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DONLIN GOLD MINE DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
VOLUME 2, ANILCA .810
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
January 28, 2016

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 1/28/2016)

MR. BITTNER: ANILCA does require that we have a hearing, so that's why we're going to open and close an official hearing here in a moment. That's your opportunity to specifically comment on the draft analysis on subsistence impacts under ANILCA. I would ask that you keep those comments to subsistence and that you try to limit those comments and make them brief so we can give everybody the maximum opportunity either on the ANILCA subsistence comments or get back to the draft EIS comments as Keith was saying.

Like I said earlier, Section 810(a) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act requires that an evaluation of subsistence uses and needs be completed for any Federal determination to withdraw, reserve, lease or otherwise permit the use, occupancy and disposition of public lands.

Due to Donlin Gold's proposed project affecting BLM managed lands, the BLM prepared this preliminary analysis of subsistence impacts. The preliminary findings concluded that the project may result in significant restrictions to subsistence uses for certain communities.

At this time I'm officially opening a Section

1 810(a) of the Alaska National Interest Lands
2 Conservation Act hearing here in the Municipality of
3 Anchorage related to the proposed Donlin Gold Mine.
4 The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony
5 based on the BLM's preliminary analysis of subsistence
6 impacts. This is not a question and answer period;
7 however, we'll be available to visit after the hearing.

8 When providing testimony, please speak clearly
9 into the microphone, state and spell your name and
10 provide your comments. So, with that, if anybody would
11 like to provide comments related to subsistence, please
12 do so.

13 MS. OTTE: Good evening. Thank you. My name
14 is Vicki Otte. I was born in Fairbanks and raised in
15 McGrath, Alaska. I am an Athabaskan and a shareholder
16 of MTNT and Doyon Limited. MTNT is our village
17 corporation out in McGrath. I'd like to say I'm very
18 knowledgeable about the land. I recently retired from
19 MTNT after serving as their CEO for four years and 32
20 years on the board of directors working closely with
21 land issues.

22 I was raised to survive Alaska's winters by my
23 parents by subsisting off the land and I can still
24 remember the look on my parents' face when the moose,
25 the fish, the garden vegetables and the berries were

1 put away. We knew we were going to survive the winter
2 and I know that feeling to this day because I feel that
3 every fall time.

4 They also taught us how to manage the wildlife
5 in the area when we went trapping for furs so that we
6 could purchase things that we couldn't get off the land
7 and this is something that my family out there
8 practices today.

9 I also see my friends who live up by the Red
10 Dog Mine and along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline with the
11 same looks on their faces every fall. They do so also
12 and they subsist and they continue to do it. It
13 doesn't appear that those operations have impacted the
14 subsistence way of life in those areas. In fact,
15 people have provided additional benefits to the people
16 living in the area for many in the state of Alaska.

17 I think that the subsistence will not be
18 impacted. I think that we know how to manage it out
19 there. We've done it for thousands of years. Based on
20 what's gone on in other mines and other resource
21 development around the state, I think it's worth a
22 shot, especially with the hard work that Donlin and
23 Calista and the Kuskokwim Corporation and everyone else
24 working with them have done.

25 I have a lot more to say, but I'll just submit

1 it to them and thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. BITTNER: Thank you. Someone else.

4 MS. POHJOLA: Hi. I'm Margaret Pohjola,
5 originally from Chuathbaluk. I'm currently chair of
6 the Calista Corporation and I grew up in Chuathbaluk.
7 I know for a fact that when we went out berry picking
8 we didn't walk 30 miles. We got on a boat and we had
9 our areas where we went berry picking every year and we
10 didn't walk 30 miles in to go berry picking. So I
11 don't know where you got your information from.

12 I think you need to ask the people in the
13 region on the subsistence issues, subsistence hunting
14 and fishing and berry picking. Every year we used to
15 go hunting and berry picking, so we'd go out and stay
16 for a weekend or a week and we didn't go in 30 miles.
17 We were walking, so I don't know where you got your
18 information from.

19 Another thing too was the fishwheels. There's
20 I don't know how many fishwheels. I think there's
21 maybe only one or two in Aniak, so I don't know where
22 you're getting your information from. I mean in my
23 area anyway.

24 Another one is Kwethluk is not on the
25 Kuskokwim, so that's another correction you need to

1 make. Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. BITTNER: Thank you.

