



Bristol Bay News/Events Roundup

For more information or to join, visit the Renewable Resources Coalition website at www.RenewableResourcesCoalition.org

May 31, 2007

Press Release

May 23, 2007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RENEWABLE RESOURCES COALITION APPLAUDS FEDERAL APPEALS COURT RULING ON CLEAN WATER ACT

ANCHORAGE - Members of Renewable Resources Coalition (RRC) are applauding yesterday's ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals court that the Kensington Mine permit to dump mining waste in Lower Slate Lake violates the federal Clean Water Act.

"We are thrilled to see the court enforcing the federal Clean Water Act," said Danny Consenstein, chief operating officer with RRC. "Future jobs in this region and the sustainability of Alaska's salmon and the Bristol Bay fisheries depend on clean water."

Consenstein says he believes the May 22nd ruling will have a future impact on

decisions surrounding the Pebble Mine. Northern Dynasty and its partner Rio Tinto have proposed dumping tailings from the Pebble Mine into Lake Iliamna and/or to completely bury Frying Pan Lake.

"Based on this court opinion, we believe dumping tailings in lakes will no longer be an option for the proposed Pebble project," said Consenstein.

While RRC agrees this week's ruling is good news for clean water, it cautions that this is not the end to the Pebble Mine issue. RRC members and residents of the Bristol Bay area are still deeply concerned about the risks a project of the scope of Pebble Mine poses to their way of life.

The Renewable Resources Coalition (RRC) is a non-profit corporation formed to protect Alaska's renewable resources and the existing jobs, families and communities they support. The Coalition also seeks to promote awareness of public policy issues that affect the well-being of businesses and individuals that depend upon fish and game resources. Learn more at www.renewableresourcescoalition.org.

Upcoming Bristol Bay Rallies



**you are
invited...**

to a free fresh salmon bbq come listen to speakers who are familiar with the pebble mine proposal and ask the experts questions. show your support for protecting bristol bay's renewable resources.

in dillingham on at 4pm on June 10th
@ the paf yard

in naknek at 4pm on June 16th
@ the naknek high school



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Decision could impact future of Alaska mines

*by Jason Moore
KTUU News
May 23, 2007*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska -- A court decision that halted plans for a mine in Southeast Alaska

is sending shock waves through the state.

The decision by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals could make permitting resource development projects much more difficult, including the controversial Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay region.

To view article in its entirety, please click on

<http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=6561730>

Pebble mine would bring jobs - and pollution

*by Billy Maines
Bristol Bay Times
May 24, 2007*

I took this picture, which shows an active gold open-pit mine operation in Nevada. This mine, in operation for about 20 years, is currently 1-1/2 miles across by 1 mile wide and 1,500 feet deep.

To view article in its entirety, go to page 4 at the following link:

http://www.alaskanewspapers.com/content/pdf/BT_05-24-07.pdf

Court ruling may trouble Kensington and Pebble

Mining: 9th Circuit decision takes firm stand on pollutants.

*by Elizabeth Bluemink
Anchorage Daily News
May 26, 2007*

A court decision this week blocking a Southeast Alaska gold mine's waste disposal method could create more hurdles for the world-class Pebble copper and gold deposit.

If the ruling stands, the Kensington Gold Mine near Juneau -- which is nearing the end of construction -- will be forced into a costly redesign.

To view article in its entirety, please click on

<http://www.adn.com/money/story/8920949p-8820938c.html>

Kensington Mine may appeal loss in 9th Circuit Court

*by Eric Morrison
Juneau Empire/Morris News Service - Alaska
Alaska Journal of Commerce
May 27, 2007*

JUNEAU - The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned an Alaska court's decision May 22 and prohibited Kensington gold mine from dumping tailings into Lower Slate Lake north of Juneau.

To read article in its entirety, please click on

http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/052707/nat_20070527038.shtml

Court vacates dock permit near Kensington Mine

Associated Press

KTVA
May 24, 2007

Cancellation of permit to pipe mining waste into a lake was not the only casualty for a mining proposal north of Juneau. The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals revoked that permit this week plus a permit for a nearby dock that had been held by Juneau's village Native corporation, Goldbelt. The court Tuesday ruled against Coeur Alaska's tailings disposal permit for the Kensington Mine. The Army Corps of Engineers had granted it. The court ruled that the permit violated the federal Clean Water Act. Cancellation of the dock permit followed.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
http://www.ktva.com/alaska/ci_5977149

Company Hopes to Find Iron in Bristol Bay Sands

by Johanna Eurich
KDLG
May 24, 2007

BRISTOL BAY, AK (2007-05-24) Bristol Bay is rich in salmon and gold resources. Now a company is hoping to find iron, locked up in the region's sand. But not everyone in the area is happy about the plan.

To listen to broadcast, please click on
http://publicbroadcasting.net/apti/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE_ID=1087736

Letters to the Editor

LTE - Empire photo doesn't tell the whole story

By Skip Gray - Juneau
Juneau Empire
May 30, 2007
http://juneauempire.com/stories/053007/let_20070530011.shtml

I was surprised the Juneau Empire chose to print such an old photograph of Lower Slate Lake on May 23.

