

May 24, 2016

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Alaska District
CEPOA-RD-Gordon
P.O. Box 6898
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RE: Comments on Donlin Gold Project

Dear Sirs:

I support alternative 2

I worked in Southwest Alaska in the Nyac region for 12 years. As a result of that experience I observed firsthand the economic hardship and lack of opportunity for the people in Southwest Alaska. As Alaska's economy continues to decline with declining oil price and production, Donlin Gold adds bright new opportunity for economic opportunity for the people of Southwest Alaska.

The Donlin Gold project will provide 3000 jobs in direct employment during the construction phase estimated to last 4 years. Then it is estimated to provide 600-1200 jobs during estimated 27.5-year life of the mine. The jobs and economic benefits created by Donlin would help communities of the region sustain and fund traditional subsistence activities. And the life of a mine always seems to grow during the mining period as the mine operator gathers more information and gets a better understanding of the mine reserves. Another added benefit for the people of the region is that the job skills and training will train the workforce for futures jobs beyond the life of the mine.

An incredible amount of capital investment will be made to improve the transportation and communications infrastructure to develop and support the mine. This includes port and pipeline facilities, will add an asset to the region that will provide better services and lower costs of energy, goods, and services to local residents in the region.

This economic opportunity is not a tradeoff with the environment. Donlin has done extensive environmental and engineering studies in designing their mine plan. They put extra effort in a design to reduce the overall footprint of the mine and allow for safe water management during the mine life and post closure. After initial concerns about the amount of diesel that would have to be barged on the river, they came up with a proposal for a natural gas pipeline that would not only reduce the amount of diesel that would have to be brought in, but would also reduce air emissions. Donlin is the first large mine in Alaska that is going to use a synthetic liner under the entire tailings impoundment and is planning a dry closure of the tailings storage facility at the end of the mine life. Donlin will construct an active water treatment plant to ensure it meets water quality standards and employ state of the art

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mercury emissions controls to ensure it is below air quality standards. No shortcuts have been made in their mine plan. Donlin Gold has been transparent discussing the project plans with the people of the region holding numerous meeting in local villages and distributing materials in the Yup'ik language.

Every detail and concern of the project has been discussed openly by Donlin Gold and the comments have been used to adjust their plans to make a better plan. I have been working in Alaska since 1979 and most of my work is in rural Alaska. I've seen the struggles of rural Alaska and the lack of opportunity and what other resource development opportunities have done in other areas of the State. I have also reviewed and commented on some of the plans for other projects. Donlin Gold has gone above and beyond what I have ever seen done in transparency, community outreach, environmental planning, social planning, and cultural planning to promote their project. I very highly support Alternative 2.

Regards,



Jerry Birch