May I speak with them?y

IF NO, THEN ASK....

When would be a good time for me to call back and find someone home who is 18 or older?

PREFIX AREAS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
233 Egegik.....	5.....	1.2%
236 Clark's Point/Ekuk.....	4.....	1.0%
246 King Salmon/Naknek.....	63.....	15.5%
282 Kakhanok.....	9.....	2.2%
287 Levelock.....	6.....	1.5%
289 Manokotak.....	20.....	4.9%
294 Nondalton.....	11.....	2.7%
464 Ekwok.....	7.....	1.7%
493 Togiak.....	41.....	10.1%
525 Twin Hills.....	2.....	0.5%
533 Igiugig.....	4.....	1.0%
571 Iliamna/Newhalen.....	13.....	3.2%
596 Koliganek.....	15.....	3.7%
693 New Stuyahok.....	24.....	5.9%
749 Chignik.....	4.....	1.0%
781 Port Alsworth.....	6.....	1.5%
797 Pilot Point/Ugashik.....	7.....	1.7%
837 Port Heiden.....	6.....	1.5%
840 Chignik Lagoon.....	5.....	1.2%
842 Dillingham/Aleknagik.....	135.....	33.2%
845 Chignik Lake.....	7.....	1.7%
850 Pedro Bay.....	3.....	0.7%
853 Perryville.....	5.....	1.2%
989 Nelson Lagoon.....	5.....	1.2%

AREAS OF ALASKA	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Villages directly in impacted area.....	98.....	24.1%
Dillingham/Aleknagik.....	135.....	33.2%
King Salmon/Naknek/Manokotak/ Nondalton area villages.....	174.....	42.8%

1. The proposed Pebble Mine would develop a gold and copper deposit at the headwaters of the Bristol Bay watershed near Lake Iliamna (ILL-EE-AM-NAH). Do you favor or oppose opening Pebble Mine to gold and copper mining?

PEBBLE MINE #1	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Favor.....	55.....	13.4%
Oppose.....	335.....	82.4%
Don't know.....	17.....	4.2%

2. How much of a threat do you feel the proposed Pebble Mine is to Bristol Bay salmon fishing? Do you feel the proposed Pebble Mine is a very serious threat, somewhat of a threat, not much of a threat, or not a threat at all to Bristol Bay salmon fishing?

HOW MUCH OF A THREAT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
4. Very serious threat.....	284.....	69.8%
3. Somewhat of a threat.....	79.....	19.4%
2. Neutral (Not read).....	13.....	3.2%
1. Not much of a threat.....	20.....	4.9%
0. Not a threat at all.....	11.....	2.7%
(Mean = 3.486)		

3. Pebble Partnership asks residents to "trust the process." Do you trust the State's large mine permitting process to protect salmon?

TRUST PERMITTING PROCESS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes.....	91.....	22.3%
No.....	299.....	73.4%
Don't know.....	18.....	4.3%

4. Please let me ask again, do you favor or oppose opening Pebble Mine to gold and copper mining?

PEBBLE MINE #2	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Favor.....	58.....	14.2%
Oppose.....	334.....	82.0%
Don't know.....	15.....	3.8%

The last few questions are being collected purely for statistical purposes.

5. In what year were you born? (COMPUTED TO AGE BY SUBTRACTING FROM 2009)

AGE OF RESPONDENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
18 to 30.....	71.....	17.4%
31 to 40.....	68.....	16.7%
41 to 50.....	107.....	26.3%
51 to 60.....	95.....	23.3%
61 or older.....	66.....	16.3%
	(Mean = 46.451 years)	
	(Median = 46.821 years)	

6. Are you married or single?

MARITAL STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Married.....	229.....	56.3%
Single.....	178.....	43.7%

7. Are you, or is any member of your household, a shareholder of any of the thirteen (13) Alaska Native Regional Corporations?

ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION HOUSEHOLD	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Yes.....	278.....	68.4%
No.....	129.....	31.6%

8. Which one of the following groups best describes you? (CHOOSE ONLY ONE)

ETHNICITY	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Alaska Native.....	252.....	62.0%
White.....	138.....	34.0%
American Indian.....	9.....	2.3%
Hispanic or Latino.....	3.....	0.7%
Black or African American.....	2.....	0.5%
Asian.....	2.....	0.5%

9. GENDER (USUALLY DO NOT NEED TO ASK).....

GENDER	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Male.....	203.....	50.0%
Female.....	203.....	50.0%

**THE FOLLOWING VARIABLES ARE CALCULATED USING THE MARITAL AND GENDER  
VARIABLES**

<b>MARITAL BY GENDER</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Married Males.....	115.....	28.1%
Married Females.....	114.....	28.1%
Single Males.....	89.....	21.9%
Single Females.....	89.....	21.9%

This completes the survey. Thank you for helping us -- goodbye.