



NEWS NUGGETS

Compiled by Shane Lasley



The exploration phase at Pebble provide jobs to many resident living near the world-class copper-gold-molybdenum project in Southwest Alaska.

PLP, ASRC team up to enhance AK Native contracting at Pebble

The Pebble Partnership and ASRC Energy Services, a subsidiary of Arctic Slope Regional Corp., June 13 said they will be working together to provide business development and mentoring services aimed at enhancing future contracting opportunities for Alaska Native village corporations with landholdings near the Pebble copper-gold project in Southwest Alaska. "Local stakeholder involvement in responsible resource development projects is important, and ASRC Energy Services is a leader in stakeholder engagement," said ASRC Energy Services President and CEO Doug Smith. "Local stakeholders need a meaningful seat at the discussion table to ensure they receive the maximum benefit possible." AES Regulatory and Technical Services, a business unit of ASRC Energy Services Alaska, Inc., will lead this collaborative business development planning initiative. Drawing from its expertise in stakeholder engagement and providing contracting services, AES-RTS will work with Alaska Native village corporations who have had past contract relationships with the Pebble Partnership. The goal of the engagement is to inform an Alaska Native contracting strategy for Pebble – one that establishes complementary contracting roles for participating village corporations, and directs strategic business development investments to enhance local companies' capabilities to fulfill Pebble's future contracting needs. "As we gear up for our 2017 field season and prepare to take the Pebble project into federal and state permitting, we are also renewing our commitment to maximize contract and employment opportunities for local companies and local people," said Pebble Partnership CEO Tom Collier. "We know very well the challenging economic circumstances that confront Alaska Native village corporations and their shareholders in Southwest Alaska, and we are making investments now to ensure they will benefit to the greatest extent possible at each stage of the Pebble project's development – during permitting, construction, operations and even closure." ASRC Energy Services was selected to lead Pebble's business development initiative based on its experience working with Alaska Native village corporations to optimize business opportunities associated with resource development on the North Slope. ASRC, which employs some 12,000 people worldwide and nearly 4,000 in Alaska, has a long history of supporting responsible resource development in the state.

More Golden Summit oxide gold

Freegold Ventures Ltd. June 13 reported results from the first 11 holes of the oxide expansion drill program at its Golden Summit project about 25 miles north of Fairbanks, Alaska. In 2016, Freegold published a preliminary economic assessment

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PEBBLE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP



The Pebble project in Alaska is set to enter into permitting by the end of 2017. With roughly 56.8 billion pounds copper and 3.4 billion lb molybdenum, an important ingredient in high-strength steel, Pebble has the potential to be an important domestic source of these base metals for decades.

GOVERNMENT

Cutting red tape

Trump wants quicker infrastructure permitting, miners want similar reform

By SHANE LASLEY
Mining News

American miners hailed President Donald Trump's plans to slash the red tape holding back infrastructure projects in the United States as positive step in repairing the United States' deteriorating roads, rails, ports, and airports – a move that could also bolster the industrial sector that would supply the sand, gravel, concrete, zinc, copper and other mined materials needed for the President's proposed US\$1 trillion infrastructure enterprise.

"President Trump's welcome initiative to rebuild America's declining infrastructure is poised to spur activity and employment throughout the economy, including in the nation's mines," said National Mining Association President and CEO Hal Quinn. "The nation's rich endowment of copper, nickel, zinc and other metals, minerals and materials produced by U.S. mines are the building blocks for the roads, bridges, dams and other structures that stand in dire need of replacement and renewal."

The NMA president, however, pointed out that it takes nearly a decade to permit a mine in the U.S., a delay that could slow Trump's American infrastructure initiative.

"Streamlining this inefficient permit process will remove a major impediment to his ambitious plan for public works projects and, at the same time, advance a job-creating initiative that will benefit all Americans," he said.

Clearing red tape thicket

While Trump did not address mining regulations, he did lay out the broad outlines of a plan that he hopes will significantly reduce the time it takes to permit infrastructure projects in the United States.

"No longer can we allow these rules and regulations to tie down our economy, chain up our prosper-



DONALD TRUMP



HAL QUINN

ity, and sap our great American spirit. That is why we will lift these restrictions and unleash the full potential of the United States of America," the President vowed during a June 9 speech in Washington D.C.

Pointing out that it "took only four years to build the Golden Gate Bridge and five years to build the Hoover Dam," Trump said that today it can take a company up to 10 years just to get a permit to start an infrastructure project.

"Instead of rebuilding our country, Washington has spent decades building a dense thicket of rules, regulations and red tape," he said.

The president has outlined an initiative to clear unnecessary regulatory undergrowth with goal of reducing the average time it takes to permit an infrastructure project from around a decade to two years.

"We will get rid of the redundancy and duplication that wastes your time and your money," said. "Our goal is to give you one point of contact to deliver one decision – yes or no – for the entire federal government, and to deliver that decision quickly, whether it's a road, whether it's a highway, a bridge, a dam," he said.

The point of contact is a council being set up by the Trump administration "to help project managers navigate the bureaucratic maze."

A similar group set up to permit mines in Alaska – Department of Natural Resources Large Mine Permitting Team – that provides a single contact for companies seeking to navigate the dozens of state and federal agencies and more than 100 permits needed to build a large scale mine in the state has proven to be a success.

Taking this idea one step further, Trump said the federal infrastructure permitting council will create an online dashboard that allows the public to track

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