4 MS. GUSTY: My name is Andrea Gusty and I'm
5 vice president of corporate affairs for the Kuskokwim
6 Corporation. As you've heard tonight, we are the
7 surface landowners for 10 villages on the Kuskokwim,
8 Middle Kuskokwim area from Lower Kalskag to Stony
9 River.

10 Tonight I want to speak in opposition to some
11 of the assumptions -- a lot of the assumptions made in
12 the Section 810 analysis by you, Mr. Seppi. I think a
13 lot of it in there is your opinion rather than based on
14 fact.

15 I'm from Aniak, which is one of the communities
16 directly impacted by the mine project, directly
17 downriver from the proposed Donlin project. Although
18 Aniak is a hub for the region, there are not a whole
19 lot of job opportunities there, which means people do
20 not have a lot of money. I had to leave home after
21 college to find a job. Thankfully I found one here in
22 Anchorage, which is just one plane ride away, so I can
23 get home pretty regularly. Unfortunately for
24 subsistence activities I cannot get back with every
25 season to do the hunting, the gathering, the fishing.

1 So many of those I went to school with are
2 still in Aniak raising their families, but they're
3 struggling. They're struggling to heat their homes,
4 they're struggling to put food on the table. Here I
5 can fill up my car for about 2.50 a gallon and drive to
6 the grocery store just fine. Out there heating oil is
7 \$7 a gallon and then gas is \$7.16 a gallon. I just
8 called today in Aniak and checked.

9 It takes more just a few gallons to go out and
10 do subsistence traditional activities. You have to use
11 a snowmachine, you have to use a boat, you have to use
12 a four-wheeler. All of that you have to do to hunt or
13 pick berries and it's not cheap, it's not free. People
14 have to get money from somewhere.

15 I grew up on subsistence food and I can tell
16 you that no one out there uses a canoe and paddle.
17 That would be pretty much the only free method, right,
18 to gather subsistence food. You have to have money to
19 continue those traditions and you have to, of course,
20 have a good job to make money to do that.

21 Contrary to what you might hear in the Section
22 810 analysis, which again we believe is opinion of one
23 person in particular, this project does not pit
24 development against a traditional way of life. This
25 mine in our region would allow that way of life to

1 continue. Would allow our families to continue that
2 subsistence way of life and continue the traditions
3 that were passed down from our elders.

4 Donlin's conducted extensive studies to develop
5 an environmentally and socially responsible gold mine
6 project. Not only do we trust their ability to do it
7 right, we will make sure it's done right because Donlin
8 has worked with TKC, it has worked with our
9 shareholders, it has heard us every step of the way.
10 It's our land and we know our families will benefit if
11 the Donlin Gold Mine project goes forward.

12 They need the jobs and we at TKC are working to
13 prepare them to make sure they are ready for those jobs
14 so that anybody in the region can stay in the region
15 and live and subsist and continue their way of life.
16 It's an opportunity that I wish I had. Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 MR. WILKE: Good evening. My name is Jim
19 Wilke. I'm a lifelong Alaskan. I was born in Nome and
20 lived there for 35 years. My parents moved there from
21 central Wisconsin in 1948 when my dad was offered a job
22 in the mining field. So I wouldn't be here without big
23 mines.

24 I know earlier you spoke that we wanted to talk
25 about the subsistence issues and not the economic

1 issues, but I don't believe that you can separate the
2 two. Without a strong economy, what we're going to see
3 is what's continuing to happen and that is the small
4 villages in the Bush are going to dry up and go away.

5 Just 15 years or so ago McGrath was roughly
6 1,000 people. Now it's about 350. They can't even
7 field a high school basketball team at McGrath High
8 School. Takotna is maybe 15, 20 people. Ophir is all
9 but gone. Nikolai used to be 150 people. I think
10 there's about 70 there now. The big hubs continue to
11 grow. Bethel grows, Nome, Kotzebue, they grow.
12 Anchorage certainly grows. But the other villages out
13 there, without an economy, they're going to dry up and
14 blow away.

15 We don't need to worry about a subsistence
16 economy because nobody is going to be able to afford to
17 live there. Nobody is going to be able to go out and
18 hunt because there's no jobs. If there's no jobs,
19 there's no towns. If there's no towns, there's
20 certainly no subsistence. Schools are going to close,
21 clinics are going to close, people are going to move
22 away and that lifestyle is going to be gone.

