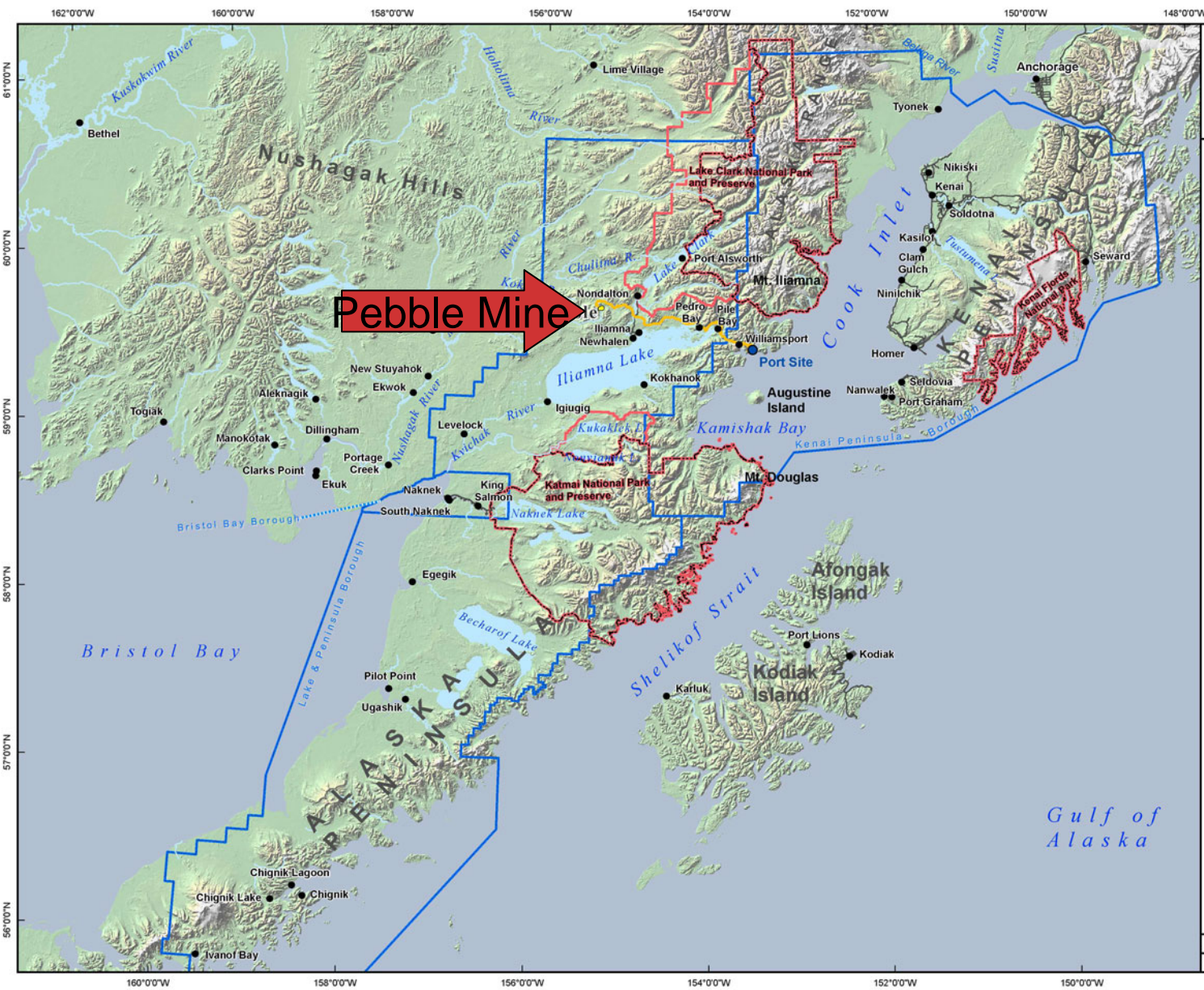












Indigenous Empowerment: The Pebble Mine and Environmental Justice in Bristol Bay, Alaska

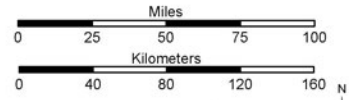
**By Verner Wilson
Candidate for B.A. in Environmental Studies
Brown University
March 20, 2008**



