The Pebble Limited Partnership says it is preparing to initiate permitting this year. The Proposed Determination remains in place, but the proposed restrictions have not been finalized by EPA.

The Pebble deposit is a vast copper, gold and molybdenum deposit that lies at the headwaters of the Nushagak and Kvichak river systems north of Lake Iliamna in the Bristol Bay region. If developed, Pebble has the potential to be the largest open pit mine in North America and would pose significant risks to the region’s commercial and subsistence salmon fisheries.

PEBBLE OPPOSITION TIMELINE:
Protecting the World’s Largest Sockeye Salmon Fishery

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2001
Northern Dynasty Minerals (NDM) acquires the Pebble claims and begins exploration activities.

2004 – 2013
The Pebble Limited Partnership makes multiple statements that the permitting process is imminent.

2010
Tribes, BBNC, and other stakeholders petition the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to initiate action under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to protect southwest Alaska waters and salmon from large-scale hard-rock mining of the Pebble mineral deposit.

2010 – 2013
EPA collects and assembles all available information regarding Bristol Bay’s watersheds, potential mining plans, and the likely impacts of mining.

January 2014
EPA’s final Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment confirms that the streams, rivers, wetlands, lakes and other waters near the Pebble deposit and the salmon fisheries these waters support constitute unique and valuable resources that mining the deposit could put at risk.

February 2014
EPA formally initiates a Section 404(c) review to determine whether and how to use its authority to protect Bristol Bay waters and salmon.

July 2014
EPA proposes restrictions that balance the protection of salmon and other subsistence resources with responsible mining development. EPA does not propose a veto of the Pebble project.

Summer 2014
EPA accepts comments on proposed restrictions during a 60-day public comment period. EPA holds 7 public hearings throughout Alaska.

2014 to present
The Pebble Limited Partnership says they’re working toward the goal of submitting an initial project description for permitting, meanwhile suing the EPA three times to halt the EPA’s work of balancing the protection of salmon and subsistence resources with responsible mining development.

April 2017
The Pebble Limited Partnership says it is preparing to initiate permitting this year. The Proposed Determination remains in place, but the proposed restrictions have not been finalized by EPA.
To protect Bristol Bay and provide economic, social, and cultural certainty to the residents of our region, BBNC asked EPA to proactively impose performance standards for large-scale mining development of the Pebble deposit. EPA has proposed the following restrictions within the drainage areas of the North Fork Koktuli River, South Fork Koktuli River, and Upper Talarik Creek, a 268 square mile area designated as the “disposal site.”

Discharges from the Pebble deposit are prohibited within the disposal site if they will eliminate:

- More than 5 miles of streams documented as anadromous;
- More than 19 miles of streams not documented as anadromous;
- More than 1,100 acres of wetlands, lakes or ponds;

Discharges are also prohibited if they will alter stream flows by more than 20% in more than 9 miles of streams documented as anadromous.

For the good of the Bristol Bay region, EPA must keep the Proposed Determination in place help to inform the permitting process and ensure protection of the region’s incredible salmon resource.

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