23 Thank you very much.

24 (Applause)

25 MS. THOMAS: Hello. My name is Evelyn Thomas.

1 I live in Crooked Creek. I was born and raised there.
2 My family is basically Athabaskan, white and Yup'ik.
3 Okay. I still live in Crooked Creek. My home and my
4 property is at the mouth of the Crooked Creek itself,
5 where Crooked Creek empties into the Kuskokwim River.

6 All my life I have practiced subsistence.
7 Okay. I kind of resent it when we come here into a
8 city and we hear people with degrees talk of
9 subsistence. I learned conservation, environmental
10 protection from my great aunt, who was my grandmother.
11 She didn't speak English. I wasted nothing. But, like
12 you say today, in order for us to even go get a moose,
13 a caribou or to get some fur to put shoes on your kids'
14 feet, you have to pay the State of Alaska for a
15 license.

16 If you came to Crooked Creek in the fall time
17 when the Federal Fish and Game are in Crooked Creek to
18 give us our hunting permits on our own lands, you know,
19 we have to buy -- have a license in order to do it. If
20 you had that guy here, Robert Sundown, here right now
21 today, he would tell you that the Crooked Creek
22 Traditional Council has paid for the \$5.00 license so
23 our people can go and hunt.

24 We cannot -- all of that is taken away. It's
25 taken away and nothing has been put in place. We would

1 love to be able to go to the store and not have to work
2 out in the cold to get something to eat for dinner, but
3 that isn't always possible in the villages. You know,
4 they put it out here, they talk about subsistence, but
5 those people who are talking about subsistence for the
6 BLM or whoever, okay, they don't practice subsistence.
7 They're just spouting something off, you know.

8 If they came out here to my village and came
9 and helped me cut fish with the mosquitos flying
10 around, the pouring rain, the staying up half the night
11 so your fish don't sour if it's a rainy season. If
12 they came out and did that, I would be more inclined to
13 pay attention to what they say. But, you know, when
14 they come and tell me that they are, you know, against
15 this or that or against something for our people, when
16 we have already lost so much and we can't even practice
17 our ways without paying somebody, you know.

18 I've asked different people from the State and
19 Federal Fish and Game I want to see your bill of sale.
20 That's what you say to me when I go buy a car or a boat
21 or something. You've got to have a bill of sale. I
22 want to see that bill of sale from the Creator for that
23 subsistence stuff that you are claiming is yours and we
24 have to pay you to use. We do not trophy hunt. Not
25 for one minute do we trophy hunt. It's all about

1 what's going on the table.

2 But we can't practice subsistence anymore
3 without paying somebody and for that we need money. So
4 before anybody comes in from anywhere and tells us that
5 then first you should be out there practicing it. Look
6 at Margaret here. She knows about subsistence. Look
7 at Bobby. He knows about subsistence. Suzie knows
8 about subsistence.

9 But those people who stand here and coming from
10 somewhere that goes to an office everyday and buys
11 their subsistence at Costco does not have my respect.
12 Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. My name is (in
15 Yup'ik). That sometimes is how I understand scientific
16 language. I don't know what it is because I don't live
17 it. Basically my name is Bob Aloysius. I was born and
18 raised on the Kuskokwim River. I mean I was born on
19 the Yukon River, raised on the Kuskokwim River and
20 I've lived there all my life.

21 Contrary to what many people think, we don't
22 have a subsistence lifestyle. We have a subsistence
23 way of life dictated to us by the four seasons. We
24 don't have a lifestyle. We work our butts off every
25 season. Well, I did anyway. For the first 14 years of

1 my life I lived in a Yupiaq university that you
2 unknowing people call wilderness. Fall time, winter
3 time, spring camp and fish camp, every year for 14
4 years. All of my professors were elders, old people.
5 We never called them elders. We called them old people
6 because they're old. I'm almost becoming an old
7 person. My daughter says I am, but I'm only 80 years
8 old, so I'm not even an elder yet.

9 But there's so many misconceptions. I read
10 just a little bit a while ago about how Donlin Gold is
11 going to negatively impact our subsistence way of life
12 and I say that's not right. It's going to enhance our
13 ability to hunt, fish, trap, gather and share because
14 our young people are going to be able to secure the
15 equipment they need, boat, engine, sled, snowmachine,
16 four-wheeler, whatever and they're going to be able to
17 buy the fuel that is necessary whether to go out hunt,
18 fish, trap, gather and share.

