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DONLIN GOLD PROJECT  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
PUBLIC MEETING

QUINHAGAK, ALASKA

Taken February 16, 2016  
Commencing at 1:15 p.m.

Volume I - Pages 1 - 72, inclusive

Taken at  
Quinhagak Community/Bingo Hall  
Quinhagak, Alaska

Reported by:  
Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

Page 2

1                                   A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S

2 For U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

3       Sheila Newman

4       Special Actions Branch Chief

5       Keith Gordon

6       Project Manager

7 For U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

8       Mark Spencer

9       District Manager

10       Bruce Seppi

11       Wildlife Biologist

12 For Alaska Department of Natural Resources:

13       Jeff Bruno

14       Deputy Director

15       Office of Project Management and Permitting

16 For AECOM:

17       Taylor Brelsford

18       NEPA Advisor

19       Nancy Darigo

20       Physical Science Lead

21       Jessica Evans

22       Public Involvement Lead

23       David Every

24       Biological Science Lead

25       Donne Fleagle

          Senior Rural Outreach Lead

          Jon Isaacs

          Principal in Charge

          Amy Rosenthal

          Social Science Lead

Page 3

1                                   A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S (Continued)

2

3 Yup'ik Translator:

4       John Active

5

6 Taken by:

7       Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

8

9 BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were taken

10 at the time and place duly noted on the title page, before

11 Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary

12 Public within and for the State of Alaska.

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Page 4

1                                   P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2                                   **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Good afternoon, ladies

3 and gentlemen. We will go ahead and get started. Before

4 we get started, please note that there is headphones on

5 your tables if you would like to speak in Yup'ik or if you

6 would like John to translate for you. John will be doing

7 translations as we go through the process.

8       We have a court reporter today to document your

9 comments so that your comments are captured. And when

10 speaking, when we go through the public comments session

11 and the hearing session later, we ask that you state your

12 name clearly and then state whatever comment you have. If

13 you have cell phones, we ask, if you don't mind, if you

14 put them on vibrate so that -- Mary has to hear everything

15 that's going on in the room so she can document it. So if

16 we have too much background noise, she can't capture

17 everything.

18       With that, my name is Keith Gordon. I'm a project

19 manager with the Army Corps of Engineers. I'm the Army

20 Corps of Engineers regulatory project manager for the

21 proposed Donlin Gold Mine Project. The Army Corps of

22 Engineers is neither a proponent for nor an opponent of

23 Donlin's proposed project. We are tasked with doing

24 middle-of-the-road unbiased analyses of the proposed

25 project to facilitate the public's understanding of what's

Page 5

1 proposed, give the public the opportunity to comment on

2 the proposed project, and provide information for federal

3 and State decisionmakers who may want to use this

4 information to make decisions regarding what Donlin has

5 proposed.

6       As you can see on the screen, we have a variety of

7 cooperators that are facilitating the development of the

8 Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental

9 Impact Statement that we are here to discuss today is out

10 for public comment, and I'll go through that more in a few

11 minutes. But as you can see on the screen, you see the

12 logos of the various federal and State agencies that are

13 participating with us in the development of the proposed

14 project, as well as the tribal cooperators who are

15 assisting us in development of the potential impacts of

16 the proposed project.

17       Our intent today is to go through the status of the

18 draft EIS, give you all some information on where we are

19 at in the process, and how you can comment on this. Most

20 importantly, what we are trying to do is give you

21 information on how you can make substantive comments to us

22 that we can use in the development of the Environmental

23 Impact Statement.

24       After my opening presentation, the Bureau of Land

25 Management will do a presentation for an 810 hearing. We

Page 6

1 are going to do both the Draft Environmental Impact  
 2 Statement comment session today as well as ANILCA 810  
 3 hearing to get your comments not only on the draft EIS,  
 4 but on potential subsistence impacts for Donlin for BLM's  
 5 810 hearing.  
 6 After those presentations, we will go to a poster  
 7 session where you all can review the 12 posters that are  
 8 around the room that describe what Donlin is proposing, as  
 9 well as some of the alternatives to the project and the  
 10 primary potential impacts of the project. We have a  
 11 variety of subject matter experts in the room, primarily  
 12 with AECOM, some of the federal and State agencies who can  
 13 give you some assistance in reviewing the posters and  
 14 answer questions that you have.  
 15 After the poster session, we will reconvene to listen  
 16 to your comments on the draft EIS, and after that BLM will  
 17 go through an 810 hearing for the proposed project to get  
 18 your comments related to potential subsistence impacts  
 19 related to ANILCA.  
 20 Mark, would you like to introduce what you will be  
 21 doing by way of the 810 hearing?  
 22 **MR. MARK SPENCER:** Hi. Good afternoon.  
 23 Thanks so much for having us here. So as Keith mentioned,  
 24 in addition to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement,  
 25 Section 810(a) of the Alaska National Interest Lands

Page 7

1 Conservation Act requires that an evaluation of  
 2 subsistence uses and needs be completed for any federal  
 3 determination to "withdraw, reserve, lease or otherwise  
 4 permit the use, occupancy or disposition of public lands."  
 5 Due to the proposed project affecting BLM-managed  
 6 public land, the BLM prepared a preliminary analysis of  
 7 subsistence impacts. The preliminary findings concluded  
 8 that the project may result in significant restrictions to  
 9 subsistence uses for certain communities.  
 10 Following the DEIS public comment period today, the  
 11 BLM will conduct an 810 public hearing. And this will be  
 12 your opportunity -- it's very important -- to provide  
 13 formal comment on the potential for this project to affect  
 14 subsistence resources.  
 15 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Thank you very much.  
 16 Okay. Before we go any farther, it's beneficial to  
 17 talk about what Donlin is proposing, given that folks have  
 18 a variety of backgrounds in relation to the project as  
 19 proposed.  
 20 Donlin's proposed action is an open pit gold mine  
 21 proposed to be constructed approximately 10 miles north of  
 22 Crooked Creek, Alaska. What you can see on the screen are  
 23 the three primary components of the mine site. At No. 1  
 24 you see the pit depicted. And what Donlin is actually  
 25 proposing is to come up with two pits. The first and

Page 8

1 second pit would ultimately combine into a single pit.  
 2 That pit is approximately 2.2 square miles in size. And  
 3 depending on whether you are measuring the depth from the  
 4 pit on the low side or the pit on the high side, it's  
 5 anywhere from 1,100 to 1,850 feet deep.  
 6 The next primary component of the project at the mine  
 7 site is the tailings storage facility. Tailings are  
 8 basically crushed rock. It's what's left over after you  
 9 run ore through the mill, crush it. They are proposing a  
 10 subaqueous tailings methodology. So the tailings that  
 11 would basically fill that valley are crushed rock, water,  
 12 and some chemical constituents that are residual after the  
 13 milling process. That footprint of that tailings facility  
 14 would be about 3.5 square miles in size. It is bounded on  
 15 the downstream side, as you can see, by a large tailings  
 16 dam that would hold the tailings in place.  
 17 The third primary component of the mine site is the  
 18 waste rock facility. Waste rock is the millions of tons  
 19 of rock that is overburden that has to be removed to get  
 20 to the ore and any gold-bearing rock that doesn't have  
 21 enough gold in it to be considered ore and processed as  
 22 ore. That facility also is approximately 3.5 square miles  
 23 in size. And as you can see, there is a variety of other  
 24 facilities: The mill site that would actually process the  
 25 ore, other facilities, fuel storage facilities, et cetera.

Page 9

1 I'll briefly go through the next two primary  
 2 components of the proposed project. To scale the project,  
 3 the total developed footprint of all these facilities  
 4 combined is approximately 26 square miles regarding what  
 5 Donlin is proposing to do versus the alternatives that we  
 6 will talk about in a few minutes.  
 7 The second primary component of the project is the  
 8 transportation facilities needed to facilitate operation  
 9 of the mine if it were to be permitted. What Donlin is  
 10 proposing -- you can see that the pink blob up here is the  
 11 proposed mine site. They are proposing a 30-mile access  
 12 road down to a new port site at Jungjuk on the Kuskokwim  
 13 River. You can see a variety of little facilities along  
 14 it. Those are gravel pits, areas where they might mine  
 15 gravel to develop the road and maintain the road. There  
 16 is also a 5,000-foot airstrip that would be constructed so  
 17 they have airborne access into the facility, as well as  
 18 the camp facility that would house all the workers. There  
 19 is both a construction camp facility and operational camp  
 20 facility.  
 21 The project as proposed would store approximately 40  
 22 million gallons of diesel between the port site and the  
 23 mine site. The project would burn approximately 40  
 24 million gallons of diesel per year for the 27 and a half  
 25 years of proposed operation. Not as much during

Page 10

1 construction, which is expected to take three to four  
 2 years.  
 3 The third primary component of the project as  
 4 proposed is a natural gas pipeline. Donlin is proposing  
 5 to bury a 14-inch steel pipeline that would run 315 miles  
 6 from the western side of Cook Inlet over to the proposed  
 7 mine site through the Alaska Range.  
 8 As I mentioned, construction of the project would  
 9 take approximately three to four years; operations, 27 and  
 10 a half years; closure, there is no specific number of  
 11 years listed for closure because closure varies depending  
 12 on what we are referring to. There are some proposed  
 13 facilities in relation to the project that would only be  
 14 needed for a short period of time during operations and  
 15 would be closed and/or reclaimed before the mine stops  
 16 operating. There is a variety of -- the vast majority of  
 17 facilities that would not be closed and/or reclaimed until  
 18 after the facilities stop the mining process. And then  
 19 there is a variety of reclamation and closure that would  
 20 have to take place after the mines stop operating.  
 21 It's also important to understand that there is  
 22 monitoring that would need to go on for this project. We  
 23 are referring to it in perpetuity because at this point in  
 24 time that's what's proposed. There is -- any water that  
 25 would have to be released off of this project during

Page 11

1 operations would have to be treated to meet federal and  
 2 State standards before it can be released, and then the  
 3 pit that I showed you earlier, the mining pit, that pit  
 4 would take 50 to 55 years to fill with water post mining  
 5 after it's closed, and then that water would have to be  
 6 treated in perpetuity before it could be released into  
 7 Crooked Creek or into any other water body or watershed.  
 8 Okay. Regarding where we are at in the EIS process,  
 9 as I mentioned, the Environmental Impact Statement is a  
 10 requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act. The  
 11 National Environmental Policy Act requires that we  
 12 disclose the potential effects of the proposed project to  
 13 various affected publics, give those affected publics the  
 14 opportunity to comment on proposed projects and facilitate  
 15 more intelligent decision-making by primarily federal  
 16 decisionmakers by way of considering public input and  
 17 learning from what you all can tell us.  
 18 As the process goes forward, the Corps of Engineers  
 19 put out a Notice of Intent for an EIS in November of 2012  
 20 just to notify the public that we were starting the  
 21 process. We then did a series of scoping meetings between  
 22 December of 2012 and March of 2013. So I was not involved  
 23 in the project at that time, but the Corps, URS and a  
 24 variety of the other folks were here listening to what you  
 25 all had to say regarding potential impacts of the project.

Page 12

1 And that is a component of how we determined what needed  
 2 analyzed to date.  
 3 Since then the Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
 4 has been developed. We put it out November 27th of 2015  
 5 for comments. And right now we are in the public review  
 6 period where we are not only accepting comments on it, but  
 7 going around doing these meetings to facilitate receiving  
 8 comment. The comment closure is April 30 of 2016, so the  
 9 end of April this year.  
 10 After we review all the comments that we receive on  
 11 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, we will look  
 12 back at whether or not we adequately scoped the document  
 13 based on your comments, whether we adequately filled data  
 14 gaps on the project as proposed, whether we adequately  
 15 analyzed alternatives, whether there are other  
 16 alternatives out there that we need to consider that we  
 17 have already set aside and may need to bring back into the  
 18 picture. And then we will review your comments on the  
 19 baseline information that is in the document that we are  
 20 comparing the proposed project and all the other  
 21 alternatives to, as well as the draft analyses.  
 22 And it is very important to point out that while --  
 23 when we are talking about a Draft Environmental Impact  
 24 Statement, please understand that the draft information in  
 25 the document, the draft analyses are draft. It's not

Page 13

1 final. The draft conclusions in the document are draft.  
 2 They are not final. So we need your input to tell us  
 3 whether or not we are adequately defining the potential  
 4 effects of the proposed project.  
 5 After we go through the comments and determine if  
 6 there is any additional work we need to do, we would  
 7 develop what's referred to as a Final Environmental Impact  
 8 Statement. That basically would state the federal  
 9 agencies' final conclusions on the project. From that,  
 10 the federal agencies, specifically the Bureau of Land  
 11 Management, the Pipeline Hazardous Safety and Material  
 12 Administration, and the Army Corps of Engineers would  
 13 develop Records of Decision off of that Final  
 14 Environmental Impact Statement that define whether or not  
 15 we could issue permits for the project as proposed, issue  
 16 permits for some alternative to the proposed project, or  
 17 not issue any permits for the project at all.  
 18 And as you can see, we have just indicated the Corps'  
 19 permit decision that occurs after the development of the  
 20 Record of Decision.  
 21 Very briefly, I've only got five slides that will  
 22 break down what's primarily in each chapter in the  
 23 document, but it's beneficial to go through these quickly  
 24 just to give you an idea of what's where in the document  
 25 and why it's where it is.

Page 14

1 Chapter 1 primarily talks about the overall purpose  
 2 and need for the proposed project. The National  
 3 Environmental Policy Act requires that we define the  
 4 purpose and need for a project, but our own regulations  
 5 within the Army Corps of Engineers also define that -- via  
 6 the Clean Water Act, we need to define not only the basic  
 7 purpose for a proposed project, but the overall purpose  
 8 and need. And we use those to define what we need to  
 9 analyze, where, when and how. I won't read it.  
 10 This is the overall purpose as it's noted in the  
 11 document. One thing that is important to note is that  
 12 the -- what you will find in the written document or in  
 13 one of the CDs that defines the document, the overall  
 14 purpose has another half a sentence on the end of it that  
 15 was intended to be removed before the document went out,  
 16 but we did not get that removed.  
 17 The remaining half a sentence that is in the document  
 18 states that one of our purposes is to maximize economic  
 19 benefit for Donlin's stockholders, Calista and TKC  
 20 shareholders. The economics of this project are very  
 21 important. We understand the potential positive benefits  
 22 it could have to the Yukon-Kuskokwim River region, but the  
 23 Army Corps of Engineers, as I mentioned, is neither a  
 24 proponent for nor an opponent of the proposed project. We  
 25 are required to middle-of-the-road unbiased analyses;

Page 15

1 therefore, we cannot excessively weight economic benefit  
 2 to any one entity over another to too substantial a  
 3 degree. It has to be appropriately weighted for the  
 4 project in the process, which we feel we have done. But  
 5 we are certainly open to your comments on that. And then,  
 6 as you can see, we define the need for the project.  
 7 Chapter 2 talks about the alternatives that were  
 8 developed for the project as proposed. As I mentioned, we  
 9 went through the data gap process to determine if there  
 10 was any additional information needed. Then we went  
 11 through an alternatives analysis process where we looked  
 12 at over 300 options that could have become alternatives  
 13 for the proposed project. We winnowed that list down to  
 14 about seven alternatives that we carried forward for  
 15 detailed analysis in the project as you are currently  
 16 looking at it. And I'll go through these alternatives  
 17 very briefly with the next couple of slides.  
 18 The National Environmental Policy Act requires that  
 19 the first alternative we look at is the no action  
 20 alternative. The no action alternative is what we need to  
 21 compare all other alternatives to because the no action  
 22 alternative is the baseline as it currently exists. It's  
 23 what's out here right now without any of what Donlin is  
 24 proposing.  
 25 So if we compare the potential impacts of all the

Page 16

1 other alternatives to the no action, we should be starting  
 2 from the baseline point as we go forward to do the  
 3 analyses. Under the no action alternative, as you can  
 4 see, nothing would happen. There would be -- everything  
 5 Donlin is proposing simply wouldn't happen.  
 6 Alternatives are developed primarily to minimize  
 7 impacts, limit impacts, find a better way to do something  
 8 someone is proposing so impacts to the human and natural  
 9 environment are minimized to the greatest degree possible.  
 10 So Alternative 3A is one of those surviving  
 11 alternatives that we have carried forward for detailed  
 12 analysis. Alternative 3A is referred to as the  
 13 LNG-powered haul truck alternative. Under this  
 14 alternative, the heavy haul trucks, the 300-ton payload  
 15 trucks that would operate inside the pit to transport ore  
 16 and overburden would be powered by liquid natural gas  
 17 instead of diesel. The benefits of this are less diesel  
 18 emissions, cleaner LNG emissions coming off of those  
 19 trucks, less diesel needing to be barged to the mine site,  
 20 so less impact from barges going up and down the river,  
 21 less potential for spill, et cetera.  
 22 As you can see, it requires the addition of an LNG  
 23 plant at the mine site that Donlin isn't proposing. So  
 24 our purpose for going through these alternatives is to  
 25 just give you some information about how every time we add

Page 17

1 or change something to one alternative versus another, we  
 2 change the weight and balance of potential impacts of the  
 3 project and how we have to compare and contrast one  
 4 alternative against another.  
 5 Alternative 3B is the diesel pipeline alternative.  
 6 This alternative further reduces the potential impacts of  
 7 barging simply because, instead of Donlin building an LNG  
 8 natural gas pipeline from Cook Inlet to the mine site,  
 9 they are building a diesel pipeline. It would occupy the  
 10 same footprint, be approximately the same size, et cetera;  
 11 but it eliminates a very substantial percentage of  
 12 virtually all diesel barging on the Kuskokwim River.  
 13 There would need to be a very limited amount during  
 14 construction, but that would be virtually it.  
 15 However, what that does mean is the diesel barging  
 16 that would take place would go through Cook Inlet to  
 17 supply the pipeline. It also means the modification of  
 18 the North Foreland Barge Facility at Tyonek and the  
 19 addition of a 19-mile pipeline segment from the current  
 20 proposed initiation of the natural gas pipeline down to  
 21 Tyonek.  
 22 It also, as you can see, has a modification on  
 23 potential impacts related to spill. What happens if an  
 24 LNG gas line leaks or ruptures? Well, in that spill  
 25 scenario, virtually all of that is airborne. We are

