



NEWS NUGGETS

Compiled by Shane Lasley

Northern Dynasty raises C\$10M for Pebble

Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd. Aug. 31 reported the closing of a C\$10.2 million private placement that involved the issuance of 25,624,408 special warrants exercisable into the company's listed common shares at a price of C39.9 cents per warrant. The warrants will convert on exercise into common shares of Northern Dynasty on a one-for-one basis. Following the completion of the private placement, Northern Dynasty said it has reached a definitive agreement with Cannon Point Resources Ltd. to buy all of that company's outstanding shares. Under a preliminary agreement entered in August, Northern Dynasty would issue about 12.9 million common shares to buy Cannon Point. At the end of June, Cannon Point had C\$4.7 million in cash and cash-equivalents, which is the most significant asset held by the company. During the merger process, Cannon Point has agreed to make a secured credit facility for C\$4.25 million available to Northern Dynasty. The amounts borrowed would be repayable after 30 days if Northern Dynasty breaches the deal and 180 days from termination if the merger is not completed for any other reason. One of the conditions of the agreement was that at C\$10 million of the warrants being sold during the private placement. The money raised will be used for working capital and to advance the Pebble copper-gold-molybdenum project in Southwest Alaska by implementing Northern Dynasty's legal and environmental strategies.

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New leadership for Alaska tin explorer

Strongbow Exploration Inc. Sept. 1 reported that Richard Williams has been appointed president and CEO of the company, replacing Kenneth Armstrong who stepped down from the position. Armstrong will remain a director of Strongbow. Williams serves as CEO of Helio Resource Corp., an exploration company with projects in Tanzania and Namibia. He has

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LITIGATION

Which way is North?

Court seeks missing EPA biologist at center of plan to stop Pebble Mine

By SHANE LASLEY

Mining News

Embattled federal employees conveniently losing emails that could bear witness to potentially negligent or illegal activities have become an increasingly frequent storyline. But seldom does the email's author disappear with the corrupted data.

This seems to be the case with Phillip North, a former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency biologist accused of secretly colluding with private sector activists to stop the development of a mine at the Pebble copper-gold-molybdenum project in Southwest Alaska.

Now, the Pebble Partnership has filed for a subpoena to bring North home to Alaska to fill in blanks left by several years of emails that are believed to contain details of his collaboration with anti-Pebble scientists, lawyers, and Native and environmental groups.

Documents that the Pebble Partnership has obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests provide compelling evidence that North was advocating for EPA to use its veto power under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to prevent the Pebble Partnership from applying for permits to develop its world-class copper-gold-molybdenum deposit in the Bristol Bay region of Southwest Alaska as early as 2008, which predates the 2010 request by Alaska Native groups that EPA has claimed as its impetus to take such an action.

The scant emails made available to the Pebble Partnership also provide evidence that North was a key liaison between anti-Pebble activists and upper EPA officials in Washington D.C.; as well as



recruiting the team utilized to build the Bristol Bay Assessment, and authoring sections of this report, which supports EPA's decision to severely restrict the development of the Pebble deposit.

"In short, North was instrumental in forming and utilizing the work of the de facto Federal Advisory Committees at issue in this case and in utilizing them to provide recommendations and advice for EPA to launch its unprecedented attack on Pebble Mine," the Pebble

Partnership charges in its subpoena.

The subpoena comes in the discovery phase of a trial in which the Pebble Partnership asserts that behind-the-scenes collaboration between EPA and the anti-mine groups violates advisory committee law and taints the entire process for which the environmental agency is basing its Clean Water Act determination with regards to Pebble.

"Relying heavily on substantial input, advice, and recommendations from these unlawfully established advisory committees, EPA prepared a patently biased, anti-mine assessment of hypothetical mining activities in the Bristol Bay Watershed and then used that flawed assessment to commence administrative proceedings under the federal Clean Water Act that, if allowed to stand, will effectively put an end to mining before the permitting process ever gets off the ground," the Pebble Partnership summarizes in its complaint.

In addition to the agency emails that have surfaced as a result of FOIA requests, North is believed to have used private email accounts for

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