19 The other thing about the negative impact on
20 constructing roads and projects. You should have seen
21 it 100 years ago. There was no safeguards at all,
22 nothing, and yet nature prevailed. She recovered from
23 all those so-called tragedies. With the Donlin Gold and
24 all of the Federal, State, local and whatever you want
25 to call people that are going to make sure that that

1 doesn't go haywire like it did a long time ago, I am
2 assured that the mine is going to be a sound, safe
3 success for our people. We need economic development
4 for us to enhance our ability to hunt, fish, trap and
5 gather from our Mother Earth. It will enable us to
6 hunt and fish all of the game and the fish.

7 You'll have to excuse me. I get really
8 frustrated when I have to speak to people that don't
9 know what they're talking about. We come from a land
10 that is blessed with fish, game, plants and berries.
11 Especially our ability to gather that food and share it
12 with our people.

13 On the Kuskokwim River, I don't think they even
14 -- I mean in our area I don't think there's even a
15 dozen people like Evelyn and I who speak our language
16 from here. Our language is dying and after us it's
17 going to be dead and it's a shame because our language
18 has taught us how to be a human being of the land, by
19 the land and for the land because we were born into the
20 land. We were not born in a hospital. We were born on
21 the ground. I was born in a fish camp right there.

22 So I know, K-N-O-W, capital letters, I know
23 what subsistence living is like because I practice it
24 and I make sure that my children practice it and I show
25 my grandchildren more than I do my children because now

1 I don't have to work. I can teach like we're supposed
2 to be.

3 (In Yup'ik). In your time, you will be a
4 teacher. That was the teaching of our old people.
5 They said you're going to grow up to be all these kind
6 of things. You'll grow up to be a teacher and a person
7 who speaks the truth. I know I'm speaking the truth
8 when I say that Donlin Gold is going to be a blessing
9 to our Native people in the Middle Kuskokwim River.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. DIEHL: My name is Rainy Diehl. I'm
13 originally from Aniak. I live here in Anchorage now.
14 I just wanted to say in response to a few comments
15 earlier. I grew up in Aniak. My mom grew up upriver
16 from Aniak and my grandmother grew up further upriver
17 from that. They grew up without an open pit gold mine.
18 They survived. We didn't have a cash flow economy.
19 They survived. They survived off of a subsistence
20 lifestyle. They lived off of the fish, the moose, the
21 birds, the berries. The villages didn't fade away
22 without the open pit mine. There wasn't an
23 outmigration of people and there wasn't a disappearance
24 of Native culture without the mine. We survived. We
25 still have all of that. We still have our villages.

1 We still have our culture. People still survive off of
2 fish and berries and moose and they supplement with
3 processed foods from AC.

4 My husband is also from Aniak. He's from up
5 the Aniak River and six miles downriver from Aniak. He
6 grew up about as subsistence as you come. He didn't
7 have running water. He didn't have a generator. He
8 didn't have a refrigerator, nothing. He's active duty
9 in the Navy right now and his dream has always been to
10 move home when he retires. He retires in September.

11 We have a three-year-old son and there's
12 nothing more that we want than to raise him the same
13 way that we were raised, but I'm scared to death of
14 this mine. I'm scared to move home to our river, the
15 Kuskokwim River, and raise him downriver from an open
16 pit gold mine.

17 I'm scared to drink the water. I don't know if
18 there will be carcinogens in the water table. I'm
19 scared to eat the fish. I don't know what the
20 bioaccumulation in the fish will be or the carcinogens
21 and the heavy metals. All that fuel being barged up,
22 all the fumes, all the pollution in the river
23 accumulating in the fish or possibly, God forbid,
24 having a cyanide spill or a gas spill and destroying
25 the fisheries. I'm fearful of bioaccumulation of heavy

1 metals and carcinogens in the moose and the caribou.
2 I'm scared that my son won't be able to grow up the
3 same way that we did.

4 Without the mine, Aniak will still survive.
5 Chuathbaluk will still be there. Kalskag will still
6 survive. Maybe a few people will come and go, but
7 that's how it's always been. Thank you.

8 (Applause)

9 MR. PASTOS: Good evening, everybody. Thank
10 you to the Bureau of Land Management for doing your due
11 diligence with the Alaska National Interest.....

