

From: [Liz Cornejo](#)
To: [donlingoldeis, POA](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment
Date: Monday, May 30, 2016 3:04:47 PM
Attachments: [Constantine Comment Letter on Donlin Draft EIS.pdf](#)

Hello,

Please accept the attached comments.

Respectfully,

Liz Cornejo, M.Sc.

Manager, Exploration & Community

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May 30, 2016

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Alaska District
CEPOA-RD-Gordon
P.O. Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

SENT BY EMAIL

To U.S Army Corps of Engineers

Re: Donlin Gold Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Please accept this letter on behalf of Constantine Metal Resources. As a member of the Alaskan mining community we would like to provide comment and support for Donlin Gold's Alternative 2 - proposed project. We believe their proposed design is a notable example of best practices in modern mining. They have demonstrated technical competence and ample consideration for safeguarding the environment while maximizing economic benefit to the region.

We are very aware of the importance of doing things right and recognize Donlin is setting a high standard for modern resource development projects. They have ensured extensive and thoughtful design planning in their project. This has been complemented by the all-encompassing and thorough analysis by you at the Army Corps of Engineers.

Donlin have demonstrated that they are committed to developing a safe and environmentally responsible project that will provide much-needed economic benefit to the Yukon Kuskokwim region and the State.

They have also shown a commitment to comprehensive community engagement and made great efforts to be transparent as the project has moved forward. Their Economic Opportunity and Workplace Development video series is a great illustration of their efforts to work with and provide benefit to the local community

Examples of their Environmentally Responsible Development include:

- Donlin Gold has conducted extensive studies to develop an environmentally and socially responsible gold mine project.
- The Donlin Gold project was designed to reduce the overall footprint of the mine and allow for safe management of the water over the mine life and post closure.
- The natural gas pipeline proposal is a result of conversations with the region about reducing the amount of diesel barges on the Kuskokwim River. The use of natural gas for power generation, instead of diesel, will also reduce air emissions.

- Donlin Gold will be the first large mine in Alaska to use a synthetic liner underneath its entire tailings impoundment. Additionally, dry closure of the tailings storage facility at the end of the mine's life is a "best practice" proposed by Donlin Gold to ensure an environmentally responsible mining project.
- The tailings dam will be constructed of engineered rock fill and use a downstream construction method that is the most stable of all tailings dam types, designed for water storage and to withstand earthquakes.
- Donlin Gold will employ state of the art mercury emissions controls to ensure mercury emissions are well below air quality standards.
- Donlin Gold will construct an active water treatment plant to ensure water that is discharged from the site is treated to meet water quality standards.

Economic Benefits to the Region include:

- Improved transportation and communications infrastructure to support the mine, including port and pipeline facilities, can provide better services and lower costs of energy, goods, and services to local residents.
- The job skills and training received while working at the mine will prepare the workforce for future work opportunities, creating a value that extends beyond the life of the mine.
- 3,000 construction jobs for four years and between 600 to 1,200 jobs for the 27.5-year estimated life of mine will have a significant and positive impact on the economy of the region and the state.
- The jobs and economic benefits provided by Donlin Gold would help sustain communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region and fund traditional subsistence activities.

These initiatives, among many others included in Donlin Gold's Environmental Impact Statement, highlight their commitment to environmentally and socially responsible operations and we reiterate our support for this project.

In closing, we are in support of responsible mineral development projects and request the Army Corps of Engineers approve Donlin Gold's Alternative 2.

Respectfully Submitted,



Darwin Green,
Vice President, Exploration