



## RRC Weekly Newsletter

For more information or to join, visit the Renewable Resources Coalition website at [www.RenewableResourcesCoalition.org](http://www.RenewableResourcesCoalition.org)

November 8, 2007

### Action Alert!

#### SIGNATURES NEEDED!

Alaska Clean Water Initiatives (I and III) need to be signed by 23,800 registered Alaskan voters in order to be placed on the ballot. We need to turn these signatures in to the Division of Elections in about 60 days (Jan. 10th, 2008). **NOBODY HAS EVER COLLECTED THIS MANY SIGNATURES IN THIS SHORT OF TIME. PLEASE HELP US!!**

More information on these ballot initiatives can be seen on our website at [http://www.renewableresourcescoalition.org/action\\_center.htm](http://www.renewableresourcescoalition.org/action_center.htm).

If you are registered to vote in the state of Alaska and would like to sign the petition to **stop the Pebble Mine and protect our wild salmon and clean water**, please contact us immediately for locations:

Email: [hbrown@renewableresourcescoalition.org](mailto:hbrown@renewableresourcescoalition.org)

Phone: (907) 743-1900 or (907) 274-9954 or (907) 632-9933

You can also stop by our office at:  
500 L Street, Suite 502, to sign!

**Thank you** for considering this urgent matter!

## **Bristol Bay Schedule:**

The signature booklets will be in the areas below on each specified date.

**Friday, November 9th:** Levelok

**Saturday, November 10th:** Nondalton

**Sunday, November 11th:** Pedro Bay

**Monday, November 12th:** Kokhanok

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### **Voters may get say in agency's relocation**

*by Pat Forgey  
Juneau Empire  
November 8, 2007*

Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell on Wednesday certified an initiative petition to undo a controversial change to one of the state's environmental oversight agencies made by former Gov. Frank Murkowski.

To view article in its entirety, please click on  
[http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/110807/sta\\_20071108019.shtml](http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/110807/sta_20071108019.shtml)

## State will appeal mine-restriction vote OK to Alaska SC

*by Rob Luke*  
*Legal Newsline*  
*November 6, 2007*

JUNEAU -- The state has appealed to the Alaska Supreme Court a ruling that could decide whether a controversial open-cut mine southwest of Anchorage will proceed.

To view article in its entirety, please click on  
<http://www.legalnewsline.com/news/203619-state-will-appeal-mine-restriction-vote-ok-to-alaska-sc>

## State to appeal clean water decision to Supreme Court

*by Tim Bradner*  
*Alaska Journal of Commerce*  
*November 4, 2007*

The state of Alaska will appeal to the state Supreme Court an Oct. 12 state Superior Court decision that cleared the way for a citizen ballot initiative establishing a state law that would affect large mine activity across the state, Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell told the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Oct. 29.

To view article in its entirety, please click on  
[http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/110407/nat\\_20071104020.shtml](http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/110407/nat_20071104020.shtml)

## Fishing for molybdenum

**A two-mile wide problem**  
*Economist*  
*November 8, 2007*

IT IS a short drive from the village of Newhalen, on the shore of Lake Iliamna in southwestern Alaska, to Nondalton, about 15 miles (24km) away. At least, it would be short if there was a road. Instead, supplies to the settlement have to be flown in or ferried upriver. Like much of the state, this area—about 250 miles south-west of Anchorage—is wild and undeveloped, a vast plain of rolling tundra, pristine forests and braided rivers.

To view article in its entirety, please click on  
[http://www.economist.com/world/na/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=10110049](http://www.economist.com/world/na/displaystory.cfm?story_id=10110049)

## Northern Dynasty mobilizes more drilling rigs to Pebble

*By Tim Bradner*  
*Alaska Journal of Commerce*  
*November 4, 2007*

Exploration is continuing into the winter at the massive Pebble copper-gold-molybdenum deposit on the Alaska Peninsula southwest of Anchorage.

To view article in its entirety, please click on  
[http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/110407/nat\\_20071104021.shtml](http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/110407/nat_20071104021.shtml)

Pebble partner pledges to protect

### **CEO shares partnership plans to open mine project process**

*by Jamie Newsom*

*The Bristol Bay Times, page 1*

*November 1, 2007*

An effort to support and enhance fisheries in the Bristol Bay watershed has been announced by a partner in the Pebble mine development project.

To view article in its entirety, please click on  
[http://www.alaskanewspapers.com/content/pdf/BT\\_11-01-07.pdf](http://www.alaskanewspapers.com/content/pdf/BT_11-01-07.pdf)

Initiative authors continue to seek signatures statewide

### **Native delegation fails to support initiative**

*by Layton Ehmke*

*Homer Tribune*

*October 31, 2007*

It's been one week since the Renewable Resources Coalition got the go ahead from Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell's office to collect signatures supporting their Clean Water Initiative - what could be Alaska's first-ever voice on whether a new mine makes the grade.