12 MR. BITTNER: Lands Conservation Act.

13 MR. PASTOS: Lands Act. My name is Nikos
14 Pastos. I'm a person from the Confederated Salish and
15 Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation of Montana, who
16 is a heavy mineralized and exploited region at the turn
17 of the century. We've seen some of the biggest mines
18 and mining disasters the world's ever seen in my
19 homelands.

20 I was born here in Anchorage and I'm here in
21 the capacity as an environmental officer with the
22 Alaska Inter-Tribal Council. If we're simply
23 addressing some of the findings as far as there is a
24 significant impact to customary and traditional
25 subsistence resources, those are trust resources that

1 the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Land
2 Management has to take seriously, as seriously as all
3 the elders that have taken their time to be here and
4 express whether they're for or against one of the
5 largest gold mines that are proposed in the world. It
6 also would be one of the largest mercury mines in the
7 world.

8 So the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council is a 24-
9 year-old treaty organization that has resolutions on
10 file opposing all large scale industrial mineral
11 extraction. So the message is simple. I've got a
12 couple things to read. Give me a second to pull it up.
13 But the message is simple. The Alaska Inter-Tribal
14 Council opposes the building of this large a scale
15 industrial project precisely because their fundamental
16 mission statement is to protect the customary and
17 traditional life ways of hunting, fishing and
18 gathering.

19 The massive pipeline would impact subsistence
20 resources in the beginning and then the presence of it
21 will -- you know, it's hard to believe that there's an
22 oil spill or spill resources that are available. So
23 there's many criticisms. The other thing is just the
24 idea that we would put that much concentrated toxic
25 metal into our water supply.

1 The other part is the barge traffic and the
2 amount of fuel that would be potentially going up the
3 rivers. Barges leak. This is one of the last most
4 intact subsistence harvesting areas in the world. So
5 to say that there wouldn't be an impact just from the
6 barge traffic let alone a disaster that could
7 potentially happen is foolish if we look at the amount
8 of spills that happen everyday on the North Slope.

9 So Alaska Inter-Tribal Council is opposed to
10 this large a project based on what we consider to be
11 tangible impacts to customary and traditional
12 resources.

13 Also, maybe we'll get a chance to comment on
14 the environmental impact statement. Let's see. I'm
15 going to just read a couple quotes here and I'll
16 finish. So these are quotes from Yup'ik elders who
17 have sent me here authorized me to speak in a narrow
18 area to address this hearing here.

19 We have concerns about one of the world's
20 largest proposed mega gold mines. Proposed mine
21 impacts will result in permanent changes to Kuskokwim
22 River's Yup'ik people's cultural survival, subsistence
23 resources and health. The increased dredging ports and
24 barges carrying toxic materials in our Kuskokwim River
25 will negatively impact coastal river villages salmon

1 fishing, food security, drinking water, future
2 generations cultural traditions. That's a quote from
3 Ole Lake from Hooper Bay.

4 This mine will bring enormous cost to water,
5 fish, wildlife, people, migratory animal pathways with
6 massive amounts of contaminants such as mercury,
7 arsenic, selenium, that will permanently leach into the
8 Kuskokwim watershed and that's from a report that was
9 written by Oxfam America in 2004 called Dirty Metals,
10 Mining Communities and the Environment.

11 Donlin Gold is equally -- well, it was
12 supported by Barrick Gold and NovaGold resources.
13 Barrick and NovaGold both have a history of
14 contaminating people's water supplies on a global
15 scale. We also have concerns about human rights
16 implications of a mine this scale. The amount of water
17 that would be drawn, the amount of water that is
18 potentially impacted by all these metals.

19 And then I guess finally this is a quote from
20 Delice Calcote, the executive director of Alaska Inter-
21 Tribal Council. Alaska Inter-Tribal Council is
22 concerned about the worst case scenario of a dam
23 failure, barge accident along transportation routes
24 that would lead to catastrophic releases of
25 contaminants and toxic substances in the environment

1 which potentially could impact hundreds of villages
2 along the transportation route.

3 Let's see. So previous accidents have shown us
4 vulnerability, risks and threats to tribal communities
5 that hunt, fish, gather and harvest marine and aquatic
6 subsistence resources along the coast and inland
7 waters. The National Congress of American Indians has
8 a resolution opposing development of the Donlin Mine as
9 it threatens Alaska's indigenous people's traditional
10 means of subsistence and implicates violations of
11 international law.

