

Donlin Gold Project EIS

Kipnuk Scoping Meeting
Kipnuk High School
Friday, March 22, 2013, 1:30 pm

Attendance:

Well over 40 people attended the scoping meeting for the Donlin Gold Project EIS held at Kipnuk, Alaska on March 22, 2013. Don Kuhle with the Army Corps of Engineers, the lead federal agency, presented an overview of the proposed Donlin Gold Mine EIS Project. Among the cooperating agencies, ADHSS was attendance, while EPA and ADNR participated by teleconference. In addition, an epidemiologist from the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation was able to attend.

Issues Raised:

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

- How often will physicals (medical) be done for the workers at the mine site?
- I know that there a lot of opposition to the Pebble Mine, but very little to the Donlin Gold Mine Project. Will this affect the decision of the Donlin Gold Mine Project?
- Donlin has stated that it will build a safe mine, but my studies and research tells me that there is no safe mine in the world.
- When there is a violation of some sort, I heard that it was cheaper for a mine company to pay a fine rather than do it right the first time.
- Barges on the Kuskokwim River will affect the fish going upriver and the fry or smolt going downriver.
- During low water, the barges will scrape the bottom of the Kuskokwim River.
- I read last year that the mines on the Kuskokwim River had released a lot of mercury into the river. What kind of affect will this have on the fish and people who consume the fish?
- We heard that the BLM has done studies of mercury on the Kuskokwim River. What were the results?
- How do the Donlin Gold and NYAC mines compare? How big is Red Dog Mine?
- When the NYAC mine went into operation, people in Tuluksak (village downriver from the mine) stated that there was no more fish in the Tuluksak River.
- If the natural gas pipeline breaks or leaks, how will this be detected? If the natural gas pipeline is buried, how will leaks or breaks be detected?
- We need bigger views (posters/newsletters) of the mine site layout so we can see clearly the details of the open pit, tailings impoundment, and waste rock facility.
- We are concerned about contaminants going into the atmosphere. What kind of effects or health problems will this create?

- How much permafrost will the pipeline affect?
- A pipeline buried underground can break when the ground freezes.
- We want the Army Corps of Engineers to be neutral.