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BBNC Applauds EPA's Decision to Reinitiate a Bristol Bay Clean Water Act Determination

ANCHORAGE, AK – Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it would reinstate the process of making a Clean Water Act determination for certain waters in the Bristol Bay watershed. Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) welcomes EPA's continued commitment to prevent the proposed Pebble mine from damaging Bristol Bay's fish, fishing economy, and subsistence. BBNC also reiterates its support for legislation that provides additional certainty and economic opportunity for the Bristol Bay region.

The following statement is from Jason Metrokin, President and CEO of BBNC:

"Bristol Bay Native Corporation has long opposed the proposed Pebble mine because it will irreparably harm Bristol Bay and its world-class wild salmon fisheries. To that end we are pursuing legislative action from Congress as well as administrative action from the Environmental Protection Agency, both of which would permanently remove Pebble's threat to our region."

"Today the Environmental Protection Agency announced new steps to eliminate the unique threats that Pebble poses to Bristol Bay's valuable salmon fisheries and subsistence way of life. BBNC applauds EPA for taking these steps. As EPA restarts the Clean Water Act 404(c) process and incorporates new information from the Pebble Limited Partnership's 2017 Clean Water Act permit application and its subsequent National Environmental Policy Act review, the agency will have more than ample evidence to conclude that Pebble would have irreversible, adverse impacts on the Bristol Bay watershed and is unquestionably the wrong mine in the wrong place."

"The fight over Pebble mine must be put to rest so the people of Bristol Bay can focus on what is important for the region's future: enhancing our wild salmon-based economies and supporting responsible development consistent with protecting our unique salmon resource. That's why BBNC stands with other Bristol Bay stakeholders in not only supporting a 404(c) action from the EPA, but also a legislative solution led by"

Senator Murkowski that provides additional certainty and economic opportunity for the entire region.”

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About Bristol Bay Native Corporation

Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) is a diversified Alaska Native investment corporation dedicated to the mission of “Enriching Our Native Way of Life.” Established through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, BBNC works to protect the land in Bristol Bay, celebrate the legacy of its people, and enhance the lives of its shareholders. Learn more at bbnc.net.