Page 18

1 polluting the air in that sense. If we are talking about  
 2 a diesel pipeline, well, we are talking about terrestrial  
 3 or aquatic pollution either on the land surface or water  
 4 surface or both.  
 5 Okay. Alternative 4, another mechanism by which we  
 6 might limit impacts to the proposed project, I'll show you  
 7 a picture of this momentarily. Alternative 4 is the Birch  
 8 Tree Crossing port. So instead of the proposed port site  
 9 at Jungjuk, the port site would be built at Birch Tree  
 10 Crossing.  
 11 So how does this minimize impacts? Well, while  
 12 effectively all the amount of barging required to take  
 13 place would be virtually the same, it doesn't have to go  
 14 anywhere near as far upriver under this alternative as it  
 15 would under Alternative 2. Again, you can see the  
 16 proposed mine site, the village of Crooked Creek. This is  
 17 the 30-mile road down to Donlin's proposed port site at  
 18 Jungjuk.  
 19 Under Alternative 4, a port site would be built at  
 20 Birch Tree Crossing, which means instead of a 30-mile  
 21 road, there is a 76-mile road. What this does is  
 22 virtually eliminate all barging upstream of Birch Tree  
 23 Crossing. There are -- of the half a dozen spots where  
 24 we -- there is a probability that at some point in time  
 25 barges may strand just due to shallow spots on the river,

Page 19

1 five of those six spots are upstream of Birch Tree  
 2 Crossing; therefore, there is a mechanism by which you may  
 3 eliminate potential stranded barges.  
 4 As you might guess, we are modifying in this case  
 5 diesel emissions from trucks, truck noise, et cetera,  
 6 impacts from trucks because now haul trucks that would  
 7 have to run cargo and fuel from the Jungjuk port 30 miles  
 8 up this road would have to run 76 miles up this road.  
 9 So again, every time we offset or minimize impacts in  
 10 one area, we change impacts in another area. So we need  
 11 your input on whether or not we have adequately  
 12 characterized potential alternatives and adequately  
 13 analyzed the methodology by which impacts might be  
 14 eliminated.  
 15 Alternative 5A. We are going to switch now to  
 16 methodology by which impacts of the tailings facility,  
 17 that 3.5 square mile valley fill that is the crushed rock  
 18 that's left over after the milling process. Alternative  
 19 5A is a dry stack tailings methodology. What this  
 20 alternative means is that the tailings are dried  
 21 substantially before they go into the tailings facility.  
 22 So instead of subaqueous tailings, ground rock with some  
 23 quantity of water and some limited amount of chemical  
 24 constituents in it, now we have much drier ground rock  
 25 that goes into that facility. But there are a variety of

Page 20

1 offsets in relation to this proposed alternative, as well.  
 2 We noted that the tailings facility as proposed by  
 3 Donlin had a 3.5 square mile footprint. Well, the dry  
 4 stacks tailings footprint is much smaller in relation to  
 5 the tailings themselves, but they are also mounded up  
 6 anywhere from 50 to 150 feet higher than what Donlin was  
 7 proposing, so there is potential for more wind erosion and  
 8 more dust deposition of tailings dust if we went with this  
 9 alternative.  
 10 We also have an operating pond that is required to be  
 11 constructed downstream of this facility to retain all that  
 12 water that would have to be removed so we have drier  
 13 tailings. All of this water would have to be treated  
 14 before it could be released. And when we talk about  
 15 potential for spill in relation to Donlin's original  
 16 proposed tailings facility versus this facility, under  
 17 Donlin's proposal, this is the tailings facility and there  
 18 is a dam down here [indicating]. We have a single dam  
 19 holding everything behind it. In this case we have two  
 20 dams holding a tailings facility and a hydraulic dam  
 21 holding the water in the operating pond.  
 22 So again, we have to do a variation on the analyses  
 23 and look at -- compare and contrast one alternative  
 24 against another.  
 25 There were a variety of potential pipeline route

Page 21

1 alternatives considered. The surviving alternative that's  
 2 being analyzed or detailed in the proposed project is  
 3 Alternative 6A, the Dalzell Gorge pipeline route. Under  
 4 this alternative, the pipeline route would be  
 5 approximately two miles shorter. This alternative,  
 6 however, has the potential to have more impact on the  
 7 Iditarod National Historic Trail than Donlin's proposed  
 8 route. Donlin's proposed route is you what you can see in  
 9 yellow on this page. The purple is the Dalzell Gorge  
 10 route.  
 11 So as you can see, we are impacting a different  
 12 footprint. We are in an environment that is steeper  
 13 topographically, so there are potentially more engineering  
 14 challenges to construct it. Again, this alternative  
 15 versus the other just modifies potential impacts, where  
 16 and when they occur.  
 17 There has also been concerns expressed about these  
 18 pipeline routes opening up corridors for access that don't  
 19 currently exist through some of these areas. So in this  
 20 case if that did happen, with this alternative, we are  
 21 potentially opening access to this area versus Donlin's  
 22 proposed route.  
 23 Okay. That was Chapter 2 alternatives. We will very  
 24 briefly talk about Chapter 3. Chapter 3 contains  
 25 information that relates to the baseline, the

Page 22

1 environmental baseline that we defined, as well as the  
 2 analyses that was done in relation to potential impacts of  
 3 the project. To do that we are going to use barge traffic  
 4 as an example.  
 5 There are 26 major resource issues that we have  
 6 defined for analyses in the Draft Environmental Impact  
 7 Statement. These are the 14 that are potentially impacted  
 8 by barge traffic. And if you have a chance to look at the  
 9 document, when you do we would like your input on whether  
 10 or not there are other resource issues that weren't  
 11 included in the document that should have been or whether  
 12 there are more than 14 that you think barge traffic or any  
 13 other impact that we discussed in the document might  
 14 impact.  
 15 By way of the barge traffic example, before I go into  
 16 that, it's helpful if we understand barging as it  
 17 currently exists to our knowledge on the Kuskokwim River.  
 18 And it would help us if you would tell us if we do have a  
 19 reasonable knowledge of existing barge traffic on the  
 20 Kuskokwim River.  
 21 The burnt gold color on the bottom of these bar  
 22 graphs represents barging as we understand it currently  
 23 occurs on the Kuskokwim River. And as you can see on this  
 24 side of the screen, we have broken out the amount of  
 25 barging in relation to each one of the alternatives that

Page 23

1 we have considered, and we are considering construction  
 2 impacts on this side [indicating], those three to four  
 3 years it might take to construct the project and the 27  
 4 and a half years they are proposing to operate the  
 5 project.  
 6 So given that it is our understanding there is  
 7 approximately 68 barge trips leaving Bethel in any  
 8 ice-free season currently, what that means, to our  
 9 knowledge, is 68 times during a barging season, a single  
 10 tug pushing a single barge leaves Bethel and goes some  
 11 distance upstream before it turns around and comes back.  
 12 The blue that you can see on the screen depicts the  
 13 changes if the project were constructed. So effectively  
 14 what Donlin is proposing is a 179 percent increase in  
 15 barging on the Kuskokwim River. And that change goes from  
 16 a single tug pushing a single barge to a tug pushing four  
 17 barges. And we are talking only the riverine barging, not  
 18 the marine barging that would happen downstream of Bethel.  
 19 So what does that really mean? Well, let's assume  
 20 you are standing on some point on the shoreline upstream  
 21 of Bethel last summer. What you would typically see in a  
 22 24-hour period is a tug pushing a barge go past you and  
 23 make a round trip. In that 24 hours, you see a tug and a  
 24 barge go by. If you are looking at what Donlin is  
 25 proposing in that 24-hour period, you would see a tug

Page 24

1 pushing four barges three times in that 24-hour period.  
 2 So if we look at the variation in alternatives in  
 3 relation to barging on the Kuskokwim River during  
 4 construction, any one of the alternatives has the same  
 5 increase in barging if Donlin's project were permitted.  
 6 It's important to understand, however, that the graph  
 7 doesn't tell you everything. For instance, as we  
 8 mentioned earlier, while Alternative 2 and Alternative 4  
 9 both have the same amount of barging, Alternative 2 is  
 10 what Donlin is proposing. Alternative 4 is the Birch Tree  
 11 Crossing port. So while there is the same quantity of  
 12 barging, the barging doesn't go anywhere near as far  
 13 upriver under Alternative 4 simply because virtually all  
 14 barging stops at Birch Tree Crossing port under that  
 15 alternative.  
 16 If we look at the differences in barging in relation  
 17 to operations, you can see Donlin's proposal under  
 18 Alternative 2 here; Alternative 4 here, as well. That's  
 19 the largest quantity of barging. But again, under  
 20 Alternative 4, almost no barging goes past Birch Tree  
 21 Crossing and those five potential spots where barges could  
 22 strand during low water conditions.  
 23 Alternative 3A, the LNG haul truck alternative where  
 24 the haul trucks are powered by LNG instead of diesel,  
 25 therefore we need less diesel barged, well, as you can

Page 25

1 see, there is less requirements to barge diesel upriver.  
 2 Under the diesel pipeline alternative where there is  
 3 virtually no diesel barging on the river, save for a  
 4 minimal quantity during construction, what you are looking  
 5 at now under that alternative, this is just cargo barging.  
 6 There is virtually no diesel barging represented here. So  
 7 again, another methodology by which we may limit and  
 8 minimize the impacts if we have one alternative versus  
 9 another.  
 10 By way of the analyses in the document, to give you a  
 11 little bit of information on the draft conclusions in the  
 12 document, not only the draft analyses but the draft  
 13 conclusions, we are using fish impacts from barging. You  
 14 are familiar with the fact that barges can impact fish  
 15 habitat. They can disrupt fish behavior. They can cause  
 16 injury or mortality to fish. So in the draft document as  
 17 it currently exists, Donlin's proposed alternative is  
 18 expected to have moderate impacts on fish with potentially  
 19 greater impacts in the shallow and narrow segments of the  
 20 river. And again the draft analyses and draft conclusions  
 21 for each of the alternatives in each case just shows a  
 22 reduction in those potential impacts because of less  
 23 barging on the river, which also means less potential for  
 24 spill, et cetera.  
 25 This slide is intended just to give you a different

Page 26

1 breakdown of potential impacts in relation to barging. If  
 2 we go with Alternative 3A, it's important to note that the  
 3 LNG haul truck alternative, we believe it will be  
 4 available in a time frame by which we would likely be  
 5 making decisions on this project regarding whether we  
 6 could or could not permit it or would have to permit some  
 7 alternative.  
 8 Currently there is no mine that is operating its  
 9 large capacity haul trucks solely on LNG. There are mines  
 10 that are operating their large haul trucks on a  
 11 combination of both diesel and LNG, but none that are  
 12 strictly LNG. However, Caterpillar is in the process of  
 13 developing a line of trucks that operate only off LNG.  
 14 That's not a brand-new production line. It's a  
 15 modification of an existing line. So there is the  
 16 potential for Alternative 3A to be a functional  
 17 alternative in the time frame that we would be making  
 18 decisions regarding whether or not we could permit  
 19 Donlin's proposed project.  
 20 Alternative 3B, this increases air emissions because  
 21 now we are talking about all the facilities at the mine  
 22 site operating off of diesel. So instead of the vast  
 23 majority of everything at the mine site, except for the  
 24 heavy mining equipment, operating off of LNG, virtually  
 25 everything runs off of diesel, which means we are putting

Page 27

1 out more negative air emissions than under Donlin's  
 2 proposed alternative. But as I mentioned, there are other  
 3 tradeoffs that were a positive.  
 4 Under Alternative 4, again, we are limiting or  
 5 eliminating virtually all impacts to fishing above Birch  
 6 Tree Crossing but, again, we have the greater emissions  
 7 from the haul trucks going up a road that's nearly -- not  
 8 quite two and a half times as long as what Donlin is  
 9 proposing.  
 10 The last two chapters we will talk about. And I'm  
 11 almost done, folks, so this will only take a few more  
 12 minutes.  
 13 Chapters 4 and 5. Chapter 4 is cumulative impacts.  
 14 Cumulative impacts are all past, present and reasonably  
 15 foreseeable future impacts that are combined in relation  
 16 to a proposed project so that we might forecast the  
 17 potential impacts this project could have in the future.  
 18 So we're looking at what's happened in the past. We are  
 19 looking at what is currently happening. We are looking at  
 20 not only Donlin's project, but other projects that we  
 21 believe may happen in the future, combining all of that  
 22 and saying, okay, that means that over X number of years  
 23 these are the kind of changes we might expect to see in  
 24 the Kuskokwim River region if this project went forward.  
 25 So, again, we need your comments on whether or not we

Page 28

1 have adequately analyzed it, disclosed it, defined it,  
 2 et cetera, in the document.  
 3 Chapter 5 is mitigation. Mitigation effectively is  
 4 any and all mechanisms by which we might limit or minimize  
 5 potential impacts of projects. Alternatives are  
 6 effectively one form of mitigation that we use to limit or  
 7 minimize impacts of a project, but there are many others.  
 8 Design features, Donlin simply eliminating something from  
 9 their design to limit impacts is one mechanism by which  
 10 impacts from a project could be mitigated, but there are a  
 11 variety of other design features, best management  
 12 practices, operational procedures, regulatory  
 13 requirements, et cetera, that can come to bear so that  
 14 potential impacts of projects may be minimized.  
 15 As I mentioned, after we go through the  
 16 presentations, we are going to do a poster session so that  
 17 you all have a little more information on the project. Of  
 18 the 12 posters we have in the room, we have three posters  
 19 over here [indicating] that show you what Donlin is  
 20 proposing. And then we selected some of the issues that  
 21 were major concerns during scoping, whether it's water  
 22 quality, air quality, subsistence impacts, et cetera, that  
 23 are depicted on some of the other posters in the room.  
 24 And after BLM does the introduction to their hearing,  
 25 I will stop and introduce everybody that is here today to

Page 29

1 give you information just before we go to that poster  
 2 session so you know who you may want to talk to in  
 3 relation to which issue. And as you can see, the other  
 4 issues that are defined on these posters are listed here  
 5 on the screen.  
 6 Okay. The primary reason for the Draft Environmental  
 7 Impact Statement comments session today is to give you all  
 8 information on how you can most effectively comment to us  
 9 on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. It's  
 10 important to understand that the National Environmental  
 11 Policy Act process, whether it's an EIS, an environmental  
 12 assessment, et cetera, when folks comment on those, it's  
 13 not a -- we are not going through a voting process. We  
 14 are trying to disclose information, get substantive  
 15 comments to determine if we have adequately analyzed  
 16 potential effects of a project so the decisionmakers can  
 17 make intelligent decisions regarding whether a project  
 18 should or shouldn't be permitted or more alternative to a  
 19 project should be permitted.  
 20 So what does that mean by way of the comments you  
 21 might give us on this Draft Environmental Impact  
 22 Statement? What we need are the most substantive,  
 23 detailed comments you can give us. Of those 300 options  
 24 that we looked at that might be combined into  
 25 alternatives, if there is something that we set aside

Page 30

1 already that we should not have set aside, we need you to  
 2 tell us that we need to bring it back and why. And those  
 3 options are listed in an appendix in the document. If in  
 4 relation to your village or any other we have noted that  
 5 it's our understanding that you use this fish species for  
 6 subsistence and therefore it has this level of importance  
 7 in subsistence to your community and it has this level of  
 8 importance in sharing, if we got that wrong, we need to  
 9 know that we got that wrong.

10 But when I mentioned that comments on the  
 11 Environmental Impact Statement are not a voting process,  
 12 how would I address 100 comments that said I oppose the  
 13 project or 100 comments that said I support the project?  
 14 Well, if I got 100 comments that said I oppose the  
 15 project, all of those comments would be lumped into one  
 16 and our single response to all 100 statements would be  
 17 "comment noted." If I got 100 comments that said I  
 18 support the project, all 100 comments would be combined  
 19 into one, and our response would be "comment noted."

20 If I got a comment that said you eliminated this  
 21 option from analyses, but that option minimizes impacts on  
 22 our fish camps, our fish wheels, it allows us to more  
 23 consistently do subsistence fishing for this species  
 24 during this time of year, that's the kind of information  
 25 that we can use to look back to see whether we understood

Page 31

1 the potential impacts of this project in relation to that  
 2 fish species and subsistence fishing for your community.

3 So the more detailed a comment you can give us  
 4 regarding the potential impacts of a project and, frankly,  
 5 whether or not we know what we are talking about, those  
 6 are the comments that we can actually go forward with and  
 7 review our analyses and determine whether or not we need  
 8 to more adequately define baseline, whether there are any  
 9 additional studies we need to do, whether there are data  
 10 gaps we need to fill, whether there are additional  
 11 alternatives we need to look at, et cetera.

12 And while we focus -- we tend to focus on negative  
 13 comments because a negative comment means we missed  
 14 something, I'm not talking only about negative comments.  
 15 We are looking for comments negative and positive. Just  
 16 tell us what you want to tell us, and we will go from  
 17 there.

18 It is important to note that typically comments are  
 19 responded to in the Final Environmental Impact Statement,  
 20 so any comment you make would be listed and you would see  
 21 the response in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.  
 22 We are reviewing comments as they come in because in a  
 23 limited number of cases we have had folks that make a  
 24 comment that indicates that we need to address that  
 25 comment now so they can make additional comments before we

Page 32

1 get to the end of the comment period.

2 So how do you make comments? Comments can be made on  
 3 a Draft Environmental Impact Statement at this meeting.  
 4 That's why Mary is here. And as I mentioned, when you do  
 5 make comments today, we ask that you state your name, that  
 6 you speak clearly so that she can document your comment  
 7 and so that we can address it. You are not required --  
 8 this is not the only opportunity you have to comment.  
 9 Written comments can be submitted to us by April 30th of  
 10 this year. You can email comments via the website that  
 11 you see on the screen. You can mail comments to me or you  
 12 can fax comments to us at this address. You don't have to  
 13 write all this down. We have this information in the room  
 14 for you.

15 We also have additional public meetings coming up  
 16 that you can see on the screen. You are more than welcome  
 17 to attend any of these other meetings. You are welcome to  
 18 call in to those meetings. Any comment you make here  
 19 someone else can make at another meeting. You can ask  
 20 someone to repeat your comment if you choose to.

21 How do you learn more about Donlin's proposed project  
 22 and related background information, our process? The  
 23 website that you can see on the screen,  
 24 [www.donlingoldeis.com](http://www.donlingoldeis.com), contains the Draft Environmental  
 25 Impact Statement under the EIS documents tab. It also

Page 33

1 contains newsletters, project information, background  
 2 documents, presentation summaries. My contact information  
 3 is there and Ms. Amanda Andraschko's contact information  
 4 is there. She is our tribal liaison. So if there are  
 5 issues you would like to talk directly to our tribal  
 6 liaison about, certainly feel free to contact her at any  
 7 time.

