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DONLIN GOLD PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
810(a) PUBLIC HEARING

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CHUATHBALUK, ALASKA

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Taken April 11, 2016
Commencing at 4:35 p.m.

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Volume I - Pages 1 - 10, inclusive

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Taken at
Crow Village Sam School
Chuathbaluk, Alaska

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Reported by:
Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

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1 change? Is it -- will they ever come back? I mean, you
 2 know, they travel wherever their food source is. It seems
 3 like with that mine coming up, I'm kind of worried that
 4 they will lose their food source and not come back
 5 anymore.
 6 And we usually fish on the -- people have fish camps
 7 below and above Chuathbaluk, and it seems like it's going
 8 to be harder to get there with all those barges. And then
 9 you know, back where we -- people go back behind the
 10 mountains around that area to get bear or moose. I know
 11 people hunt moose back there and get berries. We will
 12 have to go further back behind the mountains sometimes to
 13 look for berries.
 14 And no matter what access they have to bring their
 15 oil and chemicals out, you know, whether it's by water or
 16 by land, it's going to affect our subsistence resources
 17 because, you know, that noise, all that traffic, it will
 18 scare all the animals. We already have a hard enough time
 19 trying to find it.
 20 Thank you.
 21 **MR. ALAN BITTNER:** Thank you. Someone
 22 else? Just another moment. Anybody want to provide
 23 testimony right now related to subsistence?
 24 **MR. ERIC MORGAN, SR.:** What, fishing?
 25 **MR. ALAN BITTNER:** Subsistence in general.

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1 **MR. ERIC MORGAN, SR.:** Me, you know, my
 2 family, all our relations, we live off the subsistence
 3 life, you know. We fish. We go drifting with, you know,
 4 my daughter, my grandkids and my wife. And we live
 5 off putting our smoked fish away, our salt fish, our kings
 6 and whitefish, sheefish, grayling in the freezer, even
 7 when we fish in the wintertime time jigging on the ice.
 8 Moose, caribou, bear, trap beaver and all different kinds
 9 of animals; rabbits and hunt ptarmigans, spruce chicken,
 10 willow grouse. Everything we live, we live off the land.
 11 You know, we don't know how this will affect us in
 12 our subsistence with all what's going on and what's
 13 planned. And even with the dust, what they call with our
 14 hunting at the mountains with -- either that if they have
 15 the road, the noise, the dust with the berries, the
 16 animals that we look for.
 17 A lot of us live -- we live -- we live off what the
 18 land provides, what comes in the rivers and we go and get
 19 for our food to eat. If some disaster happens, you know,
 20 all we will have is dreams and wishes to remember them
 21 days when we used to fish, when we used to do this. Maybe
 22 our grandkids down the road might -- if there ever is a
 23 disaster, they might not see this. You can't catch the
 24 fish no more. If there is a leakage, the moose, caribou,
 25 the bear drinking the water, they might -- they might die

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1 off, too.
 2 And somebody make a mistake with that stuff, we don't
 3 know what will happen. Most of us -- most of us, we live
 4 off the land, and that's our livelihood. That's our
 5 survival. We have to think of that, what -- what we need
 6 for our families and our grandchildren, great
 7 grandchildren down the road.
 8 Thank you.
 9 **MR. ALAN BITTNER:** Anybody else? Okay.
 10 All right. Thank you for your testimony this afternoon.
 11 With that, the ANILCA 810 hearing on the potential
 12 subsistence impacts of the proposed Donlin Gold Mine here
 13 in the village of Chuathbaluk is now closed. Thank you.
 14 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** We want to thank you
 15 all very much for the opportunity to come into your
 16 community, for the time you have taken to give us comments
 17 on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the
 18 testimony at the hearing.
 19 Please note, as Alan mentioned and as I mentioned
 20 earlier, the comment periods for the both the 810 ANILCA
 21 subsistence hearing and the draft EIS are currently open
 22 until April 30th. And there is a variety of means by
 23 which you can comment. So please, if you have anything
 24 else, let us know.
 25 Thank you very much for your time and your comments.

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1 **MS. DONNE FLEAGLE:** I'd just like to say
 2 thank you to Chuathbaluk. It's always a lot of fun to
 3 come here and see friends. And I'm glad Grayling got a
 4 chance to come over. I'm really pleased that Stony River
 5 made it over. I think to get together, it's good family
 6 time, good relative time. I'll see you this summer. I
 7 hope I'll be doing another interview project.
 8 And thank you very much for all your help. And we
 9 would like to thank the teachers, too. So have a good
 10 spring, and stay off the river.
 11 (Proceedings adjourned at 4:49 p.m.)
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, MARY A. VAVRIK, RMR, Notary Public in and for
the State of Alaska do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before
me at the time and place herein set forth; that the
proceedings were reported stenographically by me and later
transcribed under my direction by computer transcription;
that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings
taken at that time; and that I am not a party to nor have
I any interest in the outcome of the action herein
contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed
my hand and affixed my seal this 13th day of April 2016.

MARY A. VAVRIK,
Registered Merit Reporter
Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission Expires: November 5, 2016