

PRESS RELEASE

Brevig Mission maintains objections to Graphite One's Process and Project

FOR RELEASE AFTER
May 31, 2026

BREVIG MISSION, AK – May 28, 2026

The Native Village of Brevig Mission Traditional Council would like to inform the public of the reasoning behind postponing the meeting in Brevig Mission set for June 1, 2026, by a Canadian company, Graphite One.

This meeting date was set by the company without tribal consultation. The chosen date coincides with a time that the ice is moving out of Port Clarence Bay, a crucial period for tribal members to take part in vital marine mammal harvesting activities.

The Tribal Council felt the Federal and state governmental permitting representative's plan to bring members of Graphite One to Brevig Mission with them in mid-April was inappropriate. The Tribal Council requested that the community's time with the public permitting agencies be uninfluenced by private corporate promotions. This non-invitation was conveyed by email to the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

The Tribal Council remains open to collaborative dialogue with Graphite One to establish an appropriate meeting time. The tribe does have concerns.

The most immediate concern is Graphite One's application to drill more holes in the Kigluaik Mountains. When Graphite One visited Brevig Mission in May 2025 they stated, "We won't be doing any drilling the next few years as we go through the permitting phase, so as far as helicopter traffic goes, it will be quieter than it has been the past few years."

This spring, the company failed to honor that promise by applying to drill "approximately" 20 more helicopter-supported holes the summer of 2026.

The Tribal Council objects to Graphite One barge and helicopter transportation anywhere over and along the Bering Sea-to-Imuruk Basin Waterway or Kigluaik Mountains due to disturbances of fish, marine mammals, fur bearing animals, and waterfowl populations.

The Native Village of Brevig Mission remains steadfastly opposed to the creation of a 1.1-mile long, 1,340-foot-deep open pit, or any pit of any depth, and all associated roads, gravel pads, and stream diversions in and around the hunting, fishing, and cultural grounds traditionally used by the people of Brevig Mission, Teller, and Mary's Igloo.

These oppositions were made clear through resolutions passed by Brevig Mission's tri-entities on November 11, 2025. The foundational resolution stated, "The Native Village of Brevig Mission, the City of Brevig Mission, and the Brevig Mission Native Corporation formally oppose the development, permitting, construction, and operation of the proposed Graphite One mine and associated infrastructures."

The people of the Bering Sea-to-Imuruk Basin Waterway realize that the combination of unforgiving Arctic weather conditions coupled with the extreme proximity to one of the most biologically rich watersheds in the State of Alaska leaves unacceptable probability for human error.

The villages along the Bering Sea-to-Imuruk Basin Waterway are currently dealing with two toxic waste sites caused by human errors of Outside entities within their traditional hunting, fishing, and cultural grounds.

The Native Village of Brevig Mission believes that the exploitations by Graphite One and its partner, the Bering Straits Native Corporation, could foreseeably cause irreversible damage to vital and irreplaceable wild salmon migrations.

No assurances have been made by Graphite One, the Bering Straits Native Corporation, or any governmental agency, that the Bering Sea-to-Imuruk Basin Waterway's fish populations and other food security resources will remain intact.