To view article in its entirety, please click on  
<http://homertribune.com/article.php?aid=2303>

## ***Letters to the Editor***

Want to help? Here's how!

- 1. Write a letter to the editor by email.*
- 2. Contact your legislator!*
- 3. Forward this newsletter to 3 friends!*
- 4. Sign up to be a member of RRC and refer your friends!*

Click [HERE](#) to go to the RRC website for newspaper and legislator contact information.

AFN drubs Bristol Bay people on Pebble

Nels Anderson Jr.

Juneau Empire

November 7, 2007

[http://juneauempire.com/stories/110707/let\\_20071107011.shtml](http://juneauempire.com/stories/110707/let_20071107011.shtml)

I am from Bristol Bay and watched Alaska Federation of Natives give the people of Bristol Bay a drubbing that I have not seen before. I realize that the initiative to protect water quality is far-reaching and could have a negative impact on the future of mining in the entire state of Alaska.

However difficult the differences, AFN has always tried to find some middle ground on issues where there is serious disagreement.

As a past chair of AFN, I was pleased that people from Bristol Bay stood united and disappointed that AFN could not structure a more acceptable solution.

I am well aware of the revenue-sharing provisions between regional Native corporations in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act but the prospect of toxic material leaching into our waters from mining gives many of us pause. This is because Bristol Bay is the home of the largest wild salmon run in the world.

Many of us from Bristol Bay think that allowing mixing zones in Alaska under the previous administration is a very serious problem that needs to be changed back to more stringent water quality standards. In addition, the Coastal Zone Management program was gutted and needs to be fixed too.

Furthermore, the Alaska Habitat Division, which has historically been located in the Department of Fish and Game, now resides in the Department of Natural Resources. To me, this is like having the foxes guard the hen house. I don't think many people across the state feel comfortable with the Habitat Division remaining where it is.

Finally, it is not clear what the state's policy is on remediation after all of the metals are taken out of the ground. What are the bond requirements and what financial provisions are being planned for those whose livelihoods will be lost if toxic waste does leach into the ground and negatively impact those future wonderful salmon runs?

I hope that AFN and the state will work diligently and closely with the Bristol Bay people to come up with a more satisfactory outcome than what came out of Fairbanks. We all know that Bristol Bay people are divided on this issue. Many who oppose mining are not happy about the AFN outcome. Those who support mining are very pleased. I am flummoxed.

## Gold can't replace fish

Barae S. Hirsch

Homer News

November 7, 2007

[http://www.homernews.com/stories/11072007/letters\\_4\\_011.shtml](http://www.homernews.com/stories/11072007/letters_4_011.shtml)

Lake Iliamna is one of the only places in the world that has freshwater seals. If Northern Dynasty uses icebreaker boats to move ore out of Pebble mine, Northern Dynasty will shatter the seals' peaceful world. Forever.

The fishermen who live and work in Bristol Bay are very upset that their jobs are at risk from the Pebble mine. What will Northern Dynasty tell the people if their fish and work

disappear?

I am an 8-year-old girl and fish is a big part of my diet. My family has many friends in Bristol Bay who depend on fish. What will happen if the majority of their diet becomes polluted? The money Northern Dynasty will get for gold and other minerals does not add up to clean fish.

Why should we believe Northern Dynasty that the Pebble mine will not affect the fish if Northern Dynasty already changed their mind about using cyanide?

Why does Northern Dynasty keep on changing its mind? That makes everyone very confused.

Ever since I was small, I have known about the earth and the gifts she gives us. Ever since the Pebble mine came up I've known about it. I know that Pebble mine is going to affect animals and people in a negative way.

If Northern Dynasty can come up with another way of making money, that is totally fine with me.

### Those opposed to copper mining Pebble prospect will be in dark

Jim Dore - Anchorage  
Anchorage Daily News  
November 7, 2007

<http://www.adn.com/opinion/letters/story/9435721p-9347868c.html>

Those who stand against the Pebble mine (Sen. Ted Stevens, Art Hackney, Bob Gillam, Rep. Jay Ramras, etc.) would deny thousands of Alaskans jobs. Thus, they are undeniably hypocritical when they use copper products every day (copper wires in their houses, cars, boats, snowmachines, computers, planes, etc.) and are against producing this can't-live-without mineral.

Such imbecilic reasoning, along with the recent shutdown of Shell's offshore oil exploration in the Beaufort Sea, the ANWR lockup, and Gov. Sarah Palin's desire to increase taxes on the oil industry, is leading Alaska to economic suicide.

For those of you opposed to copper being mined at the world-class Pebble deposit, try shutting off the circuit breakers in your house. Record how long you tolerate life without electricity flowing through your copper wires. It won't take you long to see the light.