12 So I'd like to thank the Bureau of Land
13 Management for doing your due diligence. It is a
14 sacred duty to protect customary traditional trust
15 resources. We need to further study this. Thank you
16 for the opportunity to comment.

17 (Applause)

18 MR. BITTNER: Someone else while we're still in
19 the hearing?

20 MS. ANDREW: I'm Nancy Andrew, St. Mary's
21 Native Corporation. I'm from St. Mary's, which has a
22 population of 500 people. I grew up there and we spent
23 every summer at fish camp downriver, which we had a lot
24 of rich salmon and our subsistence food, fish, moose,
25 berries, et cetera. That's like treasure in our

1 freezers. Although I'm not living in St. Mary's
2 anymore, like a lot of the villages within the Yukon-
3 Kuskokwim Delta, a lot have migrated out because of
4 jobs.

5 We're a for profit corporation. Our
6 shareholder base is a third in the villages, a third in
7 the cities and a third elsewhere. I know this is
8 relating to BLM and subsistence. Alaska Native
9 corporations, we're more holistic than that. A lot of
10 our mission statements incorporate profit, economic,
11 but we're also social, cultural and training our next
12 generation of leaders. A lot of our mission statements
13 protect our land entitlements, our subsistence way of
14 life.

15 One of the things that I'd like to comment on
16 is if we could also have another -- I saw that your
17 proposed public meetings if we could have another one
18 scheduled here in Anchorage.

19 Also the barge traffic from June 1 to October
20 1, that would be having about 50 barges per month. In
21 your statement, that would be moderate impact on
22 subsistence and especially more impact on shallower
23 water. Now I'm -- you know, a lot of us are for
24 economic development, but I also think that having less
25 of a footprint -- if you're going to have all those

1 barges traveling -- I was looking at your poster
2 sessions next door. One barge compared to four barges
3 and a larger tug, you're having a lot of disturbance
4 right behind it that's going to have an impact on fish.

5 So my alternative and I believe CIRI, when they
6 spoke earlier, having less of an impact going through a
7 haul road and also I'd really appreciate if we had
8 another meeting here in Anchorage because, you know,
9 you have all these proposed meetings. That would give
10 you time to go out and speak to everybody, but then
11 have it again at the end here in Anchorage so that we
12 have time to digest and everyone can be thoughtful and
13 come in and make these testimonies and statements.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. GREGORY: Hi. My name is Kim Gregory. I'm
17 from Aniak. I'm a shareholder. I grew up there.
18 Sorry, I'm nervous. I support Donlin. We all grew up
19 on a subsistence way of life, just like what Rainy was
20 saying. I also want to bring up Red Devil Mine. I
21 know Maver Carey brought it up earlier, but when they
22 became a mine, I think it was like 1931 or something,
23 and they didn't finish until 1971 and they didn't have
24 State and Federal regulations that they had to follow.
25 I don't know if you guys know about the mine, but it's

1 leaking into our river and we grew up eating the fish
2 and hunting in the area or the people near Red Devil.

3 I worked at Donlin in 2006, so I support it.
4 They have like safety meetings and they regularly test
5 their waters. Yeah, I do support it. That's all I
6 have to say.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. BITTNER: Anyone else during the
9 subsistence hearing.

10 (No response)

11 MR. BITTNER: As a reminder, you can still
12 comment in the draft EIS, you can still send comments
13 to us regarding subsistence. All comments related to
14 subsistence both in the draft EIS and given directly to
15 the BLM related to subsistence will be considered in
16 our analysis and our final subsistence analysis under
17 ANILCA.

18 Someone else. Okay.

19 MS. ROBERTS: I'm Tamara Roberts from Nikolai.
20 We're talking about a runway below Nikolai and above
21 Nikolai. There's already Farewell that has a runway
22 there and I can tell you that there's hunters coming
23 down now. So it's going to directly impact us out
24 there.

25 As many years as Donlin Gold has been coming

1 out to Nikolai saying they're going to hire people, I
2 think one person has been hired out of there. So
3 Donlin Gold coming out and building a pipeline outside
4 of Nikolai is not benefitting anyone from our region.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. BITTNER: Is there anyone on the phone that
7 might like to comment.