Regional Map

Legend

-  General Deposit Location
-  Possible Port Site
-  Possible Road
-  National Park
-  National Preserve
-  Borough Boundary
-  Communities
-  Existing Roads



Scale 1:2,500,000
 Alaska State Plane Zone 5 (units feet)
 1983 North American Datum

File: RegionalMap_D01.mxd	Date: November 26, 2007
Version: 1	Author: RDI-DWR, MRA, LS

Indigenous People



The Problem

Benefits	Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Estimates: Minerals worth \$500 billion-Jobs(1000+ for 50+ years)-State Revenue (7% tax)-Capital/Infrastructure-Increased Income-Economic Diversity-Training/Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Environmental Health-Externalities/Pollution-Loss of Natural Habitat- Wildlife Endangerment- Socioeconomic stress-Lifestyle changes-Cultural stress

Question

To what extent does the proposed Pebble Mine operation take into account the environmental health and justice concerns of indigenous peoples living in the Bristol Bay region?



Methodology

- **Media Analysis, Anchorage Daily News (2004-Present)**
- **Evaluation of the regulatory and permitting process (Federal, State, and Local governments)**
- **Evaluation of Environmental Record for Mining Companies**
- **Stakeholder Analysis: Interviews, Data Analysis and Media Analysis**

What is Environmental Justice?

“Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people-regardless of race, ethnicity, income or education level-in environmental decision making. Environmental Justice programs promote the protection of human health and the environment, empowerment via public participation, and the dissemination of relevant information to inform and educate affected communities (US Department of Energy).”



Lawmaker Analysis

Governor Sarah Palin	Federal Delegation	State Legislature	State Legislators	Alaska Voters (Ballot Initiatives)
Neutral, proceed with studies to understand risk	Sen. Stevens: Anti-Mine	Considering 5 differing bills, 3 to restrict mining and 2 to encourage mining	Sen. Hoffmon: Neutral	Clean Water Initiative: Approved for statewide vote in 2008
	Sen. Murkowski: Pro-Mine		Rep. Edgmon: Elected on Anti-Mine Platform	
	Rep. Young: Pro-Mine		Rep. LeDoux: Anti-Mine	

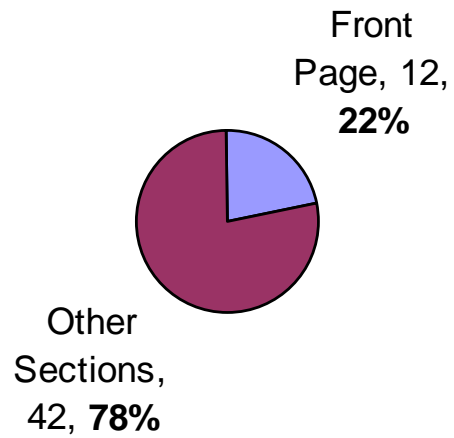
Media Analysis

- Are Bristol Bay Native voices and concerns being heard by the people of Alaska?