### Pebble mine plan gets bad press half a world away in Great Britain

Jonathan Flora - Fairbanks  
Anchorage Daily News  
November 6, 2007

<http://www.adn.com/opinion/letters/story/9433492p-9345644c.html>

I was rather amused to read Tom Irwin's "tough talk" in the Pebble debate ("Tough talk for Pebble factions," Oct. 23). Irwin is apparently annoyed that opponents have labeled Pebble a "mine" rather than "project." The difference between the two is great: A mine is an ecological cancer; a project is generally a term paper or really cool diorama. Labels

aside, the strange journey of Pebble mine/project has taken many a twist and turn in the last few months. Rep. Jay Ramras has accused Northern Dynasty of being a little too generous with its "gifts," and Pebble miner hopeful Rio Tinto has broken promises halfway around the world.

The Guardian, a British newspaper of note, had an interesting item about Pebble partner Rio Tinto. The Oct. 24 article noted that voluntary actions by the company to mitigate the less desirable effects of mining have not been followed through. The Guardian quoted: "Local people are losing their land and livelihood whilst receiving negligible benefits from the project in return." Promises to train locals and prevent ecological harm have not been fully kept.

Mining interests will claim, and have many Alaskans believing, that Pebble mine will result in economic benefits and have minimal impact on the region's ecology. The Madagascar case reminded this Alaskan that promises made today need not be remembered tomorrow.

### Be afraid when Pebble advocates say the salmon won't be harmed

Mark Niver, Bristol Bay Commercial Fisherman - Wasilla  
Anchorage Daily News  
November 3, 2007

<http://www.adn.com/opinion/letters/story/9426708p-9338855c.html>

-  
In response to the Oct. 23 article "Palin, select lawmakers meet with Pebble Mine officials":

Why were representatives from the affected area not invited? Here comes one of the most powerful female CEO's (Forbes magazine) in the world to sell her goods to Alaskans and the ones who are most affected were not invited. If you don't think this whole Pebble mine process puts dollars before fish you're in their pockets already.

I just can't sit by and wait for all of our government officials to be swayed by promises of no harm to our fish. History need not repeat itself: Ask all the folks on the West Coast what happened to their huge salmon runs!

Cynthia Carroll at Anglo American, please don't promise us you won't harm our salmon. Records show otherwise.

### Meeting offered good insight

Krista Nyberg - Soldotna  
Peninsula Clarion  
November 2, 2007

[http://www.peninsulaclarion.com/stories/110207/letters\\_3324.shtml](http://www.peninsulaclarion.com/stories/110207/letters_3324.shtml)

I wanted to thank the Cook Inlet Alliance for putting on such an informative meeting on Oct. 17 concerning mine toxins. The focus of the meeting was the effects that Pebble Mine and the Chuitna Coal Mines could likely have on this area and the surrounding people and wildlife.

I thought it was great to see pro Pebble Mine people sharing their views and also to absorb the information that was laid out. I was, however, disappointed to see that our elected officials that represent this area were not in attendance.

I believe in hearing all sides of a story, especially when making decisions that will affect an entire community and am ashamed that the city and borough representatives were not there to hear this important information. These same representatives have heard Northern Dynasty's side of the story. Is sitting down and listening to a well-qualified scientist for two hours too much to ask?

I am sure that being an elected official is a time-consuming job, but I just don't understand why this is not a priority for them.

The economy of this state is important, but some things, such as the health of this state's people and eco-system, are worth more than gold. I am not anti-mining; I am, however, anti-Pebble Mine. The location of this mine is far too risky and could do major damage to a sustainable fishery that could last forever if we treat it right.

I believe that getting all sides of the information is important before making a decision and wish our representatives believed the same. I encourage all residents to look into the information and to understand the consequences of such a risky endeavor.

## ***Around Alaska and Beyond***

### Salmon permits adjust upward

*by Laine Welch  
Homer Tribune  
November 7, 2007*

Alaska salmon permit values are ticking upward, along with the price of fish. The trend is especially notable at Bristol Bay, home to the world's largest sockeye salmon fishery. The Bay accounts for one third of Alaska's total salmon earnings, and holds the most salmon permits at more than 2,800 fishermen.

To view article in its entirety, please click on  
<http://www.homertribune.com/article.php?aid=2318>

### Alaska salmon gains MSC re-certification

*IntraFish  
November 5, 2007*

The Alaska salmon fishery, which commercially harvests more than 160 million salmon a year, was recertified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as part of its review of the original certification awarded seven years ago.

To view article in its entirety, please click on  
<http://www.intrafish.no/global/news/article147034.ece>

## **Blogs**

Pebble project pollution potential questioned  
<http://fjcontreras-franko.blogspot.com/2007/11/pebble-project-pollution-potential.html>

Ridiculously Late Annotation  
<http://akfsmeo3.blogspot.com/2007/11/ridiculously-late-annotated.html>

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