8 At this point in time, BLM will take approximately 15  
 9 minutes to do the introduction to their ANILCA 810  
 10 hearing, and then I'll introduce everybody that's in the  
 11 room with us today. We will go to the poster session.  
 12 And we typically set aside about 45 minutes for you to  
 13 look at the posters before we come back and start taking  
 14 comments. And we will play that by ear. If you want less  
 15 time, if you want more time, we will just play that by ear  
 16 so that we can give you as much time to gather information  
 17 from the folks who are here today as possible, after which  
 18 we will reconvene and take your comments on the draft EIS,  
 19 and then we will do the ANILCA 810 hearing.

20 For folks on the phone, we have got about a 15-minute  
 21 presentation on the ANILCA 810 hearing, and then we will  
 22 just check in with you from time to time to let you know  
 23 how soon we will be getting back to initiating comments.  
 24 And if possible, we will see if we may be able to take  
 25 some comments from the phone while we are doing the poster

Page 34

1 session, but given the venue, Mary may not be able to hear  
 2 you, so we may have to hold that until --  
 3 **MR. TAYLOR BRELSFORD:** I don't think there  
 4 is anybody dialed in on the phone. You might verify that  
 5 at this point.  
 6 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Is there anybody on the  
 7 phone that would like to make comments either on the  
 8 ANILCA 810 hearing or the DEIS comments session? Okay.  
 9 One other thing that was pointed out that would help  
 10 that if I clarify, any comment you make on the draft EIS,  
 11 whether it's subsistence or not, we will review in  
 12 relation to the draft EIS. Any comment you make -- the  
 13 810 hearing is primarily related to subsistence comments,  
 14 so you can make your subsistence related comments during  
 15 the 810 hearing and we will also consider those in  
 16 relation to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. You  
 17 can make them during the Draft Environmental Impact  
 18 Statement comment session, and BLM will also consider  
 19 those in relation to their 810 hearing. So you don't have  
 20 to duplicate your comment, or you may. It's your choice.  
 21 At this point Mark or Bruce, who is -- Mark is going  
 22 to do the 810 hearing.  
 23 **MR. MARK SPENCER:** Okay. So as I  
 24 mentioned earlier, and Keith did also, BLM has completed a  
 25 preliminary analysis of subsistence impacts from the

Page 35

1 proposed Donlin Gold Mine as it's described in the draft  
 2 EIS. And through that process, BLM determined if a  
 3 significant restriction of subsistence uses and needs may  
 4 result from any one of the alternatives discussed in the  
 5 EIS, including their cumulative effects.  
 6 So BLM used three factors as prescribed by ANILCA  
 7 Section 810 for the analysis and considered that the  
 8 project caused one or more of the three items up there in  
 9 front of you.  
 10 First of all, the reduction in the availability of  
 11 subsistence resources caused by a decline in the  
 12 population or abundance of harvestable resources. So this  
 13 may include, for example, fish, wildlife, edible plants,  
 14 house logs, firewood, or drinking water. Factors that  
 15 might cause a reduction include adverse impacts on  
 16 habitat, direct impacts on resources, increased harvest  
 17 and increased competition from nonsubsistence users.  
 18 Second item, reductions in the availability of  
 19 resources for subsistence purposes caused by alteration of  
 20 their distribution, migration patterns or location.  
 21 And then last, limitations on access to subsistence  
 22 resources. Access. And that includes limitations from  
 23 increased competition for the resources or physical and  
 24 legal barriers.  
 25 So as you all know from Keith's presentation, Donlin

Page 36

1 Gold, LLC submitted applications to the Bureau of Land  
 2 Management for a right-of-way grant in July 2012 and  
 3 January 2013. And Donlin Gold is proposing to construct  
 4 and operate, maintain and close a 315-mile long, 14-inch  
 5 diameter natural gas pipeline, buried. And that also  
 6 includes an associated fiberoptic cable from the west side  
 7 of Cook Inlet to the mine site near Crooked Creek and  
 8 within the Kuskokwim watershed.  
 9 So this proposed 315-mile long pipeline, the  
 10 right-of-way would cross about 97 miles of BLM land north  
 11 and west of the Alaska Range in the Kuskokwim watershed.  
 12 And that represents about 30 percent of the total  
 13 right-of-way length, with State of Alaska lands  
 14 constituting about 65 percent and then ANCSA corporation  
 15 lands, that's just about 3.7 percent. And when we say  
 16 ANCSA corporation lands, we are referring to Calista, The  
 17 Kuskokwim Corporation and Cook Inlet Region.  
 18 So the pipeline is part of the energy supply  
 19 infrastructure for a proposed open pit gold mine which was  
 20 talked about earlier. It's located approximately ten  
 21 miles north of the village of Crooked Creek. And in  
 22 addition to the pipeline and the mine site, the Donlin  
 23 Gold Project will include transportation infrastructure  
 24 for barge transportation that Keith talked about on the  
 25 Kuskokwim River.

Page 37

1 Two of the six alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS  
 2 would affect the pipeline component. And Alternative 3B  
 3 would substitute a diesel pipeline, as discussed earlier,  
 4 for the natural gas pipeline within the same planned  
 5 right-of-way.  
 6 Alternative 6A would route a portion of the pipeline  
 7 through the Dalzell Gorge, and that would affect about 46  
 8 miles of the State of Alaska lands.  
 9 So the proposed Donlin Gold Project is evaluated in  
 10 three components: The mine site, which was previously  
 11 discussed, the transportation infrastructure, and the  
 12 pipeline. So although the permit application to the BLM  
 13 focuses on the 97-mile BLM-managed portions of the  
 14 pipeline right-of-way, the National Environmental Policy  
 15 Act prohibits splitting a project into smaller components  
 16 in order to minimize the estimate of environmental  
 17 impacts. So for that reason, this review of impacts to  
 18 subsistence users will address the entire project and not  
 19 just a portion, the 97 miles that affects BLM through its  
 20 permitting process.  
 21 So we have the pipeline route near Windy Fork of the  
 22 Kuskokwim River, if you can see that in the back. And  
 23 that proposed pipeline includes a 150-foot-wide cleared  
 24 construction right-of-way; 12 air strips ranging from  
 25 3,500 to 5,000 feet long, nine of which would be newly

Page 38

1 built along the pipeline right-of-way during construction;  
 2 nine construction camps, which is about 233 cleared acres;  
 3 65 cleared pipe storage areas; an estimated 70 gravel pits  
 4 ranging from one to 50 acres in size; and the pipeline  
 5 would cross seven watersheds involving 396 stream  
 6 crossings, 77 of which are anadromous, which are  
 7 salmon-rearing streams.  
 8 So this is the proposed pipeline route, as I  
 9 mentioned just a moment ago, in the Windy Fork portion of  
 10 the watershed, and that's also in Game Management Unit  
 11 19C.  
 12 So the proposed mine site -- and you saw a diagram of  
 13 that earlier -- that includes the waste rock facility that  
 14 was discussed that would fill about 2,240 acres of  
 15 American Creek, a tailings storage facility that would  
 16 fill in 2,351 acres of Anaconda Creek, and the tailings  
 17 storage facility would be contained behind a 464-foot-high  
 18 dam.  
 19 The mine has two pits. The ACMA pit would be  
 20 approximately 1,850 feet deep from the high wall, and the  
 21 Lewis pit would be about 1,653 feet from the high wall.  
 22 So the two pits would merge at the surface into one open  
 23 pit, which is about 2.2 miles long by one mile wide near  
 24 the end of mining operations. At mine closure, runoff  
 25 from the TSF would be pumped into the open pit, and the

Page 39

1 pit is estimated, as mentioned earlier, to take about 50  
 2 years to fill. And pumping would be required to prevent  
 3 it from overflowing into Crooked Creek and the Kuskokwim  
 4 River watershed.  
 5 The pit water may not meet water quality standards.  
 6 It would need to be treated before it could be released  
 7 into Crooked Creek. A water treatment plant would be  
 8 constructed 50 years after mine closure, and water from  
 9 the pit lake would have to be pumped and treated into the  
 10 wastewater treatment plant into perpetuity to prevent  
 11 untreated pit water from flowing into Crooked Creek and  
 12 the Kuskokwim River or into the Kuskokwim River. So the  
 13 proposed mine site, the pit there in front of you.  
 14 The proposed transportation facilities on the  
 15 Kuskokwim River, so that component includes construction  
 16 of expanded port facilities at the Bethel cargo terminal  
 17 and a new port site at Jungjuk Creek and Kuskokwim River  
 18 with 2.8 million gallons of fuel storage, a 30-mile-long  
 19 mine access road from the Kuskokwim River to the mine, and  
 20 that's with 45 stream crossings and 13 gravel pits and a  
 21 5,000-foot airstrip at the mine. As to -- and that is in  
 22 Game Management Unit 19A.  
 23 Okay. So the proposed port site at Jungjuk Creek, so  
 24 barges would supply the mine with fuel and cargo and  
 25 involve 64 cargo barge round trips and 58 fuel barge round

Page 40

1 trips, 122 total trips annually, from the Bethel port site  
 2 to Jungjuk port site during a 110-day shipping season.  
 3 And that runs from June 1st to October 1st. So river  
 4 barges would be transported by a tug pushing a four-barge  
 5 configuration, as mentioned earlier, for each trip. And  
 6 each fuel barge trip would carry about 1.29 million  
 7 gallons of diesel fuel. So the port at Jungjuk would  
 8 continue to be needed to supply fuel and cargo to the  
 9 wastewater treatment plant treating water from the pit  
 10 lake into perpetuity.  
 11 So this is the creek [indicating] where the proposed  
 12 port and fuel storage facility would be constructed in  
 13 Game Management Unit 19A.  
 14 The preliminary analysis of the impacts to  
 15 subsistence based on the alternatives outlined in the  
 16 draft EIS include all six alternatives outlined in the  
 17 EIS. And it can be found in Appendix N of the draft on  
 18 page 409 of the .pdf. That's where you can find it. And  
 19 that's in Appendix M through O section of the table of  
 20 contents. And we also printed copies of the subsistence  
 21 impacts analysis which are also available at the sign-in  
 22 table.  
 23 The testimony and input from 11 communities where  
 24 public hearings will be held on impacts to subsistence  
 25 from the Donlin Gold Project will be analyzed and included

Page 41

1 in a final -- because we are only on the preliminary -- a  
 2 final ANILCA 810 subsistence impact evaluation, and that  
 3 will also be included in the final EIS.  
 4 So here is the evaluation of the analysis. That  
 5 evaluation, again, focuses on the Donlin Gold Project.  
 6 And it looks at the three components we just talked about:  
 7 The mine site, the natural gas pipeline, and the  
 8 transportation infrastructure. So the subsistence  
 9 evaluation was done for each project component and looked  
 10 at the effects on subsistence users, uses and needs.  
 11 So for the mine site, the first component, villages  
 12 closest to the mine would potentially experience the most  
 13 effects to subsistence, including Napaimute and especially  
 14 Crooked Creek. Mine activities -- such as ore trucks in  
 15 the mine, trucks on the port road, drilling, blasting,  
 16 power generation and port site activity are some  
 17 examples -- will likely change the distribution of  
 18 wildlife species important to subsistence. That includes,  
 19 for example, moose, caribou and fur bearers. Would be  
 20 long-term and would cause potential impacts during the  
 21 construction phases and during mining activities  
 22 throughout the life of the mine.  
 23 Areas important to Crooked Creek for berry picking,  
 24 wood cutting and hunting would be directly affected by the  
 25 mine. And adjacent areas would potentially be

Page 42

1 contaminated with dust emissions containing various  
 2 particulate materials from ore processing and from trucks  
 3 on haul roads and access roads.  
 4 This can make the berry picking areas undesirable or  
 5 unusable for subsistence users, and water released from  
 6 the mine during operation has the potential to affect  
 7 salmon or resident fish populations important to  
 8 subsistence, as well as aquatic food web in Crooked Creek  
 9 and the Kuskokwim River.  
 10 After mine closure, the pit lake would fill with  
 11 untreated water that would not meet water quality  
 12 standards that could potentially impact fish and wildlife.  
 13 A water treatment plant would be built 50 years after  
 14 mine closure, as we talked about, to treat water from the  
 15 pit that may or may not meet water quality standards for  
 16 fish, and possible water releases from the mine during  
 17 operations, after mine closure when the water is being  
 18 pumped into the pit, and after the water treatment plant  
 19 is constructed, may have the potential to impact fish in  
 20 Crooked Creek and the Kuskokwim River, which could result  
 21 in significant restrictions to subsistence resources.  
 22 Potential runoff from the tailings dam and pit lake  
 23 would have the potential to contaminate fish resources  
 24 important to subsistence in Crooked Creek and the lower  
 25 Kuskokwim River into perpetuity, impacting subsistence

Page 43

1 fish resources important to all communities from Crooked  
 2 Creek to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River.  
 3 For the natural gas pipeline, the second component  
 4 that was analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact  
 5 Statement, the potential effects to subsistence from  
 6 construction and operation of the natural gas pipeline  
 7 would affect the villages of Tyonek, Skwentna, Nicolai,  
 8 McGrath, Takotna, as well as the downriver villages of  
 9 Sleetmute, Stony River, Georgetown and Crooked Creek.  
 10 During construction, the effects of clearing the  
 11 right-of-way, trenching, drilling and the presence of  
 12 machinery, pipeline transport, workers in construction  
 13 camps and infrastructure on and along the pipeline  
 14 right-of-way would cause a redistribution of moose,  
 15 caribou and fur bearers and negatively affect access to  
 16 subsistence use areas and the availability of subsistence  
 17 resources.  
 18 During mine operations, the airstrip that would  
 19 remain along the right-of-way at Farewell would  
 20 potentially increase access to subsistence resources by  
 21 nonlocal residents using aircraft and increase competition  
 22 for the subsistence resources along and adjacent to the  
 23 pipeline right-of-way. Villages negatively affected by  
 24 increased access to and competition in the area include  
 25 McGrath, Nikolai and Takotna.

Page 44

1 And then the third component is the transportation  
 2 infrastructure that was discussed in detail earlier when  
 3 Keith spoke. The potential effects to subsistence from  
 4 transportation infrastructure, including barging of cargo  
 5 and fuel and the construction of a port at Jungjuk and the  
 6 Kuskokwim River would affect all villages on the river  
 7 from Crooked Creek to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River.  
 8 Impacts from barging include displacement and  
 9 disruption of subsistence activities by barge traffic or  
 10 reduced access to subsistence fishing activities and  
 11 sites, such as set nets, fish wheels and processing rafts  
 12 along the river. And subsistence fish resources such as  
 13 salmon and resident fish species populations may also be  
 14 negatively affected by the magnitude and intensity of the  
 15 barge traffic proposed in Alternative 2.  
 16 Effects to fish may increase when river water levels  
 17 are low as barge rafts will need to be uncoupled and  
 18 barges towed individually or in pairs or lighter barge  
 19 loads per trip will be required to navigate to the port,  
 20 and this would require additional barge round trips on the  
 21 river and potentially increase impacts to subsistence  
 22 fishers on the Kuskokwim River and to subsistence fish  
 23 resources.  
 24 So the findings. This evaluation concludes, then,  
 25 that Alternative 2 may result in significant restrictions

Page 45

1 to subsistence uses for the communities of Crooked Creek  
 2 and Napaimute. In relation to the mine site, the  
 3 communities on the Kuskokwim River from barge traffic on  
 4 the river, and that includes Bethel, Napakiak, Napaskiak,  
 5 Oscarville, Kwethluk, Akiakchak, Akiak, Tuluksak, Upper  
 6 and Lower Kalskag, Aniak, Napaimute and Crooked Creek and  
 7 the communities of McGrath, Nicolai and Takotna for  
 8 increased access and competition from nonlocal users of  
 9 the Farewell strip along the pipeline right-of-way.  
 10 In addition, potential spill scenarios involving  
 11 ocean and river barge release of diesel fuel, cyanide,  
 12 mercury, tailings dam failure, and the release of  
 13 untreated water from the pit lake and tailings dam after  
 14 mine closure may result in significant restriction to  
 15 subsistence uses for the Kuskokwim River for the  
 16 communities listed above.  
 17 So, when are subsistence hearings required? The BLM  
 18 has found in the preliminary 810 evaluation that  
 19 Alternatives 2, 3A, 3B, 4, 5A, and 6 and the cumulative  
 20 case considered in the draft Donlin Gold EIS may  
 21 significantly restrict subsistence uses. These findings,  
 22 then, require that BLM conduct hearings to solicit public  
 23 comments from communities and subsistence users under  
 24 ANILCA Section 810, which is (a)(1) and (2), in  
 25 conjunction with the release of this Draft Environmental

Page 46

1 Impact Statement.  
 2 So that's why we are here tonight and why this  
 3 analysis will be presented in 11 communities that will be  
 4 potentially impacted by the proposed project.  
 5 So we will conduct 810 subsistence hearings and  
 6 gather testimony tonight after the draft EIS comment  
 7 session, and we welcome your testimony. Following the  
 8 public hearing -- and this is important -- a finding may  
 9 be revised to "will not significantly restrict" based on  
 10 changes to alternatives, new information, or new  
 11 mitigation measures resulting from the hearings. If the  
 12 finding of "may significantly restrict" subsistence uses  
 13 is not revised or the impacts can't be mitigated, a  
 14 three-part determination must be made before the action  
 15 can be authorized.  
 16 So what do these findings mean and what happens next  
 17 under ANILCA? An 810(a)(3) determination section is to be  
 18 prepared only when there is a finding of "may  
 19 significantly restrict" subsistence uses for the selected  
 20 alternative or action. And the determination will  
 21 separately address each of those three required items that  
 22 we just talked about under 810(a)(3) and state why the  
 23 proposed action is necessary and how the action complies  
 24 with each requirement.  
 25 And the three items that require determination are:

Page 47

1 No. 1, why such a significant restriction of subsistence  
 2 uses is necessary and how it is consistent with the sound  
 3 management principles for multiple use on BLM's managed  
 4 public lands. Second item is how the proposed activity  
 5 will involve a minimal amount of public lands necessary to  
 6 accomplish the purposes of the project. And then last,  
 7 what reasonable steps will be taken to minimize adverse  
 8 effects upon subsistence uses and resources resulting from  
 9 the project. After compliance with the 810 process, a  
 10 manager may proceed with the action.  
 11 So comments. Very similar to how Keith described the  
 12 process for providing comments on the EIS, subsistence  
 13 comments, if you would like to provide comment on them  
 14 relative to the EIS, we certainly will look at those as  
 15 well as any formal testimony you would like to provide on  
 16 the 810 analysis. So when commenting on subsistence  
 17 impacts, please consider what additional specific  
 18 information about how the proposed mine and the project  
 19 would affect abundance or availability of subsistence  
 20 resources important to you or how it would affect access  
 21 to subsistence resources important to you.  
 22 How to comment. Comments can be, of course, given  
 23 tonight after the testimony on the EIS. And they also can  
 24 be written or mailed, faxed or emailed at the addresses on  
 25 the screen there.

