



## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF MISSION SUPPORT

AUG 15 2019

Ben Lieberman  
Competitive Enterprise Institute  
1310 L Street, NW; 7th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Lieberman:

This letter addresses concerns expressed in your letter to the Environmental Protection Agency on June 27, 2019, regarding a status update provided to you on June 20, 2019 on your submitted Request for Correction (RFC #19001)<sup>[1]</sup> dated November 14, 2018, regarding the 2014 Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment (BBWA).

Your request for correction asked that EPA substantially correct or withdraw the BBWA and the 2014 Proposed Determination issued under section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) for the use of the Pebble Deposit Area in Southwest Alaska, and that EPA participate in the ongoing Army Corps of Engineers-led Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with respect to the Pebble Mine.

On July 30, 2019, EPA Region 10 Administrator Chris Hladick withdrew the 2014 Proposed Determination<sup>[1]</sup>. As stated in the withdrawal notice, EPA is participating in the ongoing Army Corps of Engineers-led EIS process under NEPA in connection with the CWA section 404 permitting process for the Pebble Mine. As part of that process, the Corps is considering an extensive set of data and information, including information that expands and updates the information in the BBWA.

These recent actions by EPA and the extensive Corps EIS process make unnecessary any further action in response to your request for correction. EPA remains committed to the guidelines established by OMB for maximizing the quality, integrity, objectivity and reproducibility of information we disseminate to the public.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/bristolbay/notification-decision-withdraw-proposed-determination-restrict-use-area-disposal-site>

Thank you for your interest in EPA's information quality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vaughn Noga". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a long horizontal stroke.

Vaughn Noga  
Chief Information Officer  
and Deputy Assistant Administrator of  
Environmental Information