

Donlin Gold Project EIS

Crooked Creek Informational Meeting
Crooked Creek Tribal Council Office
Tuesday July 1, 2014, 10am

Attendance:

Donalene Harris-Fleagle and Chelsey Beans-Polk of the URS Corporation gave an update on the Donlin Gold EIS Project. There were a total of 15 residents that attended the informational meeting held in Crooked Creek.

Issues Raised:

Note to Reader: The questions below required that additional information be gathered and returned to the Crooked Creek Tribal Council. Following the meeting, the EIS Team researched more complete answers to the questions, and returned this information to the Council during a second visit on July 21, 2014.

Question: What if the 40 million gallon gas tank leaks?

Response: The tank farm at the proposed Donlin Gold mine would include 15 fuel tanks, each with a capacity of 2.5 million gallons. The tank farm is surrounded by a lined secondary containment dike or berm, with the capacity to hold the volume of the largest tank plus precipitation. Response to a spill is guided by the Terminal and Tank Farm an Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan (ODPCP). The plan sets out procedures for immediate response, including assessing the extent of leakage, recovering spilled oil, and treating contaminated water. If needed, the response plan requires call out of Alaska Chadux Corporation, a spill response contractor.

Here are provisions from the ODPCP response plan for a discharge during fuel transfer:

Response to an accidental marine transfer discharge will be initiated by the dock-watch personnel or the vessel person-in-charge (PIC) to terminate the transfer and secure operations. The dock-watch or vessel PIC will then contact the Donlin Terminal PIC. A designated Donlin PIC will be on duty at the Jungjuk Barge Terminal during all marine transfers.

The Jungjuk Barge Terminal PIC will contact the Donlin IC/QI [Incident Commander/Qualified Individual], the OSRO [oil spill removal organization], and all required state and federal agencies. The Vessel Master, dock-watch, and PIC responsibilities are described in the operations manual approved by the USCG, and in Sections 1.1.2 through 1.1.4 of this ODPCP. These lead personnel will make decisions on initial actions and notifications in the event of an accidental oil discharge event.

More information regarding spill response in the event of a discharge during a fuel transfer is found in the Donlin Gold Vessel Operations Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan.

Question: How many tanks will be at the Angyaruaq Creek?

Response: A single 2.8 million gallon capacity tank would be provided at Jungjuk Port for temporary storage.

Question: How will they maintain the Pipeline; and if the pipeline is restricted to the public, how far away from the Kuskokwim will it come out of the ground because the river will always has people on it.

Response: To insure that the Donlin Gold natural gas pipeline is in good working order, ongoing maintenance, inspection, and monitoring of the pipeline is required by permits and regulations. The pipeline would be buried below the Kuskokwim River, well below the level of any ice scour. This uses a technology called Horizontal Directional Drilling.

At the river bank approach and leaving the Kuskokwim River, the pipeline would be buried. The only places the pipeline would be above the ground would be at maintenance stations, and in two earthquake-prone areas, referred to as fault zones.

According to the Donlin Natural Gas Pipeline Plan of Development, the methods of performing pipeline inspection, surveillance and monitoring would be as follows:

- ATV/snowmachine
- Walking
- Aerial
- Watercraft
- Truck or LGP vehicle
- Pigging
- Automated systems

The pipeline inspection, surveillance and monitoring program would be designed to observe surface conditions on and adjacent to the ROW for indications of leaks, construction activity, and any other factors affecting safety and operation as well as invasive species.

Specific attention would be given to monitoring the following items, which would be observed and documented:

- River and stream crossing observations would be made to note bank erosion, stream migration, and scour.
- Areas of known geohazards would be assessed for changes: for example, downslope movements, or movements due to thaw settlement or heave.
- Aboveground fault crossings would be assessed for pipe movements and pipe positioning on crossbeams, and other damage.
- Areas of known ice-rich permafrost would be assessed for surface subsidence.

- Surface reclamation would be assessed for stabilization, rehabilitation, and reclamation problems and potential remedial action, and the presence of invasive species.
- Thermistor strings would be read and ground temperatures would be documented.
- Pipeline inspections of surface conditions on of adjacent to the pipeline would occur at intervals not exceeding 9 months but at least twice each calendar year (ideal inspection times are after breakup and before deep snowfall) inspections may also be needed following the occurrence of major storm or seismic events.
- Particular attention would be focused on any areas easily accessible to the public.
- The inspection employees would be alert for vapors, blowing dirt, grass, or leaves near the pipeline; flames coming from the ground or from valves along the pipeline; steady bubbling in a flooded area, wetlands, river, or creek; and dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green setting along the pipeline route, all indications of possible leaks.
- The pipeline inspectors would be responsible for noting and immediately reporting pipeline encroachments.
- The ground or aerial patroller would immediately notify the operations center of any condition under which it appears that the public or the pipeline is in imminent danger.
- The operations manager would be responsible for initiating and verifying that:
 - the following actions are carried out:
 - Pipeline inspection procedures are followed by qualified personnel
 - Prescribed frequencies for pipeline inspection are met
 - Actions or steps necessary to protect the public and the pipeline as may be indicated by inspection reports are taken.
 - all surveillance, monitoring, and inspection activities are fully documented.

Question: What about Acid Rock Drainage?

Response: All waste rock from the mine pit is stored and managed to prevent contamination of the surrounding environment. Donlin Gold has studied the chemistry of the rock to identify the risk of the rock turning acidic as it ages. All water that contacts the waste rock is collected and would be treated before being discharged into surrounding waters.

Local residents have expressed concern about contamination, so the Environmental Impact Statement will look critically at this risk and evaluate the adequacy of the plans to avoid acid rock drainage. If additional protections are needed, these may be identified as mitigation measures.