Page 48

1 So we will be available during the poster session  
 2 along with the staff that Keith will introduce to answer  
 3 any questions that you all might have. Thank you.  
 4 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay. Thank you, Mark.  
 5 We will start with introductions now before we start with  
 6 the poster session. With me here is Ms. Sheila Newman.  
 7 Sheila Newman is my supervisor. She's the Special Actions  
 8 Branch Chief for the Alaska District regulatory division.  
 9 Any recommendation I would have in relation to this  
 10 project regarding permitting the proposed project,  
 11 permitting an alternative or not permitting the project at  
 12 all would next go to and through Sheila before it goes up  
 13 the chain of command to the Alaska District Commander, who  
 14 is the individual who would actually make the decisions  
 15 for our agency. But as I mentioned -- or I'm sorry -- I  
 16 did not mention tonight, there are over 100 permits and  
 17 other authorizations needed for Donlin's proposed project  
 18 to go forward, both federal, State, tribal, local.  
 19 Jon, why don't we start with any other federal agency  
 20 in the room. Bruce, I know that Mark had introduced you.  
 21 Would you introduce yourself and your role?  
 22 **MR. BRUCE SEPPI:** Good afternoon. I'm  
 23 Bruce Seppi. I'm a wildlife biologist and subsistence  
 24 coordinator for the BLM, and I had written the impact  
 25 subsistence analysis.

Page 49

1 **MR. JEFF BRUNO:** My name is Jeff Bruno.  
 2 I'm here with the State of Alaska DNR, Department of  
 3 Natural Resources. I'm really here to answer any  
 4 questions you have about State permitting. A lot of the  
 5 State permitting happens on a similar timeline as the  
 6 federal permitting, so they don't always have the answers  
 7 to that, so my goal is really to answer as many State  
 8 permitting questions as possible. Because I'm trying to  
 9 answer all the State questions, I might not have the  
 10 answers at fingertips, but I will try to at least track it  
 11 down if I can't answer it today.  
 12 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Jon, would you  
 13 introduce AECOM staff and their roles?  
 14 **MR. JON ISAACS:** Good afternoon. My name  
 15 is Jon Isaacs. I'm from Anchorage. I'm a senior leader  
 16 with the AECOM team that wrote the draft EIS. We have a  
 17 couple of specialists today who will be available to  
 18 answer some questions for the poster session. One is  
 19 Taylor Brelsford, who is a senior cultural anthropologist,  
 20 has lot of experience in the region. We also have Amy  
 21 Rosenthal, who is the leader for the subsistence and  
 22 socioeconomics session. We have Dave Every, who is the  
 23 leader for the fish and wildlife section.  
 24 We have Nancy Darigo, who is the leader for the  
 25 physical environment and looks at things like water

Page 50

1 quality and geology and tailings dam. We have Donne  
 2 Fleagle in the back, who is one of our senior community  
 3 outreach people. And we have Jessica Evans, who is one of  
 4 our staff members who does a lot of work in many different  
 5 ways on this EIS. I don't think I've missed anybody.  
 6 Could I say maybe a little bit about the poster  
 7 session? So what we would like to do is we have six  
 8 posters around the wall. If you looked at the EIS, you  
 9 know it's a very big document. There's a lot of  
 10 information in it. It's not easy to read at all. And  
 11 part of the reason for that is we have taken a very hard  
 12 look at a lot of the resources that are potentially  
 13 affected by the mine and what those effects might be.  
 14 So we have prepared some posters that kind of  
 15 summarize some of those findings. Some talk about what's  
 16 the nature of the project, what's the mining operation,  
 17 what's the pipeline and power source, what's the  
 18 transportation. We have some that talk about sort of the  
 19 tailings dam, what that's like, what are some of the  
 20 issues with air quality and water flow. We talk about  
 21 some risks. What are the hazardous chemicals that are  
 22 being used? What's the spill risk?  
 23 We talk about fisheries, which is a really important  
 24 issue for this project. And what are some of the barge  
 25 traffic issues related to fisheries. And then finally we

Page 51

1 talk about subsistence impacts and we talk socioeconomics.  
 2 So we hope by taking, I think, 30 minutes, Keith, that  
 3 this is an opportunity that you can come take a look at  
 4 the posters. You can ask our staff about some of the  
 5 findings that we have made, some of the things we have  
 6 looked at. That will give you some information that will  
 7 help you make comments to both the Corps of Engineers and  
 8 to the BLM when it's time for the comment period.  
 9 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay. We will go to  
 10 the poster session now. And as mentioned, if you need  
 11 less than 30 minutes, that's fine. If you would like a  
 12 little more, that's fine. We do need to leave time in the  
 13 day for both formally capturing your comments as well as  
 14 the 810 hearing. So please just -- Dave, go ahead.  
 15 **MR. DAVE EVERY:** It might be worth  
 16 mentioning that this is a great opportunity to stretch  
 17 your legs a little bit. We have been sitting for a little  
 18 while. And like the guy carrying truckload of canaries  
 19 that was too much weight, if you keep them flying,  
 20 everything works. So if we keep milling around, then  
 21 people can get to the posters. Thanks.  
 22 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay. Thanks very  
 23 much.  
 24 (Off the record.)  
 25 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay. Why don't we

Page 52

1 start with No. 1. And as we mentioned, if you don't mind,  
 2 if you could state your name for the record and then go  
 3 ahead and make your comment.  
 4 **MS. GRACE HILL:** I'm No. 1. And I'm Grace  
 5 Hill, and I'm from this village. We have been having  
 6 these meetings, and for some of us -- you know, everybody  
 7 does not agree with having Donlin, and I'm one of those  
 8 people. It's not the -- it's not being negative for  
 9 anything, but I'm more concerned of the impacts it might  
 10 have like -- like what you guys were saying on  
 11 subsistence, on the barges going up 24/7 and all that  
 12 stuff that's -- the effects it will have on the  
 13 environment of our people, especially subsistence.  
 14 And mainly that is our concerns because, you know,  
 15 our people live on their lifestyles, fish, berries, greens  
 16 and everything. So I'm speaking on behalf of all the  
 17 people that do that. And I know it's a great opportunity  
 18 for them to get jobs, but still we are at the risk of  
 19 destroying our land if an accident happens. And all those  
 20 things, you know, we don't know. You know, anything can  
 21 happen. So that has been mainly my concerns is about all  
 22 the impacts that it will have on our land.  
 23 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay. Thank you very  
 24 much. No. 2.  
 25 **MS. DONNE FLEAGLE:** Bavilla Small has No.

Page 53

1 2.  
 2 **MR. BAVILLA SMALL:** Yeah, well, I'd like  
 3 the pipeline to be not underground but up above the  
 4 ground, so we will know if it will leak on the natural gas  
 5 deal. It will be pretty hard to find in the ground.  
 6 That's all I want.  
 7 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay. Thank you very  
 8 much. No. 3.  
 9 **MR. WILLY KEPPEL:** My name is Willy  
 10 Keppel. And I have a lot of concerns about the mine. I  
 11 can see some positive points to the mine. And probably  
 12 the one positive thing about it may be a source of gas  
 13 piped into the area that could be barged down to the  
 14 villages. But if you are going to put a pipe that far, it  
 15 seems like you should stick a two-inch pipe alongside of  
 16 it just to pump the gasoline so they are not having to  
 17 bring it all the way around out through here when we could  
 18 bring it right down through there. But that's the only  
 19 thing positive I see about the mine. That would be a  
 20 change. I don't know what number that was.  
 21 I've lived in the delta for 30 years, made a living  
 22 as a big game guide, hunted every ounce of the foothills  
 23 where the pipeline will come through there. Guided sheep.  
 24 I don't know how many sheep, caribou and moose I've seen  
 25 drop with clients through all that area. I don't see

Page 54

1 anything positive about opening up an area that may have  
 2 access to unlimited amount of outsiders.  
 3 How many airports did you say were going in,  
 4 something like 12 along that thing? Are they going to be  
 5 shut off to protect the people because the resources  
 6 aren't that great? You open up airports where the  
 7 airplanes are out there sitting, Merrill Field, Anchorage,  
 8 Wasilla, you know. I mean, it opens too much. It's too  
 9 big a strain and too big a hazard to the subsistence of  
 10 the indigenous people in the area. It's a total negative  
 11 bringing more.  
 12 There is plenty of people that fight for the  
 13 resources, especially the fish. When you look at Bethel  
 14 having 30 years ago was 2,000 people when I moved to  
 15 Bethel. Now it's pushing upwards of 6,500, maybe.  
 16 And the battle over the king salmon, which affects  
 17 everybody out here one way or the other. We are all  
 18 affected. And there is nothing that's going to happen  
 19 that's good about running a quarter mile long line of  
 20 barges three times a day up that river with the props  
 21 washing.  
 22 Now, if you talk to the biologists in Bethel, which I  
 23 know them all, they will tell you that the salmon smolt  
 24 live in the river for a year and they stay right along the  
 25 shoreline. Well, that's where the big waves are crashing

Page 56

1 mine can't even come past Tuluksak. If everything went to  
 2 a borough to be able to tax the mine and the idiots in  
 3 Bethel city council seems to think they can get taxation  
 4 out of this, first it would take an act of the Alaska  
 5 Legislature to change the laws to where the boundaries for  
 6 boroughs have already been put in place. There is no  
 7 taxation for this.  
 8 If you live in Bethel, they don't even want the  
 9 addition for the expansion of the port which would go in  
 10 just below the tank farms that are on the river. They are  
 11 going to stick out in the river a couple hundred feet.  
 12 Going to change the direction of the fish. That's one of  
 13 the most popular places to drift for your subsistence  
 14 fishing. So that part hasn't been done.  
 15 But the part that I think that's probably the most  
 16 insulting of all is every Yup'ik out here, you should pay  
 17 real close attention. Donlin only wants to put  
 18 \$300,000,000 up for bond. 300. Yet this mine, the water  
 19 is going to have to be treated off of it so that it  
 20 doesn't kill the fish in the river, it doesn't harm the  
 21 way -- supposedly harm the way the fish will be able to  
 22 integrate in the river in perpetuity.  
 23 And I know my good friend John back here can say it  
 24 in Yup'ik for the Yup'ik Elders. But that means forever.  
 25 And what would 300,000,000 bucks do? It wouldn't even

Page 55

1 and banging. That's where your disturbance of the silts  
 2 are going to be the heaviest is along the edges. How many  
 3 smolt are those barges going to kill.  
 4 The other one, we just went through an earth shaker  
 5 the other day. We have a daughter in Anchorage that got  
 6 woke up, and it was clear down there by Homer. Our dogs  
 7 out here woke up in the middle of the night, and I  
 8 couldn't figure out what had them going. Well, they could  
 9 feel it out here. It's what got them up the same time  
 10 they said it was.  
 11 I lived in Montana when the big quake in west  
 12 Yellowstone happened. When a tectonic plate shift  
 13 happens, river courses change, mountains come down. It  
 14 created Hebgen Lake, which is a beautiful lake today, but  
 15 thank God they didn't have mining piles that could go  
 16 sliding off and completely kill everything in an entire  
 17 river system where so many people are so dependent, and  
 18 there is no guarantee in life that there won't be a  
 19 mine -- or an earthquake out here that will shake those  
 20 tailings piles right out into the Kuskokwim River. It  
 21 would be the worst disaster I could possibly think of for  
 22 this area.  
 23 I love it out here. I know the money is not going to  
 24 happen on this end. It's the upriver people pushing for  
 25 it, but at the same time the tax base can't -- from that

Page 57

1 begin to clean it up, never mind would it be able to  
 2 guarantee that you are going to have anything in your  
 3 freezer out of that 300 because that's going to go into  
 4 the cleanup. Where is the money going to be to help you  
 5 eat and survive if it's not there? Where is it coming  
 6 from? And so you have a lot of things to worry about and  
 7 very little to gain.  
 8 And the biggest thing that I'm seeing here right now,  
 9 there is no TV station down here. You can't listen to  
 10 KYUK Radio in Bethel and hear what's going on unless you  
 11 are like me and spend 170 bucks for a radio that has a  
 12 super-duper antenna. And I listened to you folks when you  
 13 were in Bethel, and I thought it was a great show. And I  
 14 tried to get some of those people to come down and talk  
 15 down here, too, because they are Yup'ik, and people trust  
 16 Yup'ik more than they trust Gussack. It's a simple fact  
 17 of life. And I wanted them to come and explain it in  
 18 Yup'ik to you. And they couldn't make it.  
 19 But I don't think there is anywhere near enough time  
 20 into this being put out. It needs at least another year  
 21 of study before you go to any decisions. The State needs  
 22 to tell us out here how they are going to take care of us  
 23 if we lose our subsistence. That's got to happen before  
 24 we even think about permitting anything. The State has to  
 25 guarantee there is going to be money there in perpetuity.

Page 58

1 Has to be.  
 2 And the other thing I want to bring up that hasn't  
 3 been brought up -- I don't see any maps on it. Over ten  
 4 years ago, Tundy Rogers -- a lot of Yup'ik folks out here  
 5 know Tundy. 13 years on the Bethel City Council, Native,  
 6 retired Guard, Army.  
 7 We talked the State into coming out and putting a Met  
 8 tower up. Met tower is a tower that went 150 foot in the  
 9 air and it had everything there to collect data on the  
 10 wind. All went into microchips. The State -- we send  
 11 them in to the State. The State is the one that provided  
 12 the towers. And what it did is it provided a rosebud of  
 13 wind because we wanted turbines. I want turbines.  
 14 Greatest thing that ever happened is three turbines out  
 15 here. We wanted turbines.  
 16 But where are you going to find -- when you look at  
 17 that rosebud, your predominant winter winds come almost  
 18 straight from Crooked Creek right straight through here.  
 19 That's the direction that they have -- when AVEC goes and  
 20 puts towers in Bethel -- and they are studying it again  
 21 right now. They already know where it comes from. But to  
 22 get the grant, the study has to be done for a year right  
 23 where the Met tower sits. So you are going to find that  
 24 everything that they smelt at Crooked Creek is going to go  
 25 in the air, and it's going to come right across the top

Page 59

1 here.  
 2 Has anybody out here seen anybody taking swabs to  
 3 find out how much cyanide, mercury, arsenic is on your  
 4 plants, on anything? It's all going to hit through  
 5 watershed because what happens is it goes in the air.  
 6 They catch most of it, but still you don't catch it all.  
 7 And it goes in the acres, blows, hits cloud moisture,  
 8 water brings it down in rain, ice particles. And it's  
 9 going to be right above here where all your fish breed.  
 10 Everything comes down. Your caribou eat, your moose eat,  
 11 your berries grow. And that's where you are going to  
 12 start finding it.  
 13 And you need a long-term study to see just how bad is  
 14 this going to be. Is this going to affect what we eat?  
 15 You bet it's going to affect what we eat. Are the rewards  
 16 of a 30-year mine which when you look at the word in  
 17 perpetuity, 30 years is a blink of an eye compared to  
 18 eternity. It's a part-time job. That's all it is. Are  
 19 you willing to risk everything for a part-time job?  
 20 How about your four generations of kids down the  
 21 line? Are they going to look at you and say what kind of  
 22 idiots are you to let this happen if that's when it goes  
 23 bum?  
 24 So I would say that if you are going to do this, you  
 25 need more studies. We need to see what you are -- what's

Page 60

1 out here so we have a baseline on what's laying on top of  
 2 the leaves, what's in our water. And you need more time.  
 3 And the other part that I think that desperately  
 4 needs looked at is how are you going to get the message to  
 5 all these villages which all of us will be affected? How  
 6 do you get it to them when there is no news, no real  
 7 computer system? I only have a smartphone. Try  
 8 downloading 5,000 pages on that, you know.  
 9 You guys are doing a great job going around. I  
 10 really can't thank you enough for allowing me the  
 11 opportunity to speak, but there has got to be a little  
 12 more time and a little more effort going into trying to  
 13 explain exactly what's going on. And that is pretty much  
 14 what I had. So all in all, I guess my first option is no  
 15 mine. My second option is, if you have to have a mine,  
 16 the least amount of barge service possible and a gas  
 17 pipeline for gasoline itself right alongside could use  
 18 solar and natural gas lines. Thank you very much.  
 19 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Thank you very much.  
 20 No. 4.  
 21 **MR. VERNON CHIMEGALREA:** Yeah. Vern  
 22 Chimegalrea [speaking in Yup'ik.] We want to thank all of  
 23 you who have come to these meetings in the different  
 24 villages and right here in Quinhagak. And we would like  
 25 to hear what you have to say regarding the mine and the

Page 61

1 studies.  
 2 [speaking in English.] I'm with Donlin Gold and I  
 3 wanted to say thank you to all of you who have been going  
 4 to the informational meetings throughout the past years  
 5 and also want to thank you for coming to today's meeting  
 6 to give an input to the folks that are collecting comments  
 7 for the project. And thanks again.  
 8 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay. No. 5.  
 9 **MR. MATHEW FRIENDLY:** I absolutely feel,  
 10 you know, we are okay on this side. But mostly my  
 11 concerns are for mostly the barges down the Kuskokwim all  
 12 the way down -- down to the Bethel area. Most concern  
 13 would be for any leakage if there should be any production  
 14 in petroleum or gas or other type. Anything can leak in  
 15 the pipe, you know. Should there be any leak, does the  
 16 company have some way -- any way to detect anything if  
 17 there should be a leak?  
 18 Like there is lots of streams, creeks up around where  
 19 construction is going to be going on. Will there be any  
 20 way to prevent anything that could leak, detecting it  
 21 before any much damage can be done to the environment?  
 22 Will there be some emergency steps to take for the  
 23 companies in case anything should happen? One of the most  
 24 damaging that it can do to a pipeline. And hopefully  
 25 there is no earthquake, you know, one of the things the

