



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

June 1, 2023

John Boyle, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Sara Church, Natural Resources Specialist II, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Tom Schumacher, Regional Supervisor, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Jason Brune, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Randy Bates, Division of Water Director, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Carl Koch, Wildlife Biologist II, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Greg Palmieri, Forester, Alaska Department of Forestry

Re: Extension request for APMA J20195690 Amendment #1

Dear Commissioners and agency staff,

Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is the largest federally and state recognized tribe in the state of Alaska, representing over 35,000 tribal citizens in communities throughout Southeast Alaska, the state, and worldwide.

Tlingit and Haida peoples have stewarded their traditional lands from Southeast Alaska into the Yukon and British Columbia since time immemorial and continue doing so as a sovereign nation; Tlingit & Haida maintains a government-to-government relationship with the United States and the State of Alaska. **The stewardship of our traditional lands and waters is crucial to maintaining our way of life and is an expression of our sovereignty.**

The Chilkat Indian Village (Klukwan) has stewarded their traditional homelands of the Jilkáat Aaní K̄a Héeni (the Chilkat River watershed) since time immemorial, and as such, Tlingit & Haida supports the request made by the Chilkat Indian Village for an immediate 90-day extension to the public comment period and proposed amendment for the APMA J201995690 Amendment #1. This significant proposed permit change would directly impact Tribal citizens and our traditional ways of life.

Furthermore, Tlingit & Haida fully supports the requests made by Chilkat Indian Village and as such, hereby urges the State of Alaska to honor these requests:

1. A 90-day public comment period to allow ample time for research and community input;
2. The State of Alaska permitting agencies to host public hearings in Klukwan and Haines regarding this significant proposed permit change;
3. The project proponent be required to submit a new permit application altogether, as the proposed amendment significantly alters the size, scale, and scope of the existing project, and therefore, increases the risk of impact to human health and the environment;
4. Government-to-government consultation between Chilkat Indian Village (Klukwan) and the State of Alaska permitting agencies *prior* to a final decision;

Gunalchéesh, Háw'aa for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Peterson,
President

Cc:

President Kimberly Strong, CIV

Vice President Jones P. Hotch, Jr., CIV

Senator Jesse Kiehl, State of Alaska

Representative Andi Story, State of Alaska

Nada Culver, BLM

Tracy Stone-Manning, BLM

Michelle Davis, EPA

Radhika Fox, EPA

Patricia McGrath, EPA

Mathew Martinson, EPA

Randi Madison, EPA RTOC

Andrew Baca, EPA

Casey Sixkiller, EPA

Jane Nishida, EPA OITA