



For Immediate Release  
May 2, 2008

## PEBBLE PARTNERSHIP INITIATES PRE-PERMITTING ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA REPORT SERIES

Anchorage - The Pebble Partnership today released the first installment in its *Pre-Permitting Environmental & Socio-Economic Data Report Series*. This installment focuses on meteorological data collected in the project area over the past three years.

Complete copies of the meteorological data reports released as part of the *Pebble Partnership's Pre-Permitting Environmental & Socio-Economic Data Report Series* are available on-line at [www.pebblepartnership.com](http://www.pebblepartnership.com).

CEO John Shively said the Partnership has spent some \$90 million on environmental and socio-economic studies in and around the Pebble Project site since 2004, amassing one of the most comprehensive pre-development environmental databases in the state's history. Delivering on its commitment to go beyond mere compliance, the Partnership will publicly release its data in a series of installments over the next 20 months, prior to the initiation of project permitting.

"There's been a high degree of public interest in the work that our environmental and technical consultants have been performing in the project area over the past several years," Shively said. "And while we have always been open and willing to share the results of our work with Alaskans, the *Pre-Permitting Environmental & Socio-Economic Data Report Series* will formalize that process. We believe that an informed public can make a very positive contribution to the development of a responsible mine plan at Pebble."

The Pebble Partnership has retained some 45 professional consultants, a majority of them Alaskans, specializing in a broad range of environmental and socio-economic disciplines to study existing conditions near the project site and in the region as a whole. The collected information will be utilized to help design an environmentally sound and socially responsible project, to facilitate project permitting, and to establish a baseline for monitoring future changes.

Shively said the Partnership will publicly release its collected data with little or no analysis over a period of months, rather than all at once, because of the tremendous volume of information and strict requirements for quality assurance and control. He added that a comprehensive Environmental Baseline Document (EBD) will subsequently be prepared and appended to project permit applications in the future, as well as made available to the public.

"In most cases, we will be releasing physical data first, followed by chemical, biological and human or social data," he said. "This is a standard ecological approach for environmental study programs, and reflects the systematic science that goes into studying animal populations and the dynamics of human communities."

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Following the release of meteorological data today, the Pebble Partnership intends to release findings from the following environmental and socio-economic study programs in the months ahead:

May 2008	Surface Water Hydrology
June 2008	Surficial Geology
June 2008	Groundwater Hydrology
September 2008	Trace Elements (Sediments and Soils)
November 2008	Groundwater and Surface Water Quality
February 2009	Trace Elements (Vegetation and Fish/Mammal Tissue)
April 2009	Macroinvertebrates and Periphyton
June 2009	Marine Habitats
August 2009	Marine Nearshore Fish and Benthic Invertebrates
September 2009	Noise
October 2009	Lake Iliamna Studies
November 2009	Visual Resources
December 2009	Terrestrial Habitat and Wildlife

Other study findings to be released in 2009/2010, though not yet scheduled, include: recreation; land and water use; wetlands; fish and aquatics; and socio-economics.

Although the Pebble Partnership has commissioned subsistence/traditional knowledge and cultural resource studies in and around the project site, this information is considered proprietary to local residents and communities, and cannot be released.

“We believe that sharing our environmental and socio-economic data years before the onset of permitting, even before the Pebble Project is defined, will ultimately lead to more informed public input and a better project,” Shively said. “The scope and quality of the environmental and scientific studies we have undertaken will be a valuable and positive legacy for this region and the state as a whole.”

In addition to ongoing data releases via the *Pre-Permitting Environmental & Socio-Economic Data Report Series*, the Partnership expects to share preliminary project design considerations with Alaskans in 2009.

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