Page 62

1 most that can do damage in any structure.  
 2 That's all I got. I hope you have answer to those.  
 3 Thank you.  
 4 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay. Thank you very  
 5 much. No. 6.  
 6 **MR. BAVILLA MERRITT:** [speaking in  
 7 English.] I'm Bavilla Merritt from Goodnews Bay. I'm not  
 8 very much speaking English. I can do the best I can.  
 9 [speaking in Yup'ik.] Since I was eight years old my  
 10 father passed away, and when I was young, my mother raised  
 11 us. But I know -- I know subsistence way of life. And I  
 12 know about the subsistence way of life. I might even know  
 13 more than others. And today won't last a lot of Elders  
 14 today.  
 15 And some of the Elders that are still alive are very  
 16 concerned about our subsistence way of life. I'm thinking  
 17 half the people want to live the White man's way of life  
 18 and some of them want to live -- half of them want to live  
 19 the Yup'ik way of life. All of us -- and my son just  
 20 walked in.  
 21 I will say that some people are afraid of mines  
 22 because of the impact it will have on the environment.  
 23 [speaking in English.] Half of you guys know there  
 24 is food from the ocean or the land or the birds or any  
 25 other kind of Native food, half of them will be no good to

Page 63

1 eat anymore. They will be. Some of you guys won't  
 2 believe it, but some of you guys know that, too. It's  
 3 true.  
 4 [speaking in Yup'ik.] And you know we shouldn't be  
 5 too worried about fish because we take as much as we need  
 6 only.  
 7 [speaking in English.] We can't go with the Native  
 8 food all the time. We have to go with money. We got to  
 9 make money to make living. Most of you guys know that.  
 10 Nobody can't get along with no money. That's why some of  
 11 the younger kids, younger generations get into trouble,  
 12 too, because they are hungry for money. They can't take  
 13 care of their family or themselves. They have got to have  
 14 money, and they have got to have Eskimo food still, yet.  
 15 [speaking in Yup'ik.] -- money and can't live  
 16 without subsistence lifestyle. I like people like you  
 17 that come here to let us understand about mines.  
 18 [speaking in English.] I was in mining, too, working  
 19 in the mining in the middle part of the '60s and onto the  
 20 '70s.  
 21 [speaking in Yup'ik.]  
 22 [speaking in English.] I worked maybe seven or eight  
 23 years before I go start fishing.  
 24 [speaking in Yup'ik.] Now, these mines, I'm always  
 25 pushing for them because if your children and --

Page 64

1 [speaking in English.] -- the next generation and  
 2 maybe on to third generation, too.  
 3 [speaking in Yup'ik.] -- because of the jobs that  
 4 will become available. And now fish are getting less and  
 5 less on the Kuskokwim because --  
 6 [speaking in English.] -- the Kuskokwim river is  
 7 hardly open. You know why? It's because you guys don't  
 8 count enough fish. Maybe some of the Fish & Game give you  
 9 a piece of paper to count them in the month or days or  
 10 something like that, but you guys -- some of the people,  
 11 they just throw them away. This won't help me. No. They  
 12 are going to help. If you don't count fish, our people  
 13 will see there is no fish going upriver. There is lots of  
 14 fish. What do you call that?  
 15 [speaking in Yup'ik.] Fish & Game gives you  
 16 calendars that ask you to find out how many fish you  
 17 caught in a day, in a week, in a month. And then if you  
 18 have the forms on the calendars about the fish you caught,  
 19 they probably open up more fishing time for us. And I'm  
 20 all for the mine because there is the young people that  
 21 would be making money. And nowadays a lot of the young  
 22 people, young Yup'ik people don't know how to subsistence  
 23 fish or live off the land. And then if the mine opens and  
 24 they -- and once the mine is open, they will take very --  
 25 [speaking in English.] -- they watch it pretty close

Page 65

1 for environmental things.  
 2 [speaking in Yup'ik.] When they start making money,  
 3 they will be better off. And we Elders, when we pass, the  
 4 young people will be in charge. But even so, if the mine  
 5 opens, we must not forget our subsistence way of life.  
 6 The State, you people want it along with White people, and  
 7 we do as best as we could for the young people. We are  
 8 always encouraging you to take over, to be in line with  
 9 the State. And back in the old days, the Elders used to  
 10 say if a person is allowed in meetings or gatherings, they  
 11 are a big help.  
 12 You guys should -- young people should always try to  
 13 attend meetings because you will be helping one another by  
 14 being involved in meetings. And like I told you, fill out  
 15 the calendars, Fish & Game calendars when they are  
 16 counting fish.  
 17 And then -- and all of you, if you did that, counted  
 18 fish, and you lived here, that will be a lot of help to  
 19 the rest of us. And fishermen, we always encourage them  
 20 to fish because once in a while when they commercial fish  
 21 they make money.  
 22 And even these -- we always help feed not only  
 23 ourselves, but the Caucasians, too, by providing them  
 24 fish.  
 25 But I'm all for the mine for the young people to make

Page 66

1 money when they get jobs. And around us there is a lot of  
 2 locations for mines, but they haven't discovered them yet.  
 3 We shouldn't always depend on outsiders to provide for us.  
 4 And if the mine opens, it will help our children by paying  
 5 for their education. Because of [indiscernible] helps us  
 6 a lot.  
 7 And that was what I wanted to say. We shouldn't  
 8 always be concerned -- concerned about our subsistence way  
 9 of life because if the Maker decides for all our  
 10 subsistence game and fish to go away, then that's the way  
 11 it's going to be. But if a person doesn't take very good  
 12 care of his money or subsistence way of life, then he  
 13 loses it. That's what we should think about and be  
 14 involved in meetings like this. The Caucasians help us  
 15 and we help them.  
 16 You parents are teachers to your children, and to  
 17 other people who see you raising your children, now that  
 18 you are teachers. Thank you.  
 19 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Thank you very much.  
 20 No. 7.  
 21 **MS. ALICE JULIUS:** Hi. I'm Alice from  
 22 Goodnews Bay, and I wanted to thank the people that are  
 23 talking about our subsistence that are going to be  
 24 disturbed, the fish and caribou and moose. And I've heard  
 25 that the moose and the caribou are -- they are being

Page 67

1 disturbed coming down from up north. When they are  
 2 disturbed with their routing, they don't -- like us, they  
 3 don't teach the younger caribou and moose the regular  
 4 routes to go. So I think this mine will be disturbing our  
 5 caribou and our moose and our fish.  
 6 I also would like to let people know here that the  
 7 mine in Canada, the Polley -- Mount Polley Mine in Canada  
 8 had -- has had cross border issues that are not resolved,  
 9 and we still have problems with this. The tailings had  
 10 broken and got into our Alaskan waters. And there is  
 11 nothing really being resolved on that about it.  
 12 I don't think we have -- not only in our own region,  
 13 we don't have regional border issues with other regions in  
 14 our areas, like Bristol Bay, Dutch Harbor, Southeast.  
 15 They are also being affected by this mine. And I think we  
 16 should include those communities in these kind of  
 17 meetings. They need to be informed like here what you  
 18 guys are doing for us.  
 19 And then if we involve those people, we should know  
 20 that we are going to be hauling barge loads of hazardous  
 21 material from Seattle to -- through their waters. And I  
 22 think it's very important that we inform them.  
 23 And then with the chemicals -- chemical spills and  
 24 hazardous spills, my biggest concern would be if there is  
 25 a chemical spill in the state of Alaska, there might be

Page 68

1 just a few people that would have the hazardous material  
 2 skills. I think it would be good if Donlin would train  
 3 our people in HAZWOPER and chemical spills to ensure us  
 4 that if there is a spill, maybe there would be people from  
 5 our region that could respond to it.  
 6 And then if this mine is going to come through, I  
 7 want -- I would like to see educational materials going  
 8 out to villages and go to the schools and tell them about  
 9 the jobs that might be available and what requirements are  
 10 needed to work in the mine and what's not required.  
 11 Like nowadays we hear about all these drugs that are  
 12 coming out and affecting our people. Our children need to  
 13 be taught by -- the Donlin mine to put their monies to  
 14 educate our kids about the mine and what it could do to  
 15 our people and what -- and if they are into all these  
 16 drugs and stuff that they wouldn't be able to get jobs. I  
 17 think that's it.  
 18 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Thank you.  
 19 **MR. THOMAS BROWN:** My name is Thomas  
 20 Brown, and I'm from Eek, Alaska. [speaking in Yup'ik.]  
 21 We know we hunt on the Kuskokwim River. We hunt. We  
 22 gather plants from around the Kuskokwim. Our subsistence  
 23 way of life, we don't want to lose it. And they have been  
 24 mentioning barges bringing supplies up to the mine site.  
 25 Once in a while, as an example, a barge spilled oil in

Page 69

1 Cook Inlet.  
 2 The pipeline, I was thinking it's very long. Make  
 3 sure that if they put it in strong, sturdy, it won't be  
 4 any problem. But then cyanide and mercury, those need to  
 5 be watched very carefully because we don't want them to go  
 6 into -- we don't want them to leak into the water or on  
 7 top of the land or into the air. If they have a good  
 8 response team to clean up any spills or anything, it would  
 9 be good.  
 10 We know Calista -- we all know that Calista owns the  
 11 subsurface rights, and if an accident may -- I would like  
 12 to see, once the mine is closed, to be very careful to  
 13 watch and make sure Calista is involved. Will Donlin chip  
 14 in money for remediation?  
 15 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** All right. Was there  
 16 anybody else who would like to comment this evening?  
 17 **MS. LINDA SMALL:** If a catastrophic  
 18 accident happens, would Calista as a partner be held  
 19 financially responsible?  
 20 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** No. I can't answer  
 21 that definitively, but given that Donlin is a proponent  
 22 for the project, the probability is that Donlin will be  
 23 required to clean it up. It's also important to note that  
 24 there would be third-party contractors, for instance, a  
 25 barging company. Donlin would actually be hiring someone

1 to do their barging for them, so that entity might be  
2 responsible for cleaning it up if the accident is in  
3 relation to barging versus something relating to the  
4 pipeline versus some other potential avenue in which there  
5 might be a spill. So basically it's just going to be back  
6 to whoever is the responsible entity in relation to the  
7 activity taking place and what's being transported and  
8 how.

9 Is there anybody else who would like to comment on  
10 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement before we go to  
11 the ANILCA 810?

12 **MR. JAMES MERRITT:** Hi. My name is James  
13 Merritt. I'm original from Goodnews Bay, but I live here  
14 in Quinhagak. I was listening to what my dad Bavilla was  
15 saying. He has a lot of points, but I'm strongly opposed  
16 to any mining operation anywhere upstream from a major  
17 resource area for which the people rely on, especially the  
18 fish and the plants and berries that are all around. Even  
19 if they were to respond to some kind of catastrophe, much  
20 like Exxon they are only cleaning the surface, and  
21 whatever is left would be left behind. And it has a  
22 long-term impact.

23 All the people out here in all the delta, they all  
24 rely on these resources. And just by putting a mine  
25 upstream just for gold for some people, rich people or

1 whoever wants that gold, I don't think it's worth seeing  
2 damage done to our environment. And like I said, you  
3 know, any kind of catastrophe would be irreparable. It  
4 cannot be fixed even if it was tried. We see that all  
5 over not just here in Alaska, but down in the states and  
6 the world over. Any mining operation up any stream, I am  
7 totally against that. That's all I have to say.

8 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Thank you, sir. Is  
9 there anybody else who would like to comment on the Draft  
10 Environmental Impact Statement?

11 Okay. Go ahead.

12 **MR. MATHEW FRIENDLY:** Most concern is  
13 for -- could be for everybody is a prevention of, you  
14 know, accidents. Accidents do happen. And we don't want  
15 to see anything like that. We would like to see a person  
16 go home in one piece. Thank you.

17 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** All right. Thank you  
18 very much. At this point in time, I'll turn this over to  
19 Mark, and we will go into the 810 hearing. Mark will give  
20 you some information regarding comments in relation to the  
21 ANILCA 810 hearing.

22 (Proceedings adjourned at 3:43 p.m.)

23  
24  
25

**REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE**

1  
2 I, MARY A. VAVRIK, RMR, Notary Public in and for  
3 the State of Alaska do hereby certify:

4 That the foregoing proceedings were taken before  
5 me at the time and place herein set forth; that the  
6 proceedings were reported stenographically by me and later  
7 transcribed under my direction by computer transcription;  
8 that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings  
9 taken at that time; and that I am not a party to nor have  
10 I any interest in the outcome of the action herein  
11 contained.

12 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed  
13 my hand and affixed my seal this 5th day of March 2016.

14  
15  
16 **MARY A. VAVRIK,**  
17 Registered Merit Reporter  
18 Notary Public for Alaska

19 My Commission Expires: November 5, 2016  
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21  
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23  
24  
25

	41:14,21;44:9,10	<b>ago (3)</b> 38:9;54:14;58:4	37:2,6;44:15,25;46:20; 48:11	49:19
<b>\$</b>	<b>activity (3)</b> 41:16;47:4;70:7	<b>agree (1)</b> 52:7	<b>alternatives (31)</b> 6:9;9:5;12:15,16,21; 15:7,11,12,14,16,21; 16:1,6,11,24;19:12; 21:1,23;22:25;24:2,4; 25:21;28:5;29:25; 31:11;35:4;37:1;40:15, 16;45:19;46:10	<b>anymore (1)</b> 63:1
<b>\$300,000,000 (1)</b> 56:18	<b>actually (5)</b> 7:24;8:24;31:6; 48:14;69:25	<b>ahead (4)</b> 4:3;51:14;52:3; 71:11	<b>always (8)</b> 49:6;63:24;65:8,12, 19,22;66:3,8	<b>appendix (3)</b> 30:3;40:17,19
<b>[</b>	<b>add (1)</b> 16:25	<b>air (10)</b> 18:1;26:20;27:1; 28:22;37:24;50:20; 58:9,25;59:5;69:7	<b>Amanda (1)</b> 33:3	<b>application (1)</b> 37:12
<b>[indicating] (4)</b> 20:18;23:2;28:19; 40:11	<b>addition (6)</b> 6:24;16:22;17:19; 36:22;45:10;56:9	<b>airborne (2)</b> 9:17;17:25	<b>American (1)</b> 38:15	<b>applications (1)</b> 36:1
<b>[indiscernible] (1)</b> 66:5	<b>additional (8)</b> 13:6;15:10;31:9,10, 25;32:15;44:20;47:17	<b>aircraft (1)</b> 43:21	<b>amount (8)</b> 17:13;18:12;19:23; 22:24;24:9;47:5;54:2; 60:16	<b>appropriately (1)</b> 15:3
<b>[speaking (19)</b> 60:22;61:2;62:6,9, 23;63:4,7,15,18,21,22, 24;64:1,3,6,15,25;65:2; 68:20	<b>address (6)</b> 30:12;31:24;32:7,12; 37:18;46:21	<b>airplanes (1)</b> 54:7	<b>analysis (13)</b> 4:24;12:21,25;14:25; 16:3;20:22;22:2,6; 25:10,12,20;30:21; 31:7	<b>approximately (13)</b> 7:21;8:2,22;9:4,21, 23;10:9;17:10;21:5; 23:7;33:8;36:20;38:20
<b>A</b>	<b>addresses (1)</b> 47:24	<b>airports (2)</b> 54:3,6	<b>analyze (1)</b> 14:9	<b>April (3)</b> 12:8,9;32:9
<b>a1 (1)</b> 45:24	<b>adequately (9)</b> 12:12,13,14;13:3; 19:11,12;28:1;29:15; 31:8	<b>airstrip (3)</b> 9:16;39:21;43:18	<b>anadromous (1)</b> 38:6	<b>aquatic (2)</b> 18:3;42:8
<b>able (6)</b> 33:24;34:1;56:2,21; 57:1;68:16	<b>adjacent (2)</b> 41:25;43:22	<b>Akiak (1)</b> 45:5	<b>analyses (13)</b> 4:24;12:21,25;14:25; 16:3;20:22;22:2,6; 25:10,12,20;30:21; 31:7	<b>area (11)</b> 19:10,10;21:21; 43:24;53:13,25;54:1, 10;55:22;61:12;70:17
<b>above (4)</b> 27:5;45:16;53:3; 59:9	<b>adjourned (1)</b> 71:22	<b>Akiakchak (1)</b> 45:5	<b>Amy (1)</b> 49:20	<b>areas (8)</b> 9:14;21:19;38:3; 41:23,25;42:4;43:16; 67:14
<b>absolutely (1)</b> 61:9	<b>Administration (1)</b> 13:12	<b>Alaska (13)</b> 6:25;7:22;10:7; 36:11,13;37:8;48:8,13; 49:2;56:4;67:25;68:20; 71:5	<b>Anaconda (1)</b> 38:16	<b>Army (7)</b> 4:19,19,21;13:12; 14:5,23;58:6
<b>abundance (2)</b> 35:12;47:19	<b>adverse (2)</b> 35:15;47:7	<b>Alaskan (1)</b> 67:10	<b>analogous (1)</b> 38:6	<b>around (11)</b> 6:8;12:7;23:11;50:8; 51:20;53:17;60:9; 61:18;66:1;68:22; 70:18
<b>accepting (1)</b> 12:6	<b>AECOM (3)</b> 6:12;49:13,16	<b>Alice (2)</b> 66:21,21	<b>analysis (12)</b> 7:6;15:11,15;16:12; 34:25;35:7;40:14,21; 41:4;46:3;47:16;48:25	<b>arsenic (1)</b> 59:3
<b>access (15)</b> 9:11,17;21:18,21; 35:21,22;39:19;42:3; 43:15,20,24;44:10; 45:8;47:20;54:2	<b>affect (11)</b> 7:13;37:2,7;42:6; 43:7,15;44:6;47:19,20; 59:14,15	<b>alive (1)</b> 62:15	<b>analyze (1)</b> 14:9	<b>aside (4)</b> 12:17;29:25;30:1; 33:12
<b>accident (4)</b> 52:19;69:11,18;70:2	<b>affected (9)</b> 11:13,13;41:24; 43:23;44:14;50:13; 54:18;60:5;67:15	<b>allowed (1)</b> 65:10	<b>analyzed (9)</b> 12:2,15;19:13;21:2; 28:1;29:15;37:1;40:25; 43:4	<b>assessment (1)</b> 29:12
<b>accidents (2)</b> 71:14,14	<b>affecting (2)</b> 7:5;68:12	<b>allowing (1)</b> 60:10	<b>Anchorage (3)</b> 49:15;54:7;55:5	<b>assistance (1)</b> 6:13
<b>accomplish (1)</b> 47:6	<b>affects (2)</b> 37:19;54:16	<b>allows (1)</b> 30:22	<b>ANCSA (2)</b> 36:14,16	<b>assisting (1)</b> 5:15
<b>ACMA (1)</b> 38:19	<b>afraid (1)</b> 62:21	<b>almost (3)</b> 24:20;27:11;58:17	<b>and/or (2)</b> 10:15,17	<b>associated (1)</b> 36:6
<b>acres (5)</b> 38:2,4,14,16;59:7	<b>afternoon (4)</b> 4:2;6:22;48:22; 49:14	<b>along (13)</b> 9:13;38:1;43:13,19, 22;44:12;45:9;48:2; 54:4,24;55:2;63:10; 65:6	<b>Andraschko's (1)</b> 33:3	<b>assume (1)</b> 23:19
<b>across (1)</b> 58:25	<b>Again (13)</b> 18:15;19:9;20:22; 21:14;24:19;25:7,20; 27:4,6,25;41:5;58:20; 61:7	<b>alteration (1)</b> 35:19	<b>Aniak (1)</b> 45:6	<b>attend (2)</b> 32:17;65:13
<b>Act (9)</b> 7:1;11:10,11;14:3,6; 15:18;29:11;37:15; 56:4	<b>against (3)</b> 17:4;20:24;71:7	<b>alternative (62)</b> 13:16;15:19,20,20, 22;16:3,10,12,13,14; 17:1,4,5,5,6,18;5,7,14, 15,19;19:15,18,20; 20:1,9,23;21:1,3,4,5, 14,20;24:8,8,9,10,13, 15,18,18,20,23,23; 25:2,5,8,17;26:2,3,7, 16,17,20;27:2,4;29:18;	<b>ANILCA (12)</b> 6:2,19;33:9,19,21; 34:8;35:6;41:2;45:24; 46:17;70:11;71:21	<b>attention (1)</b> 56:17
<b>action (11)</b> 7:20;15:19,20,21; 16:1,3;46:14,20,23,23; 47:10	<b>agencies (3)</b> 5:12;6:12;13:10		<b>annually (1)</b> 40:1	<b>authorizations (1)</b> 48:17
<b>Actions (1)</b> 48:7	<b>agencies' (1)</b> 13:9		<b>antenna (1)</b> 57:12	<b>authorized (1)</b> 46:15
<b>activities (4)</b>	<b>agency (2)</b> 48:15,19		<b>anthropologist (1)</b>	<b>availability (4)</b> 35:10,18;43:16; 47:19

