

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Tue 7/11/2017 7:50:15 PM
Subject: Trump EPA moves closer to reversing Pebble Mine proposed veto

By Alex Guillén

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The Trump administration is moving forward with a plan that could let the developers of the planned Pebble Mine in Alaska reapply for permits in the Bristol Bay region.

EPA is taking the first formal step toward reversing the Obama administration's effort to preemptively veto Clean Water Act permits for the mine. The agency will take public comment for 90 days on its proposal to withdraw the previously proposed veto and accompanying analysis, according to a [pre-publication notice](#) posted today on the agency's website.

The announcement is part of a court-approved deal EPA reached in May with the company behind the proposed gold, copper and molybdenum mine. Pebble's developers had alleged EPA's prior work on the matter, which halted in 2014, violated an open government law.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman [Lisa Murkowski](#) (R-Alaska) last month asked EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to accept comments for at least 90 days because of the current commercial fishing season in Bristol Bay, which she said would limit the ability of local fishers to comment.

EPA's withdrawal is the first step of carrying out the [settlement agreement](#) struck with Pebble's developers. The agency has agreed not to study related water quality issues for at least four years or until the Army Corps of Engineers finishes its own environmental study. Pebble has until late 2019 to apply for a permit.

WHAT'S NEXT: The 90-day comment period will commence once the notice is published in the Federal Register.

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