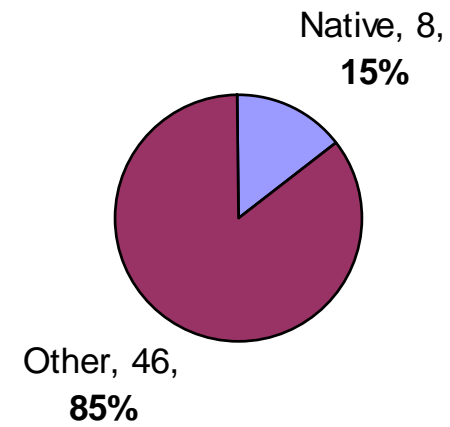
Anchorage Daily News

N=54

Pebble Mine Focus Articles



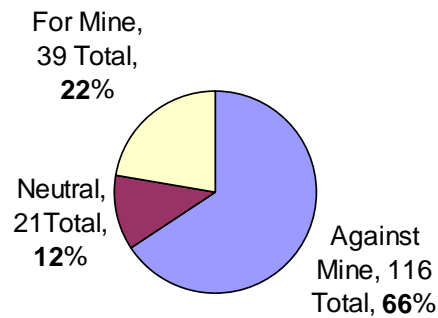
Native Focus



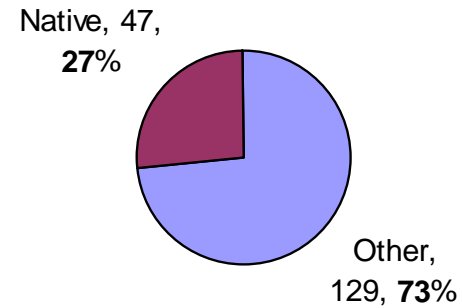
Anchorage Daily News

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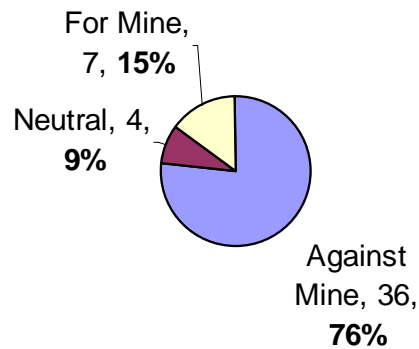
Letters to the Editor, 176



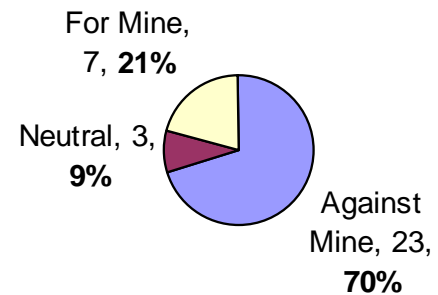
Primarily Native Concern



Primarily Native Concern



Letters from Locals, 33



Permitting/Approvals (67)

- Are Government laws looking out for the health and wellbeing of Bristol Bay Natives?

19 Federal Permits/Approvals

Environmental Protection Agency

Army Corps of Engineers

National Marine Fisheries Service

Fish and Wildlife Service

Mining Safety and Health Administration

Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms

US Coast Guard

Federal Communications Commission

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graph TD; A[Pebble Partnership] --> B[Impacts to Cultural Resources: Report to Army Corp of Engineers]
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Pebble Partnership