<p>49:17;64:4;68:9  <b>AVEC (1)</b>                      58:19  <b>avenue (1)</b>                      70:4  <b>away (3)</b>                      62:10;64:11;66:10</p>	<p><b>Bavilla (5)</b>                      52:25;53:2;62:6,7;                      70:14  <b>Bay (4)</b>                      62:7;66:22;67:14;                      70:13  <b>bear (1)</b>                      28:13  <b>bearers (2)</b>                      41:19;43:15  <b>beautiful (1)</b>                      55:14  <b>become (2)</b>                      15:12;64:4  <b>begin (1)</b>                      57:1  <b>behalf (1)</b>                      52:16  <b>behavior (1)</b>                      25:15  <b>behind (3)</b>                      20:19;38:17;70:21  <b>below (1)</b>                      56:10  <b>beneficial (2)</b>                      7:16;13:23  <b>benefit (2)</b>                      14:19;15:1  <b>benefits (2)</b>                      14:21;16:17  <b>berries (3)</b>                      52:15;59:11;70:18  <b>berry (2)</b>                      41:23;42:4  <b>best (3)</b>                      28:11;62:8;65:7  <b>bet (1)</b>                      59:15  <b>Bethel (17)</b>                      23:7,10,18,21;39:16;                      40:1;45:4;54:13,15,22;                      56:3,8;57:10,13;58:5,                      20;61:12  <b>better (2)</b>                      16:7;65:3  <b>big (7)</b>                      50:9;53:22;54:9,9,                      25;55:11;65:11  <b>biggest (2)</b>                      57:8;67:24  <b>biologist (1)</b>                      48:23  <b>biologists (1)</b>                      54:22  <b>Birch (9)</b>                      18:7,9,20,22;19:1;                      24:10,14,20;27:5  <b>birds (1)</b>                      62:24  <b>bit (3)</b>                      25:11;50:6;51:17  <b>blasting (1)</b>                      41:15</p>	<p><b>blink (1)</b>                      59:17  <b>BLM (16)</b>                      6:16;7:6,11;28:24;                      33:8;34:18,24;35:2,6;                      36:10;37:12,19;45:17,                      22;48:24;51:8  <b>BLM-managed (2)</b>                      7:5;37:13  <b>BLM's (2)</b>                      6:4;47:3  <b>blob (1)</b>                      9:10  <b>blows (1)</b>                      59:7  <b>blue (1)</b>                      23:12  <b>body (1)</b>                      11:7  <b>bond (1)</b>                      56:18  <b>border (2)</b>                      67:8,13  <b>borough (1)</b>                      56:2  <b>boroughs (1)</b>                      56:6  <b>both (8)</b>                      6:1;9:19;18:4;24:9;                      26:11;48:18;51:7,13  <b>bottom (1)</b>                      22:21  <b>boundaries (1)</b>                      56:5  <b>bounded (1)</b>                      8:14  <b>Branch (1)</b>                      48:8  <b>brand-new (1)</b>                      26:14  <b>break (1)</b>                      13:22  <b>breakdown (1)</b>                      26:1  <b>breed (1)</b>                      59:9  <b>BRELSFORD (2)</b>                      34:3;49:19  <b>briefly (4)</b>                      9:1;13:21;15:17;                      21:24  <b>bring (5)</b>                      12:17;30:2;53:17,18;                      58:2  <b>bringing (2)</b>                      54:11;68:24  <b>brings (1)</b>                      59:8  <b>Bristol (1)</b>                      67:14  <b>broken (2)</b>                      22:24;67:10  <b>brought (1)</b></p>	<p>58:3  <b>BROWN (2)</b>                      68:19,20  <b>Bruce (4)</b>                      34:21;48:20,22,23  <b>BRUNO (2)</b>                      49:1,1  <b>bucks (2)</b>                      56:25;57:11  <b>building (2)</b>                      17:7,9  <b>built (4)</b>                      18:9,19;38:1;42:13  <b>bum (1)</b>                      59:23  <b>Bureau (3)</b>                      5:24;13:10;36:1  <b>buried (1)</b>                      36:5  <b>burn (1)</b>                      9:23  <b>burnt (1)</b>                      22:21  <b>bury (1)</b>                      10:5</p>	<p><b>capture (1)</b>                      4:16  <b>captured (1)</b>                      4:9  <b>capturing (1)</b>                      51:13  <b>care (3)</b>                      57:22;63:13;66:12  <b>careful (1)</b>                      69:12  <b>carefully (1)</b>                      69:5  <b>cargo (7)</b>                      19:7;25:5;39:16,24,                      25;40:8;44:4  <b>caribou (8)</b>                      41:19;43:15;53:24;                      59:10;66:24,25;67:3,5  <b>carried (2)</b>                      15:14;16:11  <b>carry (1)</b>                      40:6  <b>carrying (1)</b>                      51:18  <b>case (6)</b>                      19:4;20:19;21:20;                      25:21;45:20;61:23  <b>cases (1)</b>                      31:23  <b>catastrophe (2)</b>                      70:19;71:3  <b>catastrophic (1)</b>                      69:17  <b>catch (2)</b>                      59:6,6  <b>Caterpillar (1)</b>                      26:12  <b>Caucasians (2)</b>                      65:23;66:14  <b>caught (2)</b>                      64:17,18  <b>cause (4)</b>                      25:15;35:15;41:20;                      43:14  <b>caused (3)</b>                      35:8,11,19  <b>CDs (1)</b>                      14:13  <b>cell (1)</b>                      4:13  <b>certain (1)</b>                      7:9  <b>certainly (3)</b>                      15:5;33:6;47:14  <b>cetera (10)</b>                      8:25;16:21;17:10;                      19:5;25:24;28:2,13,22;                      29:12;31:11  <b>chain (1)</b>                      48:13  <b>challenges (1)</b>                      21:14  <b>chance (1)</b></p>
		<b>C</b>		
		<p><b>cable (1)</b>                      36:6  <b>calendars (4)</b>                      64:16,18;65:15,15  <b>Calista (6)</b>                      14:19;36:16;69:10,                      10,13,18  <b>call (2)</b>                      32:18;64:14  <b>camp (3)</b>                      9:18,19,19  <b>camps (3)</b>                      30:22;38:2;43:13  <b>can (73)</b>                      4:15;5:6,11,19,21,                      22;6:7,12;7:22;8:15,                      23;9:10,13;11:2,17;                      13:18;15:6;16:3,22;                      17:22;18:15;21:8,11;                      22:23;23:12;24:17,25;                      25:14,15,15;28:13;                      29:3,8,16,23;30:25;                      31:3,6,25;32:2,6,7,9,                      10,11,12,16,19,19,23;                      33:16;34:14,17;37:22;                      40:17,18;42:4;46:15;                      47:22,23;51:3,4,21;                      52:20;53:11;56:3,23;                      61:14,21,24;62:1,8,8  <b>Canada (2)</b>                      67:7,7  <b>canaries (1)</b>                      51:18  <b>capacity (1)</b>                      26:9</p>		

<p>22:8  <b>change (9)</b>                  17:1,2;19:10;23:15;                  41:17;53:20;55:13;                  56:5,12  <b>changes (3)</b>                  23:13;27:23;46:10  <b>chapter (8)</b>                  13:22;14:1;15:7;                  21:23,24,24;27:13;                  28:3  <b>chapters (2)</b>                  27:10,13  <b>characterized (1)</b>                  19:12  <b>charge (1)</b>                  65:4  <b>check (1)</b>                  33:22  <b>chemical (5)</b>                  8:12;19:23;67:23,25;                  68:3  <b>chemicals (2)</b>                  50:21;67:23  <b>Chief (1)</b>                  48:8  <b>children (5)</b>                  63:25;66:4,16,17;                  68:12  <b>CHIMEGALREA (2)</b>                  60:21,22  <b>chip (1)</b>                  69:13  <b>choice (1)</b>                  34:20  <b>choose (1)</b>                  32:20  <b>city (2)</b>                  56:3;58:5  <b>clarify (1)</b>                  34:10  <b>Clean (4)</b>                  14:6;57:1;69:8,23  <b>cleaner (1)</b>                  16:18  <b>cleaning (2)</b>                  70:2,20  <b>cleanup (1)</b>                  57:4  <b>clear (1)</b>                  55:6  <b>cleared (3)</b>                  37:23;38:2,3  <b>clearing (1)</b>                  43:10  <b>clearly (2)</b>                  4:12;32:6  <b>clients (1)</b>                  53:25  <b>close (3)</b>                  36:4;56:17;64:25  <b>closed (4)</b>                  10:15,17;11:5;69:12</p>	<p><b>closest (1)</b>                  41:12  <b>closure (11)</b>                  10:10,11,11,19;12:8;                  38:24;39:8;42:10,14,                  17;45:14  <b>cloud (1)</b>                  59:7  <b>collect (1)</b>                  58:9  <b>collecting (1)</b>                  61:6  <b>color (1)</b>                  22:21  <b>combination (1)</b>                  26:11  <b>combine (1)</b>                  8:1  <b>combined (4)</b>                  9:4;27:15;29:24;                  30:18  <b>combining (1)</b>                  27:21  <b>coming (7)</b>                  16:18;32:15;57:5;                  58:7;61:5;67:1;68:12  <b>command (1)</b>                  48:13  <b>Commander (1)</b>                  48:13  <b>comment (37)</b>                  4:12,5:1,10,19;6:2;                  7:10,13;11:14;12:8,8;                  29:8,12;30:17,19,20;                  31:3,13,20,24,25;32:1,                  6,8,18,20;34:10,12,18,                  20;46:6;47:13,22;51:8;                  52:3;69:16;70:9;71:9  <b>commenting (1)</b>                  47:16  <b>comments (57)</b>                  4:9,9,10;5:21;6:3,16,                  18;12:5,6,10,13,18;                  13:5;15:5;27:25;29:7,                  15,20,23;30:10,12,13,                  14,15,17,18;31:6,13,                  14,15,18,22,25;32:2,2,                  5,9,10,11,12;33:14,18,                  23,25;34:7,8,13,14;                  45:23;47:11,12,13,22;                  51:7,13;61:6;71:20  <b>commercial (1)</b>                  65:20  <b>communities (10)</b>                  7:9;40:23;43:1;45:1,                  3,7,16,23;46:3;67:16  <b>community (3)</b>                  30:7;31:2;50:2  <b>companies (1)</b>                  61:23  <b>company (2)</b>                  61:16;69:25  <b>compare (4)</b></p>	<p>15:21,25;17:3;20:23  <b>compared (1)</b>                  59:17  <b>comparing (1)</b>                  12:20  <b>competition (5)</b>                  35:17,23;43:21,24;                  45:8  <b>completed (2)</b>                  7:2;34:24  <b>completely (1)</b>                  55:16  <b>compliance (1)</b>                  47:9  <b>complies (1)</b>                  46:23  <b>component (11)</b>                  8:6,17;9:7;10:3;                  12:1;37:2;39:15;41:9,                  11;43:3;44:1  <b>components (5)</b>                  7:23;9:2;37:10,15;                  41:6  <b>computer (1)</b>                  60:7  <b>concern (3)</b>                  61:12;67:24;71:12  <b>concerned (4)</b>                  52:9;62:16;66:8,8  <b>concerns (6)</b>                  21:17;28:21;52:14,                  21;53:10;61:11  <b>concluded (1)</b>                  7:7  <b>concludes (1)</b>                  44:24  <b>conclusions (5)</b>                  13:1,9;25:11,13,20  <b>conditions (1)</b>                  24:22  <b>conduct (3)</b>                  7:11;45:22;46:5  <b>configuration (1)</b>                  40:5  <b>conjunction (1)</b>                  45:25  <b>Conservation (1)</b>                  7:1  <b>consider (4)</b>                  12:16;34:15,18;                  47:17  <b>considered (5)</b>                  8:21;21:1;23:1;35:7;                  45:20  <b>considering (2)</b>                  11:16;23:1  <b>consistent (1)</b>                  47:2  <b>consistently (1)</b>                  30:23  <b>constituents (2)</b>                  8:12;19:24  <b>constituting (1)</b></p>	<p>36:14  <b>construct (3)</b>                  21:14;23:3;36:3  <b>constructed (7)</b>                  7:21;9:16;20:11;                  23:13;39:8;40:12;                  42:19  <b>construction (17)</b>                  9:19;10:1,8;17:14;                  23:1;24:4;25:4;37:24;                  38:1,2;39:15;41:21;                  43:6,10,12;44:5;61:19  <b>contact (3)</b>                  33:2,3,6  <b>contained (1)</b>                  38:17  <b>containing (1)</b>                  42:1  <b>contains (3)</b>                  21:24;32:24;33:1  <b>contaminate (1)</b>                  42:23  <b>contaminated (1)</b>                  42:1  <b>contents (1)</b>                  40:20  <b>continue (1)</b>                  40:8  <b>contractors (1)</b>                  69:24  <b>contrast (2)</b>                  17:3;20:23  <b>Cook (6)</b>                  10:6;17:8,16;36:7,                  17;69:1  <b>cooperators (2)</b>                  5:7,14  <b>coordinator (1)</b>                  48:24  <b>copies (1)</b>                  40:20  <b>corporation (3)</b>                  36:14,16,17  <b>Corps (9)</b>                  4:19,20,21;11:18,23;                  13:12;14:5,23;51:7  <b>Corps' (1)</b>                  13:18  <b>corridors (1)</b>                  21:18  <b>council (2)</b>                  56:3;58:5  <b>count (3)</b>                  64:8,9,12  <b>counted (1)</b>                  65:17  <b>counting (1)</b>                  65:16  <b>couple (3)</b>                  15:17;49:17;56:11  <b>course (1)</b>                  47:22  <b>courses (1)</b></p>	<p>55:13  <b>court (1)</b>                  4:8  <b>crashing (1)</b>                  54:25  <b>created (1)</b>                  55:14  <b>Creek (25)</b>                  7:22;11:7;18:16;                  36:7,21;38:15,16;39:3,                  7,11,17,23;40:11;                  41:14,23;42:8,20,24;                  43:2,9;44:7;45:1,6;                  58:18,24  <b>creeks (1)</b>                  61:18  <b>Crooked (20)</b>                  7:22;11:7;18:16;                  36:7,21;39:3,7,11;                  41:14,23;42:8,20,24;                  43:1,9;44:7;45:1,6;                  58:18,24  <b>cross (3)</b>                  36:10;38:5;67:8  <b>Crossing (9)</b>                  18:8,10,20,23;19:2;                  24:11,14,21;27:6  <b>crossings (2)</b>                  38:6;39:20  <b>crush (1)</b>                  8:9  <b>crushed (3)</b>                  8:8,11;19:17  <b>cultural (1)</b>                  49:19  <b>cumulative (4)</b>                  27:13,14;35:5;45:19  <b>current (1)</b>                  17:19  <b>currently (9)</b>                  15:15,22;21:19;                  22:17,22;23:8;25:17;                  26:8;27:19  <b>cutting (1)</b>                  41:24  <b>cyanide (3)</b>                  45:11;59:3;69:4</p>
<b>D</b>				
				<p><b>dad (1)</b>                  70:14  <b>Dalzell (3)</b>                  21:3,9;37:7  <b>dam (10)</b>                  8:16;20:18,18,20;                  38:18;42:22;45:12,13;                  50:1,19  <b>damage (3)</b>                  61:21;62:1;71:2  <b>damaging (1)</b>                  61:24  <b>dams (1)</b></p>

