

PEER REVIEW PLAN

Title:

Evaluation of the Impact of Potential large-scale mining development in the Nushagak and Kvichak watersheds of Bristol Bay, Alaska
(External Review Draft)

Purpose/Objective:

The purpose of this assessment is to understand how future large-scale mining may affect water quality and the Bristol Bay salmon fisheries, which includes the largest wild sockeye salmon fishery in the world. Bristol Bay, Alaska, is home to a salmon fishery that is of significant economic and subsistence value to the people of Alaska and that fishery depends on clean water and a healthy watershed to remain sustainable. The Pebble Limited Partnership and other mining interests are actively exploring large-scale porphyry copper (i.e., gold, copper, molybdenum) mining in the headwaters of two drainage basins in Bristol Bay that provide key habitat for salmon. The analysis will be strengthened by scientific peer review, tribal consultation, federal and state agency participation, as well as public and industry input. EPA will accept and consider public input during development of the watershed assessment and will continue to work closely with tribal governments and state and federal agencies as we undertake this analysis.

Product Completion Date
(Projected):

11/09/2012

OMB Category:

Highly Influential

Peer Review Leader:

Kate Schofield
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External Peer Review Mechanism:

Ad Hoc Panel of Independent Experts

Peer Review Expected to Begin:

3rd Quarter, Fiscal Year 2012

EPA's Fiscal Years run from October to September.
Quarters for Fiscal Year 2012:
1st: October - December, 2011
2nd: January - March, 2012
3rd: April - June, 2012
4th: July - September, 2012

Was a deferral to peer review invoked?

No

Will an alternative peer review process be employed?	No
Number of Peer Reviewers	4 to 10
Primary Disciplines needed in the review:	Ecology-Aquatic, Ecology-Fisheries, Geology-Biogeochemistry, Toxicology-Aquatic, Toxicology-Wildlife , metals mining,salmon fisheries,surface/subsurface/wtrshd hydro,seismology,indigenous Alaskan culture
Who will select the reviewers?	Outside Organization: An independent contractor
Will the public, including scientific or professional societies be asked to nominate peer reviewers?	Yes
Will public nominations be allowed through the Peer Review Agenda?	No
Will there be opportunity for public comment on the product?	Yes
Describe How and When	Request for public comment will be announced in the Federal Register for a comment period of 60 days, beginning May 1, 2012.
Will the Agency provide significant and relevant public comments to the peer reviewers before they conduct their review?	Yes
Will the review be a panel, conducted in public?	Yes
Will public comments be allowed at the panel review?	Yes