Impacts to Cultural Resources:
Report to Army Corp of Engineers

45 State Permits/Approvals

Department of Environmental Conservation

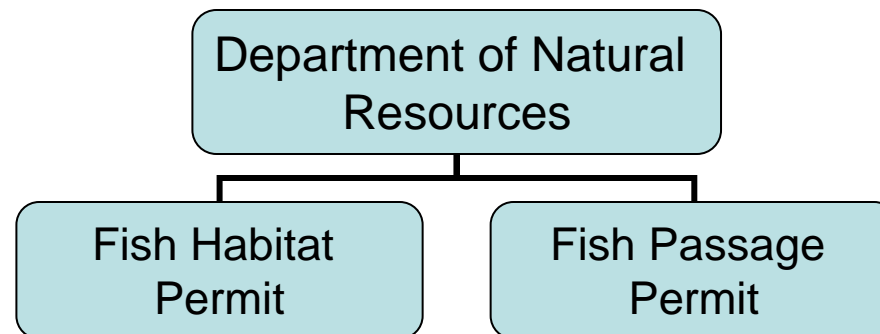
Department of Natural Resources

Department of Transportation

Department of Public Safety

Department of Labor

Department of Fish and Game



EJ Concerns

Federal



State



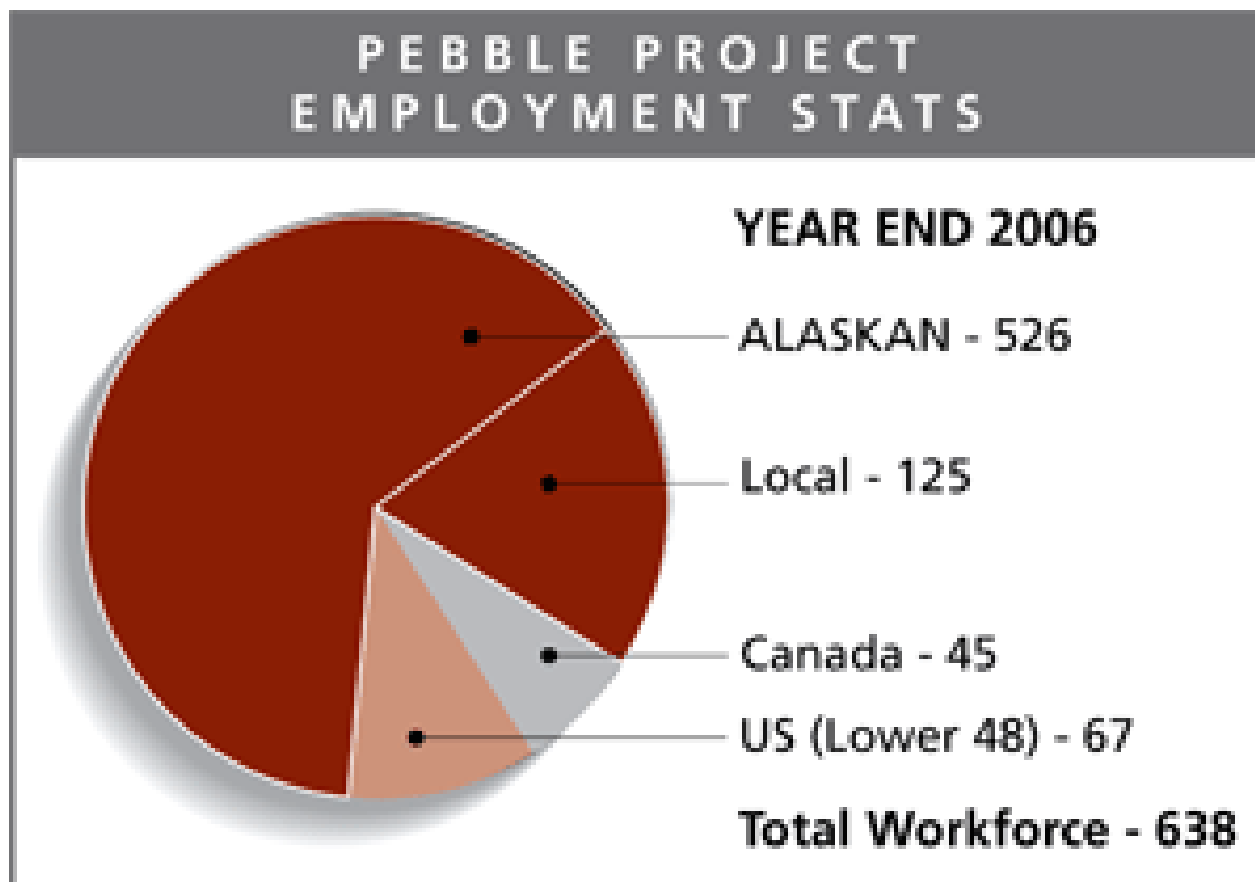
Local



Environmental Records



Pebble Partnership and Environmental Justice



Conclusion

- EJ Concerns for Indigenous peoples are addressed by:
 - Mining Companies
 - Federal/State/Local Regulations
- Compliance has been an issue for mining companies
- Enforcement of regulations has been challenging, especially in developing and indigenous areas
- Mining industry is changing, technology and stakeholder/local relations are improving in areas where they can be held accountable
- There are many ways to improve this industry, and many ways for the Natives of Bristol Bay to improve their standing/for their concerns be addressed

Recommendations

- State
 - Environmental Justice Provision
 - Permitting: Natural Disaster Risk Assessment
 - Subsistence value, \$\$ value
- Pebble Partnership
 - Monitor what type of jobs are going to locals and pay scales, how long workers have lived in Alaska
- Bristol Bay Natives
 - Increase voice in state media
 - Further understanding of mining companies' environmental and social justice records and engage with other indigenous communities

Quyana!

- **Caroline Karp, Thesis Advisor**
- **Bubba Cook, World Wildlife Fund, Reader**
- **Wei Ying Wong, Presentation Advisor**
- **Saleem Ali, Mining Expert Advisor**
- **Nicole Poepping/ES Students**
- **Betsy Barlow, ES**
- **Patti Caton, ES**
- **Mom and Dad**