<p>20:20  <b>Darigo (1)</b>                  49:24  <b>data (4)</b>                  12:13;15:9;31:9;                  58:9  <b>date (1)</b>                  12:2  <b>daughter (1)</b>                  55:5  <b>Dave (3)</b>                  49:22;51:14,15  <b>day (4)</b>                  51:13;54:20;55:5;                  64:17  <b>days (2)</b>                  64:9;65:9  <b>deal (1)</b>                  53:5  <b>December (1)</b>                  11:22  <b>decides (1)</b>                  66:9  <b>Decision (3)</b>                  13:13,19,20  <b>decisionmakers (3)</b>                  5:3;11:16;29:16  <b>decision-making (1)</b>                  11:15  <b>decisions (6)</b>                  5:4;26:5,18;29:17;                  48:14;57:21  <b>decline (1)</b>                  35:11  <b>deep (2)</b>                  8:5;38:20  <b>define (7)</b>                  13:14;14:3,5,6,8;                  15:6;31:8  <b>defined (4)</b>                  22:1,6;28:1;29:4  <b>defines (1)</b>                  14:13  <b>defining (1)</b>                  13:3  <b>definitively (1)</b>                  69:21  <b>degree (2)</b>                  15:3;16:9  <b>DEIS (2)</b>                  7:10;34:8  <b>delta (2)</b>                  53:21;70:23  <b>Department (1)</b>                  49:2  <b>depend (1)</b>                  66:3  <b>dependent (1)</b>                  55:17  <b>depending (2)</b>                  8:3;10:11  <b>depicted (2)</b>                  7:24;28:23</p>	<p><b>depicts (1)</b>                  23:12  <b>deposition (1)</b>                  20:8  <b>depth (1)</b>                  8:3  <b>describe (1)</b>                  6:8  <b>described (2)</b>                  35:1;47:11  <b>Design (3)</b>                  28:8,9,11  <b>desperately (1)</b>                  60:3  <b>destroying (1)</b>                  52:19  <b>detail (1)</b>                  44:2  <b>detailed (5)</b>                  15:15;16:11;21:2;                  29:23;31:3  <b>detect (1)</b>                  61:16  <b>detecting (1)</b>                  61:20  <b>determination (5)</b>                  7:3;46:14,17,20,25  <b>determine (4)</b>                  13:5;15:9;29:15;                  31:7  <b>determined (2)</b>                  12:1;35:2  <b>develop (3)</b>                  9:15;13:7,13  <b>developed (4)</b>                  9:3;12:4;15:8;16:6  <b>developing (1)</b>                  26:13  <b>development (5)</b>                  5:7,13,15,22;13:19  <b>diagram (1)</b>                  38:12  <b>dialed (1)</b>                  34:4  <b>diameter (1)</b>                  36:5  <b>diesel (23)</b>                  9:22,24;16:17,17,19;                  17:5,9,12,15;18:2;                  19:5;24:24,25;25:1,2,3,                  6;26:11,22,25;37:3;                  40:7;45:11  <b>differences (1)</b>                  24:16  <b>different (4)</b>                  21:11;25:25;50:4;                  60:23  <b>direct (1)</b>                  35:16  <b>direction (2)</b>                  56:12;58:19  <b>directly (2)</b>                  33:5;41:24</p>	<p><b>disaster (1)</b>                  55:21  <b>disclose (2)</b>                  11:12;29:14  <b>disclosed (1)</b>                  28:1  <b>discovered (1)</b>                  66:2  <b>discuss (1)</b>                  5:9  <b>discussed (6)</b>                  22:13;35:4;37:3,11;                  38:14;44:2  <b>displacement (1)</b>                  44:8  <b>disposition (1)</b>                  7:4  <b>disrupt (1)</b>                  25:15  <b>disruption (1)</b>                  44:9  <b>distance (1)</b>                  23:11  <b>distribution (2)</b>                  35:20;41:17  <b>District (2)</b>                  48:8,13  <b>disturbance (1)</b>                  55:1  <b>disturbed (3)</b>                  66:24;67:1,2  <b>disturbing (1)</b>                  67:4  <b>division (1)</b>                  48:8  <b>DNR (1)</b>                  49:2  <b>document (23)</b>                  4:8,15;12:12,19,25;                  13:1,23,24;14:11,12,                  13,15,17;22:9,11,13;                  25:10,12,16;28:2;30:3;                  32:6;50:9  <b>documents (2)</b>                  32:25;33:2  <b>dogs (1)</b>                  55:6  <b>done (8)</b>                  15:4;22:2;27:11;                  41:9;56:14;58:22;                  61:21;71:2  <b>Donlin (38)</b>                  4:21;5:4;6:4,8;7:17,                  24;9:5,9;10:4;15:23;                  16:5,23;17:7;20:3,6;                  23:14,24;24:10;27:8;                  28:8,19;35:1,25;36:3,                  22;37:9;40:25;41:5;                  45:20;52:7;56:17;61:2;                  68:2,13;69:13,21,22,25  <b>Donlin's (17)</b>                  4:23;7:20;14:19;                  18:17;20:15,17;21:7,8,</p>	<p>21;24:5,17;25:17;                  26:19;27:1,20;32:21;                  48:17  <b>Donne (2)</b>                  50:1;52:25  <b>down (24)</b>                  9:12;13:22;15:13;                  16:20;17:20;18:17;                  20:18;32:13;49:11;                  53:13,18;55:6,13;57:9,                  14,15;59:8,10,20;                  61:11,12,12;67:1;71:5  <b>downloading (1)</b>                  60:8  <b>downriver (1)</b>                  43:8  <b>downstream (3)</b>                  8:15;20:11;23:18  <b>dozen (1)</b>                  18:23  <b>Draft (43)</b>                  5:8,18;6:1,3,16,24;                  12:3,11,21,23,24,25,                  25;13:1,1;22:6;25:11,                  12,12,16,20,20;29:6,9,                  21;32:3,24;33:18;                  34:10,12,16,17;35:1;                  37:1;40:16,17;43:4;                  45:20,25;46:6;49:16;                  70:10;71:9  <b>dried (1)</b>                  19:20  <b>drier (2)</b>                  19:24;20:12  <b>drift (1)</b>                  56:13  <b>drilling (2)</b>                  41:15;43:11  <b>drinking (1)</b>                  35:14  <b>drop (1)</b>                  53:25  <b>drugs (2)</b>                  68:11,16  <b>dry (2)</b>                  19:19;20:3  <b>Due (2)</b>                  7:5;18:25  <b>duplicate (1)</b>                  34:20  <b>during (21)</b>                  9:25;10:14,25;17:13;                  23:9;24:3,22;25:4;                  28:21;30:24;34:14,17;                  38:1;40:2;41:20,21;                  42:6,16;43:10,18;48:1  <b>dust (3)</b>                  20:8,8;42:1  <b>Dutch (1)</b>                  67:14</p>	<p><b>ear (2)</b>                  33:14,15  <b>earlier (9)</b>                  11:3;24:8;34:24;                  36:20;37:3;38:13;39:1;                  40:5;44:2  <b>earth (1)</b>                  55:4  <b>earthquake (2)</b>                  55:19;61:25  <b>easy (1)</b>                  50:10  <b>eat (6)</b>                  57:5;59:10,10,14,15;                  63:1  <b>economic (2)</b>                  14:18;15:1  <b>economics (1)</b>                  14:20  <b>edges (1)</b>                  55:2  <b>edible (1)</b>                  35:13  <b>educate (1)</b>                  68:14  <b>education (1)</b>                  66:5  <b>educational (1)</b>                  68:7  <b>Eek (1)</b>                  68:20  <b>effectively (5)</b>                  18:12;23:13;28:3,6;                  29:8  <b>effects (13)</b>                  11:12;13:4;29:16;                  35:5;41:10,13;43:5,10;                  44:3,16;47:8;50:13;                  52:12  <b>effort (1)</b>                  60:12  <b>eight (2)</b>                  62:9;63:22  <b>EIS (24)</b>                  5:18;6:3,16;11:8,19;                  29:11;32:25;33:18;                  34:10,12;35:2,5;37:1;                  40:16,17;41:3;45:20;                  46:6;47:12,14,23;                  49:16;50:5,8  <b>either (2)</b>                  18:3;34:7  <b>Elders (5)</b>                  56:24;62:13,15;65:3,                  9  <b>eliminate (2)</b>                  18:22;19:3  <b>eliminated (2)</b>                  19:14;30:20  <b>eliminates (1)</b>                  17:11  <b>eliminating (2)</b>                  27:5;28:8</p>
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**E**

<b>else (4)</b> 32:19;69:16;70:9; 71:9	37:16		<b>fill (9)</b> 8:11;11:4;19:17; 31:10;38:14,16;39:2; 42:10;65:14	51:19
<b>email (1)</b> 32:10	<b>estimated (2)</b> 38:3;39:1	<b>F</b>	<b>filled (1)</b> 12:13	<b>focus (2)</b> 31:12,12
<b>emailed (1)</b> 47:24	<b>et (10)</b> 8:25;16:21;17:10; 19:5;25:24;28:2,13,22; 29:12;31:11	<b>facilitate (4)</b> 4:25;9:8;11:14;12:7	<b>final (10)</b> 13:1,2,7,9,13;31:19, 21;41:1,2,3	<b>focuses (2)</b> 37:13;41:5
<b>emergency (1)</b> 61:22	<b>eternity (1)</b> 59:18	<b>facilitating (1)</b> 5:7	<b>financially (1)</b> 69:19	<b>folks (10)</b> 7:17;11:24;27:11; 29:12;31:23;33:17,20; 57:12;58:4;61:6
<b>emissions (7)</b> 16:18,18;19:5;26:20; 27:1,6;42:1	<b>evaluated (1)</b> 37:9	<b>facilities (12)</b> 8:24,25,25;9:3,8,13; 10:13,17,18;26:21; 39:14,16	<b>finally (1)</b> 50:25	<b>Following (2)</b> 7:10;46:7
<b>encourage (1)</b> 65:19	<b>evaluation (7)</b> 7:1;41:2,4,5,9;44:24; 45:18	<b>facility (22)</b> 8:7,13,18,22;9:17,18, 19,20;17:18;19:16,21, 25;20:2,11,16,16,17, 20;38:13,15,17;40:12	<b>finding (4)</b> 46:8,12,18;59:12	<b>food (5)</b> 42:8;62:24,25;63:8, 14
<b>encouraging (1)</b> 65:8	<b>Evans (1)</b> 50:3	<b>fact (2)</b> 25:14;57:16	<b>find (8)</b> 14:12;16:7;40:18; 53:5;58:16,23;59:3; 64:16	<b>foot (1)</b> 58:8
<b>end (5)</b> 12:9;14:14;32:1; 38:24;55:24	<b>even (9)</b> 56:1,8,25;57:24; 62:12;65:4,22;70:18; 71:4	<b>factors (2)</b> 35:6,14	<b>findings (6)</b> 7:7;44:24;45:21; 46:16;50:15;51:5	<b>foothills (1)</b> 53:22
<b>energy (1)</b> 36:18	<b>evening (1)</b> 69:16	<b>failure (1)</b> 45:12	<b>fine (2)</b> 51:11,12	<b>footprint (6)</b> 8:13;9:3;17:10;20:3, 4;21:12
<b>engineering (1)</b> 21:13	<b>everybody (5)</b> 28:25;33:10;52:6; 54:17;71:13	<b>familiar (1)</b> 25:14	<b>fingertips (1)</b> 49:10	<b>forecast (1)</b> 27:16
<b>Engineers (8)</b> 4:19,20,22;11:18; 13:12;14:5,23;51:7	<b>exactly (1)</b> 60:13	<b>family (1)</b> 63:13	<b>firewood (1)</b> 35:14	<b>Foreland (1)</b> 17:18
<b>English (1)</b> 62:8	<b>example (5)</b> 22:4,15;35:13;41:19; 68:25	<b>far (3)</b> 18:14;24:12;53:14	<b>first (6)</b> 7:25;15:19;35:10; 41:11;56:4;60:14	<b>foreseeable (1)</b> 27:15
<b>English] (9)</b> 61:2;62:7,23;63:7, 18,22;64:1,6,25	<b>examples (1)</b> 41:17	<b>Farewell (2)</b> 43:19;45:9	<b>fish (49)</b> 25:13,14,15,16,18; 30:5,22,22;31:2;35:13; 42:7,12,16,19,23;43:1; 44:11,12,13,16,22; 49:23;52:15;54:13; 56:12,20,21;59:9;63:5; 64:4,8,8,12,13,14,15, 16,18,23;65:15,16,18, 20,20,24;66:10,24; 67:5;70:18	<b>forever (1)</b> 56:24
<b>enough (4)</b> 8:21;57:19;60:10; 64:8	<b>except (1)</b> 26:23	<b>farms (1)</b> 56:10	<b>fisheries (2)</b> 50:23,25	<b>forget (1)</b> 65:5
<b>ensure (1)</b> 68:3	<b>excessively (1)</b> 15:1	<b>farther (1)</b> 7:16	<b>fishermen (1)</b> 65:19	<b>Fork (2)</b> 37:21;38:9
<b>entire (2)</b> 37:18;55:16	<b>exist (1)</b> 21:19	<b>father (1)</b> 62:10	<b>fishers (1)</b> 44:22	<b>form (1)</b> 28:6
<b>entity (3)</b> 15:2;70:1,6	<b>existing (2)</b> 22:19;26:15	<b>fax (1)</b> 32:12	<b>fishing (7)</b> 27:5;30:23;31:2; 44:10;56:14;63:23; 64:19	<b>formal (2)</b> 7:13;47:15
<b>environment (7)</b> 16:9;21:12;49:25; 52:13;61:21;62:22; 71:2	<b>exists (3)</b> 15:22;22:17;25:17	<b>faxed (1)</b> 47:24	<b>forms (1)</b> 64:18	<b>formally (1)</b> 51:13
<b>Environmental (36)</b> 5:8,8,22;6:1,24;11:9, 10,11;12:3,11,23;13:7, 14;14:3;15:18;22:1,6; 29:6,9,10,11,21;30:11; 31:19,21;32:3,24; 34:16,17;37:14,16; 43:4;45:25;65:1;70:10; 71:10	<b>expanded (1)</b> 39:16	<b>features (2)</b> 28:8,11	<b>forward (7)</b> 11:18;15:14;16:2,11; 27:24;31:6;48:18	<b>forms (1)</b> 64:18
<b>Equipment (1)</b> 26:24	<b>expansion (1)</b> 56:9	<b>federal (11)</b> 5:2,12;6:12;7:2;11:1, 15;13:8,10;48:18,19; 49:6	<b>found (2)</b> 40:17;45:18	<b>four (6)</b> 10:1,9;23:2,16;24:1; 59:20
<b>erosion (1)</b> 20:7	<b>expect (1)</b> 27:23	<b>feed (1)</b> 65:22	<b>four-barge (1)</b> 40:4	<b>frame (2)</b> 26:4,17
<b>Eskimo (1)</b> 63:14	<b>expected (2)</b> 10:1;25:18	<b>feel (4)</b> 15:4;33:6;55:9;61:9	<b>frankly (1)</b> 31:4	<b>free (1)</b> 33:6
<b>especially (4)</b> 41:13;52:13;54:13; 70:17	<b>experience (2)</b> 41:12;49:20	<b>feet (6)</b> 8:5;20:6;37:25; 38:20,21;56:11	<b>freezer (1)</b> 57:3	<b>friend (1)</b> 56:23
<b>estimate (1)</b>	<b>experts (1)</b> 6:11	<b>few (4)</b> 5:10;9:6;27:11;68:1	<b>FRIENDLY (2)</b> 61:9;71:12	
	<b>explain (2)</b> 57:17;60:13	<b>fiber optic (1)</b> 36:6		
	<b>expressed (1)</b> 21:17	<b>Field (1)</b> 54:7		
	<b>Exxon (1)</b> 70:20	<b>fight (1)</b> 54:12		
	<b>eye (1)</b> 59:17	<b>figure (1)</b> 55:8		