8 MR. WASSILIE: Yes, I'd like to comment. Can
9 you hear me? This is Carl Wassilie.

10 MR. BITTNER: Yes, we can hear you.

11 MR. WASSILIE: My family's fish camp is on the
12 Kuskokwim. I've got family from Nunapitchuk to
13 Napaskiak and the reality of the situation is that --
14 you know, I mean the previous mining my grandfather had
15 gotten cancer. Cancer is new. I think the Red Devil
16 mercury mine is very small amounts of mercury that will
17 be released compared to Donlin. Donlin will be much
18 more mercury.

19 My grandfather died from mercury in his -- I'm
20 almost 100 percent certain because we didn't have
21 cancer before that mercury mine came in and created a
22 lot of cancer in the communities and health defects
23 such as -- the first stage of mercury poisoning is an
24 appearance of drunkenness and that pretty much, you
25 know, what has been solidified by not only Western

1 science but observations of mercury poisoning around
2 the planet.

3 So I think it's really important to recognize
4 that not only does subsistence resources that are
5 impacted directly and indirectly from this mine will be
6 felt beyond the region. The complete -- the animals do
7 not have any boundaries first of all. So BLM is doing
8 its diligence on ANILCA and I appreciate that, but the
9 mining impacts are far beyond the scope of BLM.

10 I think that when we're looking at the true
11 history of our people, it doesn't relate to corporate
12 executives and corporate CEOs determining the future of
13 tribal communities and subsistence fish camps. They
14 have nothing to do with my subsistence fish camp. If
15 anything, they're negative. Calista has been in this
16 problem before regarding taking more water from gold
17 mining activities up in Nyaac than they could even
18 provide for the salmon even return.

19 So there's been negative impacts by gold mining
20 in the Kuskokwim Region and that these lies that are
21 being portrayed by old people and other people that are
22 ignorant to the reality of the history of the region
23 and mining need to wake up because this mine is way
24 bigger than any other mine of the dozens of other mines
25 that have operated on the Kuskokwim.

1 So subsistence impacts are real and you can't
2 see poisons always and that's -- cancer is new to our
3 people and to say that this mine will not create more
4 cancer is sickening.

5 MR. BITTNER: Thank you. Anyone else on the
6 phone?

7 (No response)

8 MR. BITTNER: Okay. Go ahead, sir.

9 MR. HUNTER: Good evening. My name is Leslie
10 Hunter. I'm from Marshall on Lower Yukon River. I'm a
11 small businessman for 40 years. A board member for
12 Calista. I've got another alternative that I think
13 Donlin Gold should deliver. You know, the railroad is
14 open, the old west, down in the United States of
15 America. I think the railroad can open up our part of
16 the country too. You can haul the natural gas, stove
17 oil, gasoline for my snowmachine and my outboard on
18 that same railroad.

19 I'd like to make another thing about
20 subsistence. I won't repeat what all the ladies were
21 talking about subsistence, but when I was a young guy,
22 maybe seven or eight years old, and that's quite a
23 while ago now, anyway I used to go subsistence and
24 commercial fishing with my dad. I used to wonder, we'd
25 see one barge coming up the Yukon, a sternwheeler mind

1 you, coming up the Yukon River or going down the Yukon
2 River.

3 That's the days we used to fish seven days a
4 week, 24 hours a day. Get up from bed if you have to,
5 run out, get in the boats and go fishing. Why one
6 barge middle of the Yukon coming up. I finally learned
7 the reason that one barge was chasing all the fish to
8 the banks. I can imagine what 50 or 60 barges a day
9 going up and down the Kuskokwim would do.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. BITTNER: Anyone else before we conclude.

12 (No response)

13 MR. BITTNER: As I was saying earlier, the
14 comment period is open both for subsistence impacts or
15 comments to the ANILCA analysis that we've preliminary
16 put out there and there's copies of it on the back
17 table, there's comment forms back there. You can
18 provide comments to the BLM and also any comments
19 related to subsistence and the draft EIS will also be
20 considered to further influence the outcome of this
21 analysis.

22 With that, thank you for your comments today.
23 The Section 810(a) of the Alaska National Interest
24 Lands Conservation Act hearing related to the proposed
25 Donlin Gold Mine here in the Municipality of Anchorage

1 is now closed.

2 Thank you.

3 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Salena A. Hile, hereby certify that the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 30 are a true, accurate, and complete transcript of proceedings IN RE: DONLIN GOLD MINE DEIS PUBLIC MEETING, VOLUME 2, ANILCA .810, transcribed under my direction from a copy of an electronic sound recording to the best of our knowledge and ability.

DATE

SALENA A. HILE

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