From: Dick Coose
To: Campellone, Estrella F CIV USARMY CEPOA (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] POA-2019-00313 Power Systems and Supplies of Alaska
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2019 10:11:47 PM

I would like to submit the following comments regarding POA-2019-00313.

Let me state that I support private interprise and minimal goverment interference with the issuing of permits and operations. I also support full transparency and public participation in the process.

In this case, neither transparency or public participation has been allowed. It has become common knowledge in Ketchikan that the proponents of this project ask USACE to keep this proposal confidential and this obviously occurred until your letter to adjacent property owners (one being the Ketchikan Gateway Borough). One has ask the question why the public was and has never been notified of anything. The applicants have told the public only that yes they jointly with the NCL cruiselines, Binkley's and themselves are going to build a two berth cruise ship dock in Ward Cove. This was only in the last few weeks.

Then there is the lingering issue with many local people about the bottom of Ward Cove with the fact that the EPA required the pulp mill to spend millions of dollars to place a sand cover over much of bottom. Will this project and the large cruise ship be detremental to this sand cap? Was the any evaluation, any mitigation if something happens to it?
There are a lot of people in Ketchikan concerned with this project, its impacts on the Cove and the rest of the community. The documents provide to the Borough state in both your letter and the proponets documents that the project should encounter no appreciable opposition. Wrong, there is more of the appearance of something being hidden from the public until it is to late.
In the proponents letter, they state the new dock would improve safe transit through the Tongass Narrows, I do not see how, the ships still have to transit. They state it would relieve existing and future vessel, pedestrian , and vehicle congestion in the Port of Ketchikan and downtown Ketchikan. These are nice sounding words, but there is nothing to back them up. I believe in the long run, two more docks in Ward Cove will make the situation in downtown Ketchikan and the traffic though downtown worse. Frankly, it appears they have not done any due diligence to substantiate these claims.
You have apparently limited comments to adjacent property owners. I know of some you missed, plus there are property owners at the mouth of the cove that will be affected and should be able to comment. There are other users at the entry to the cove (people who routinely have their shrimp pot bouy markers there and will be affected.
This appears to be a hurry up project with its wheels greased to slide by the public. USACE is better than this.
You should delay any issuance of a permit or Letter of permission until all of the public is fully given a opportunity to understand the project and comment. You conduct full public notice and a public hearing.

Thank you for taking the time to read this comment.

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