The photo accompanied the story about the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejecting Coeur Alaska's plan to dump Kensington Mine waste into the lake, which drains into Berners Bay. It showed a beautiful, pristine lake perched high above the bay. But it was taken before the mine began preparing the lake to hold the waste.

If Empire readers want to see what the lake looked like less than three months after the published photo was taken, they can go to seacc.org and click on the link that says "[Construction activities as of 10/2/06](#)." Those photos show that a road has been built to the lake and the land surrounding it has been logged and scraped to bare ground.

To me, it is a sickening sight made even more so knowing the destruction occurred, probably uselessly, in Coeur's so-far unsuccessful attempt to force a change to the Clean Water Act. If Coeur chooses not to appeal the 9th Circuit's ruling, or unless higher courts reverse the ruling, the devastation will have occurred needlessly.

Nearly every lake and pond in the United States will be vulnerable to industrial degradation if Coeur ultimately succeeds in its attempt.

According to an Anchorage Daily News article, also published May 23, Lower Slate Lake "supports about 1,000 Dolly Varden and other fish." A fish biologist once told me that Dollies from freshwater lakes often are swept downstream where they enhance saltwater populations. How many of these "nurseries" are we willing to sacrifice?

I am all for leaving the Clean Water Act the way it is. I wish Coeur would have left the lake that way, too.

Thanks to Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, the Sierra Club and Lynn Canal Conservation - the groups that are battling Coeur in court - for attempting to protect our clean water.

LTE - Why not an exemption in Clean Water Act?

Reecia Wilson, Co-owner, Hangar on the Wharf - Juneau

Juneau Empire

May 31, 2007

http://juneauempire.com/stories/053107/let_20070531020.shtml

The Kensington Mine finds itself between a rock and a hard spot, no pun intended. Politics make things really complicated sometimes. Perhaps more complicated than they ought to be, and unfortunately sometimes really good projects that make sense in so many ways never come to fruition because of politics. This letter is in support of good old-fashioned common sense and Coeur Alaska's tireless efforts.

As a native Alaska resident who has had the good fortune and pleasure of doing business with a melting pot of folks with all kinds of views from super conservative to extremely liberal, I have yet to run across anyone who can explain how the Kensington Mine project is going to harm the existing environment.

Mine tailings are bad for the environment if and only if they are not properly disposed. Ocean disposal versus dry stacking the tailings versus placing tailings in Lower Slate Lake sounds like the question of the day. If I recall, the Environmental Protection Agency initially did not like the idea of ocean disposal because there was no provision to permit it and came up with the idea of placing the tailings into Lower Slate Lake because the lack of habitat in the isolated ecosystem. It sounds like good scientific sense.

The Clean Water Act is incredibly important and has protected environments and ecosystems from pollution all across America. It is the Clean Water Act that is prohibiting the existing permits to be put to use. Why can't there be an exemption for this situation? The EPA already approved the reclamation process. Why does Southeast Alaska Conservation Council want to stop this win-win project?

Alaska is lucky to have environmentally sensitive producers such as Coeur Alaska committed to projects such as Kensington. No one can argue the obvious; it is, has been and will continue to be good for Juneau's economy. Conversely, I have heard sound scientific arguments that this project will not harm the existing environment.

Checks and balances are good and necessary in the fight to protect the environment from irresponsible developers. Perhaps it is possible that in this case the great protector might be a little irresponsible for not looking at the big picture of what the Clean Water

Act is really intended to protect.

I wish Coeur Alaska good luck in its continued 18-year pursuit in setting high standards as an environmentally sensitive producer.

Around Alaska and Beyond

Court decision halts dock in Berners Bay

20% of breakwater completed before construction stopped

by Eric Morrison

Juneau Empire

May 25, 2007

A \$5 million dock proposed by a local Native corporation became a casualty of this week's 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling against Kensington Gold Mine.

To view article in its entirety, please click on

http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/052507/loc_20070525024.shtml

Villagers speak out against oil development

by Jill Burke

KTUU News

May 25, 2007

ANCHORAGE, Alaska -- The community of Point Hope is speaking out against offshore oil and gas development, saying the way of life its people have known for generations is at stake.

To view article in its entirety, please click on

<http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=6572288>

Stiking gold-copper mine moves ahead

by Elizabeth Bluemink

Anchorage Daily News

May 24, 2007

The operator of the Pogo gold mine in Interior Alaska recently announced it formed a partnership with another Canadian firm involved in Alaska mining to build a large gold-copper mine near the Alaska border in northwestern British Columbia.

To view article in its entirety, please click on

<http://www.adn.com/money/industries/mining/story/8914632p-8814643c.html>

U.S. drops oil development plan for remote Alaska

by Yereth Rosen

Reuters

May 14, 2007

ANCHORAGE Alaska, May 14 (Reuters) - The U.S. Bureau of Land Management on Monday dropped plans to allow development of remote federal land in northern Alaska because the oil and gas industry has little interest in exploring the highly inaccessible region.

To view articl in its entirety, please click on

<http://www.reuters.com/article/bondsNews/idUSN1434201820070514>

Richard Jameson
Renewable Resources Coalition, Inc.

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