

## **Donlin Gold Project EIS**

Crooked Creek Scoping Meeting  
Crooked Creek Tribal Council Office  
Wednesday, January 15, 2013, 6 pm.

### **Attendance:**

Over 35 residents attended the scoping meeting held in Crooked Creek. Don Kuhle of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers made a presentation about the Donlin Gold Project EIS. Cooperating agencies in attendance included the BLM, EPA, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and the Village of Crooked Creek.

### **Issues Raised:**

*This is a brief summary of issues and comments. A complete Scoping Report with meeting transcriptions and detailed analysis of all comments will be issued in May 2013.*

- It is crucial that all of the affected villages have a fair opportunity to participate in the scoping meetings. Special arrangements should be made with Lime Village and Stony River.
- Will the pipeline right-of-way be fenced off so that it would block traditional land use and subsistence activities?
- Would air emissions from the mine site travel down to the nearby villages creating air quality and health problems?
- Are the river crossings by horizontal directional drilling safe? What is the risk of pipeline spills? What about the risk of fuel spills during the transfers? Are there safety regulations for the transfer sites?
- The project must include long term monitoring of air quality, water quality, and wildlife. If there are changes, then the project operations must be changed to protect these resources.
- A large project like this could have very negative “boom and bust” impacts due to sudden growth, new employment, and larger incomes. The people of Red Devil and Sleetmute should be consulted to learn from the experience of the Red Devil mine.
- There are potential benefits from the project, but also real concerns about impacts to air and water quality. The EIS should get real answers to these questions out to the people.
- We would welcome economic development to get people out of the welfare economy, but it cannot be “anything goes” just because of the jobs. There has to be safe and responsible development to avoid environmental problems.
- The mine requires a lot of water, but it should not use so much that we don’t have enough. The EIS should be sure that there is enough water left in the local streams [such as Crooked Creek].