<p><b>front (2)</b> 35:9;39:13 <b>fuel (11)</b> 8:25;19:7;39:18,24, 25;40:6,7,8,12;44:5; 45:11 <b>functional (1)</b> 26:16 <b>fur (2)</b> 41:19;43:15 <b>further (1)</b> 17:6 <b>future (3)</b> 27:15,17,21</p>	<p><b>Gold (16)</b> 4:21;7:20;8:21; 22:21;35:1;36:1,3,19, 23;37:9;40:25;41:5; 45:20;61:2;70:25;71:1 <b>gold-bearing (1)</b> 8:20 <b>Good (11)</b> 4:2;6:22;48:22; 49:14;54:19;56:23; 62:25;66:11;68:2;69:7, 9 <b>Goodnews (3)</b> 62:7;66:22;70:13 <b>GORDON (20)</b> 4:2,18;7:15;34:6; 48:4;49:12;51:9,22,25; 52:23;53:7;60:19;61:8; 62:4;66:19;68:18; 69:15,20;71:8,17 <b>Gorge (3)</b> 21:3,9;37:7 <b>GRACE (2)</b> 52:4,4 <b>grant (2)</b> 36:2;58:22 <b>graph (1)</b> 24:6 <b>graphs (1)</b> 22:22 <b>gravel (4)</b> 9:14,15;38:3;39:20 <b>great (5)</b> 51:16;52:17;54:6; 57:13;60:9 <b>greater (2)</b> 25:19;27:6 <b>greatest (2)</b> 16:9;58:14 <b>greens (1)</b> 52:15 <b>ground (4)</b> 19:22,24;53:4,5 <b>grow (1)</b> 59:11 <b>guarantee (3)</b> 55:18;57:2,25 <b>Guard (1)</b> 58:6 <b>guess (2)</b> 19:4;60:14 <b>guide (1)</b> 53:22 <b>Guided (1)</b> 53:23 <b>Gussack (1)</b> 57:16 <b>guy (1)</b> 51:18 <b>guys (10)</b> 52:10;60:9;62:23; 63:1,2,9;64:7,10; 65:12;67:18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>H</b></p> <p><b>habitat (2)</b> 25:15;35:16 <b>half (11)</b> 9:24;10:10;14:14,17; 18:23;23:4;27:8;62:17, 18,23,25 <b>happen (12)</b> 16:4,5;21:20;23:18; 27:21;52:21;54:18; 55:24;57:23;59:22; 61:23;71:14 <b>happened (3)</b> 27:18;55:12;58:14 <b>happening (1)</b> 27:19 <b>happens (7)</b> 17:23;46:16;49:5; 52:19;55:13;59:5; 69:18 <b>Harbor (1)</b> 67:14 <b>hard (2)</b> 50:11;53:5 <b>hardly (1)</b> 64:7 <b>harm (2)</b> 56:20,21 <b>harvest (1)</b> 35:16 <b>harvestable (1)</b> 35:12 <b>haul (10)</b> 16:13,14;19:6;24:23, 24;26:3,9,10;27:7;42:3 <b>hauling (1)</b> 67:20 <b>hazard (1)</b> 54:9 <b>Hazardous (5)</b> 13:11;50:21;67:20, 24;68:1 <b>HAZWOPER (1)</b> 68:3 <b>headphones (1)</b> 4:4 <b>hear (5)</b> 4:14;34:1;57:10; 60:25;68:11 <b>heard (1)</b> 66:24 <b>hearing (20)</b> 4:11;5:25;6:3,5,17, 21;7:11;28:24;33:10, 19,21;34:8,13,15,19, 22;46:8;51:14;71:19, 21 <b>hearings (5)</b> 40:24;45:17,22;46:5, 11 <b>heaviest (1)</b></p>	<p>55:2 <b>heavy (2)</b> 16:14;26:24 <b>Hebgen (1)</b> 55:14 <b>held (2)</b> 40:24;69:18 <b>help (12)</b> 22:18;34:9;51:7; 57:4;64:11,12;65:11, 18,22;66:4,14,15 <b>helpful (1)</b> 22:16 <b>helping (1)</b> 65:13 <b>helps (1)</b> 66:5 <b>Hi (3)</b> 6:22;66:21;70:12 <b>high (3)</b> 8:4;38:20,21 <b>higher (1)</b> 20:6 <b>HILL (2)</b> 52:4,5 <b>hiring (1)</b> 69:25 <b>Historic (1)</b> 21:7 <b>hit (1)</b> 59:4 <b>hits (1)</b> 59:7 <b>hold (1)</b> 34:2 <b>holding (3)</b> 20:19,20,21 <b>home (1)</b> 71:16 <b>Homer (1)</b> 55:6 <b>hope (2)</b> 51:2;62:2 <b>hopefully (1)</b> 61:24 <b>hours (1)</b> 23:23 <b>house (2)</b> 9:18;35:14 <b>human (1)</b> 16:8 <b>hundred (1)</b> 56:11 <b>hungry (1)</b> 63:12 <b>hunt (2)</b> 68:21,21 <b>hunted (1)</b> 53:22 <b>hunting (1)</b> 41:24 <b>hydraulic (1)</b> 20:20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>I</b></p> <p><b>ice (1)</b> 59:8 <b>ice-free (1)</b> 23:8 <b>idea (1)</b> 13:24 <b>idiots (2)</b> 56:2;59:22 <b>Iditarod (1)</b> 21:7 <b>Impact (37)</b> 5:8,9,23;6:1,24;11:9; 12:3,11,23;13:7,14; 16:20;21:6;22:6,13,14; 25:14;29:7,9,21;30:11; 31:19,21;32:3,25; 34:16,17;41:2;42:12, 19;43:4;46:1;48:24; 62:22;70:10,22;71:10 <b>impacted (2)</b> 22:7;46:4 <b>impacting (2)</b> 21:11;42:25 <b>impacts (59)</b> 5:15;6:4,10,18;7:7; 11:25;15:25;16:7,7,8; 17:2,6,23;18:6,11;19:6, 9,10,13,16;21:15;22:2; 23:2;25:8,13,18,19,22; 26:1;27:5,13,14,15,17; 28:5,7,9,10,14,22; 30:21;31:1,4;34:25; 35:15,16;37:17,17; 40:14,21,24;41:20; 44:8,21;46:13;47:17; 51:1;52:9,22 <b>importance (2)</b> 30:6,8 <b>important (20)</b> 7:12;10:21;12:22; 14:11,21;24:6;26:2; 29:10;31:18;41:18,23; 42:7,24;43:1;46:8; 47:20,21;50:23;67:22; 69:23 <b>importantly (1)</b> 5:20 <b>include (7)</b> 35:13,15;36:23; 40:16;43:24;44:8; 67:16 <b>included (3)</b> 22:11;40:25;41:3 <b>includes (7)</b> 35:22;36:6;37:23; 38:13;39:15;41:18; 45:4 <b>including (3)</b> 35:5;41:13;44:4 <b>increase (6)</b></p>
<b>G</b>				
<p><b>gain (1)</b> 57:7 <b>gallons (4)</b> 9:22,24;39:18;40:7 <b>Game (8)</b> 38:10;39:22;40:13; 53:22;64:8,15;65:15; 66:10 <b>gap (1)</b> 15:9 <b>gaps (2)</b> 12:14;31:10 <b>gas (15)</b> 10:4;16:16;17:8,20, 24;36:5;37:4;41:7; 43:3,6;53:4,12;60:16, 18;61:14 <b>gasoline (2)</b> 53:16;60:17 <b>gather (3)</b> 33:16;46:6;68:22 <b>gatherings (1)</b> 65:10 <b>generation (3)</b> 41:16;64:1,2 <b>generations (2)</b> 59:20;63:11 <b>gentlemen (1)</b> 4:3 <b>geology (1)</b> 50:1 <b>Georgetown (1)</b> 43:9 <b>given (5)</b> 7:17;23:6;34:1; 47:22;69:21 <b>gives (1)</b> 64:15 <b>goal (1)</b> 49:7 <b>God (1)</b> 55:15 <b>goes (10)</b> 11:18;19:25;23:10, 15;24:20;48:12;58:19; 59:5,7,22</p>				

<p>23:14;24:5;43:20,21; 44:16,21 <b>increased (5)</b> 35:16,17,23;43:24; 45:8 <b>increases (1)</b> 26:20 <b>indicated (1)</b> 13:18 <b>indicates (1)</b> 31:24 <b>indigenous (1)</b> 54:10 <b>individual (1)</b> 48:14 <b>individually (1)</b> 44:18 <b>inform (1)</b> 67:22 <b>information (26)</b> 5:2,4,18,21;12:19, 24;15:10;16:25;21:25; 25:11;28:17;29:1,8,14; 30:24;32:13,22;33:1,2, 3,16;46:10;47:18; 50:10;51:6;71:20 <b>informational (1)</b> 61:4 <b>informed (1)</b> 67:17 <b>infrastructure (7)</b> 36:19,23;37:11;41:8; 43:13;44:2,4 <b>initiating (1)</b> 33:23 <b>initiation (1)</b> 17:20 <b>injury (1)</b> 25:16 <b>Inlet (6)</b> 10:6;17:8,16;36:7, 17;69:1 <b>input (6)</b> 11:16;13:2;19:11; 22:9;40:23;61:6 <b>inside (1)</b> 16:15 <b>instance (2)</b> 24:7;69:24 <b>instead (7)</b> 16:17;17:7;18:8,20; 19:22;24:24;26:22 <b>insulting (1)</b> 56:16 <b>integrate (1)</b> 56:22 <b>intelligent (2)</b> 11:15;29:17 <b>intended (2)</b> 14:15;25:25 <b>intensity (1)</b> 44:14 <b>intent (2)</b></p>	<p>5:17;11:19 <b>Interest (1)</b> 6:25 <b>into (37)</b> 8:1;9:17;11:6,7; 12:17;19:21,25;22:15; 29:24;30:15,19;37:15; 38:22,25;39:3,7,9,10, 11,12;40:10;42:18,25; 53:13;55:20;57:3,20; 58:7,10;60:12;63:11; 67:10;68:15;69:6,6,7; 71:19 <b>introduce (6)</b> 6:20;28:25;33:10; 48:2,21;49:13 <b>introduced (1)</b> 48:20 <b>introduction (2)</b> 28:24;33:9 <b>introductions (1)</b> 48:5 <b>involve (3)</b> 39:25;47:5;67:19 <b>involved (4)</b> 11:22;65:14;66:14; 69:13 <b>involving (2)</b> 38:5;45:10 <b>irreparable (1)</b> 71:3 <b>ISAACS (2)</b> 49:14,15 <b>issue (5)</b> 13:15,15,17;29:3; 50:24 <b>issues (9)</b> 22:5,10;28:20;29:4; 33:5;50:20,25;67:8,13 <b>item (2)</b> 35:18;47:4 <b>items (3)</b> 35:8;46:21,25</p>	<p><b>JULIUS (1)</b> 66:21 <b>July (1)</b> 36:2 <b>June (1)</b> 40:3 <b>Jungjuk (9)</b> 9:12;18:9,18;19:7; 39:17,23;40:2,7;44:5</p>	<p>62:24;64:23;69:7 <b>Lands (8)</b> 6:25;7:4;36:13,15, 16;37:8;47:4,5 <b>large (3)</b> 8:15;26:9,10 <b>largest (1)</b> 24:19 <b>last (5)</b> 23:21;27:10;35:21; 47:6;62:13 <b>later (1)</b> 4:11 <b>laws (1)</b> 56:5 <b>laying (1)</b> 60:1 <b>leader (4)</b> 49:15,21,23,24 <b>leak (6)</b> 53:4;61:14,15,17,20; 69:6 <b>leakage (1)</b> 61:13 <b>leaks (1)</b> 17:24 <b>learn (1)</b> 32:21 <b>learning (1)</b> 11:17 <b>lease (1)</b> 7:3 <b>least (3)</b> 49:10;57:20;60:16 <b>leave (1)</b> 51:12 <b>leaves (2)</b> 23:10;60:2 <b>leaving (1)</b> 23:7 <b>left (4)</b> 8:8;19:18;70:21,21 <b>legal (1)</b> 35:24 <b>Legislature (1)</b> 56:5 <b>legs (1)</b> 51:17 <b>length (1)</b> 36:13 <b>less (12)</b> 16:17,19,20,21; 24:25;25:1,22,23; 33:14;51:11;64:4,5 <b>level (2)</b> 30:6,7 <b>levels (1)</b> 44:16 <b>Lewis (1)</b> 38:21 <b>liaison (2)</b> 33:4,6 <b>life (12)</b></p>	<p>41:22;55:18;57:17; 62:11,12,16,17,19; 65:5;66:9,12;68:23 <b>lifestyle (1)</b> 63:16 <b>lifestyles (1)</b> 52:15 <b>lighter (1)</b> 44:18 <b>likely (2)</b> 26:4;41:17 <b>limit (6)</b> 16:7;18:6;25:7;28:4, 6,9 <b>limitations (2)</b> 35:21,22 <b>limited (3)</b> 17:13;19:23;31:23 <b>limiting (1)</b> 27:4 <b>LINDA (1)</b> 69:17 <b>line (7)</b> 17:24;26:13,14,15; 54:19;59:21;65:8 <b>lines (1)</b> 60:18 <b>liquid (1)</b> 16:16 <b>list (1)</b> 15:13 <b>listed (5)</b> 10:11;29:4;30:3; 31:20;45:16 <b>listen (2)</b> 6:15;57:9 <b>listened (1)</b> 57:12 <b>listening (2)</b> 11:24;70:14 <b>little (10)</b> 9:13;25:11;28:17; 50:6;51:12,17,17;57:7; 60:11,12 <b>live (9)</b> 52:15;54:24;56:8; 62:17,18,18;63:15; 64:23;70:13 <b>lived (3)</b> 53:21;55:11;65:18 <b>living (2)</b> 53:21;63:9 <b>LLC (1)</b> 36:1 <b>LNG (12)</b> 16:18,22;17:7,24; 24:23,24;26:3,9,11,12, 13,24 <b>LNG-powered (1)</b> 16:13 <b>loads (2)</b> 44:19;67:20 <b>local (1)</b></p>
	<p><b>J</b></p>	<p><b>K</b></p>		
	<p><b>James (2)</b> 70:12,12 <b>January (1)</b> 36:3 <b>JEFF (2)</b> 49:1,1 <b>Jessica (1)</b> 50:3 <b>job (3)</b> 59:18,19;60:9 <b>jobs (5)</b> 52:18;64:3;66:1; 68:9,16 <b>John (3)</b> 4:6,6;56:23 <b>Jon (4)</b> 48:19;49:12,14,15</p>	<p><b>Kalskag (1)</b> 45:6 <b>keep (2)</b> 51:19,20 <b>KEITH (27)</b> 4:2,18;6:23;7:15; 34:6,24;36:24;44:3; 47:11;48:2,4;49:12; 51:2,9,22,25;52:23; 53:7;60:19;61:8;62:4; 66:19;68:18;69:15,20; 71:8,17 <b>Keith's (1)</b> 35:25 <b>KEPPEL (2)</b> 53:9,10 <b>kids (3)</b> 59:20;63:11;68:14 <b>kill (3)</b> 55:3,16;56:20 <b>kind (8)</b> 27:23;30:24;50:14; 59:21;62:25;67:16; 70:19;71:3 <b>king (1)</b> 54:16 <b>knowledge (3)</b> 22:17,19;23:9 <b>Kuskokwim (34)</b> 9:12;17:12;22:17,20, 23;23:15;24:3;27:24; 36:8,11,17,25;37:22; 39:3,12,12,15,17,19; 42:9,20,25;43:2;44:6,7, 22;45:3,15;55:20; 61:11;64:5,6;68:21,22 <b>Kwethluk (1)</b> 45:5 <b>KYUK (1)</b> 57:10</p>	<p><b>L</b></p>	
		<p><b>ladies (1)</b> 4:2 <b>lake (7)</b> 39:9;40:10;42:10,22; 45:13;55:14,14 <b>Land (11)</b> 5:24;7:6;13:10;18:3; 36:1,10;52:19,22;</p>		

<p>48:18  <b>located (1)</b>  36:20  <b>location (1)</b>  35:20  <b>locations (1)</b>  66:2  <b>logos (1)</b>  5:12  <b>logs (1)</b>  35:14  <b>long (7)</b>  27:8;36:4,9;37:25;  38:23;54:19;69:2  <b>long-term (3)</b>  41:20;59:13;70:22  <b>look (16)</b>  12:11;15:19;20:23;  22:8;24:2,16;30:25;  31:11;33:13;47:14;  50:12;51:3;54:13;  58:16;59:16,21  <b>looked (6)</b>  15:11;29:24;41:9;  50:8;51:6;60:4  <b>looking (7)</b>  15:16;23:24;25:4;  27:18,19,19;31:15  <b>looks (2)</b>  41:6;49:25  <b>lose (2)</b>  57:23;68:23  <b>loses (1)</b>  66:13  <b>lot (14)</b>  49:4,20;50:4,9,12;  53:10;57:6;58:4;62:13;  64:21;65:18;66:1,6;  70:15  <b>lots (2)</b>  61:18;64:13  <b>love (1)</b>  55:23  <b>low (3)</b>  8:4;24:22;44:17  <b>lower (2)</b>  42:24;45:6  <b>lumped (1)</b>  30:15</p>	<p>9:15;36:4  <b>major (3)</b>  22:5;28:21;70:16  <b>majority (2)</b>  10:16;26:23  <b>Maker (1)</b>  66:9  <b>making (4)</b>  26:5,17;64:21;65:2  <b>managed (1)</b>  47:3  <b>Management (8)</b>  5:25;13:11;28:11;  36:2;38:10;39:22;  40:13;47:3  <b>manager (3)</b>  4:19,20;47:10  <b>man's (1)</b>  62:17  <b>many (8)</b>  28:7;49:7;50:4;  53:24;54:3;55:2,17;  64:16  <b>maps (1)</b>  58:3  <b>March (1)</b>  11:22  <b>marine (1)</b>  23:18  <b>Mark (9)</b>  6:20,22;34:21,21,23;  48:4,20;71:19,19  <b>Mary (3)</b>  4:14;32:4;34:1  <b>Material (3)</b>  13:11;67:21;68:1  <b>materials (2)</b>  42:2;68:7  <b>MATHEW (2)</b>  61:9;71:12  <b>matter (1)</b>  6:11  <b>maximize (1)</b>  14:18  <b>may (31)</b>  5:3;7:8;12:17;18:25;  19:2;25:7;27:21;28:14;  29:2;33:24;34:1,2,20;  35:3,13;39:5;42:15,15,  19;44:13,16,25;45:14,  20;46:8,12,18;47:10;  53:12;54:1;69:11  <b>maybe (6)</b>  50:6;54:15;63:22;  64:2,8;68:4  <b>McGrath (3)</b>  43:8,25;45:7  <b>mean (5)</b>  17:15;23:19;29:20;  46:16;54:8  <b>means (9)</b>  17:17;18:20;19:20;  23:8;25:23;26:25;</p>	<p>27:22;31:13;56:24  <b>measures (1)</b>  46:11  <b>measuring (1)</b>  8:3  <b>mechanism (3)</b>  18:5;19:2;28:9  <b>mechanisms (1)</b>  28:4  <b>meet (4)</b>  11:1;39:5;42:11,15  <b>meeting (3)</b>  32:3,19;61:5  <b>meetings (13)</b>  11:21;12:7;32:15,17,  18;52:6;60:23;61:4;  65:10,13,14;66:14;  67:17  <b>members (1)</b>  50:4  <b>mention (1)</b>  48:16  <b>mentioned (17)</b>  6:23;10:8;11:9;  14:23;15:8;24:8;27:2;  28:15;30:10;32:4;  34:24;38:9;39:1;40:5;  48:15;51:10;52:1  <b>mentioning (2)</b>  51:16;68:24  <b>mercury (3)</b>  45:12;59:3;69:4  <b>merge (1)</b>  38:22  <b>Merrill (1)</b>  54:7  <b>MERRITT (4)</b>  62:6,7;70:12,13  <b>message (1)</b>  60:4  <b>Met (3)</b>  58:7,8,23  <b>methodology (5)</b>  8:10;19:13,16,19;  25:7  <b>microchips (1)</b>  58:10  <b>middle (2)</b>  55:7;63:19  <b>middle-of-the-road (2)</b>  4:24;14:25  <b>might (23)</b>  9:14;18:6;19:4,13;  22:13;23:3;27:16,23;  28:4;29:21,24;34:4;  35:15;48:3;49:9;50:13;  51:15;52:9;62:12;  67:25;68:9;70:1,5  <b>migration (1)</b>  35:20  <b>mile (4)</b>  19:17;20:3;38:23;  54:19</p>	<p><b>miles (14)</b>  7:21;8:2,14,22;9:4;  10:5;19:7,8;21:5;  36:10,21;37:8,19;  38:23  <b>mill (2)</b>  8:9,24  <b>milling (3)</b>  8:13;19:18;51:20  <b>million (4)</b>  9:22,24;39:18;40:6  <b>millions (1)</b>  8:18  <b>mind (3)</b>  4:13;52:1;57:1  <b>Mine (77)</b>  4:21;7:20,23;8:6,17;  9:9,11,14,23;10:7,15;  16:19,23;17:8;18:16;  26:8,21,23;35:1;36:7,  19,22;37:10;38:12,19,  24;39:8,13,19,19,21,  24;41:7,11,12,14,15,  22,25;42:6,10,14,16,  17;43:18;45:2,14;  47:18;50:13;53:10,11,  19;55:19;56:1,2,18;  59:16;60:15,15,25;  64:20,23,24;65:4,25;  66:4;67:4,7,7,15;68:6,  10,13,14,24;69:12;  70:24  <b>mines (6)</b>  10:20;26:9;62:21;  63:17,24;66:2  <b>minimal (2)</b>  25:4;47:5  <b>minimize (8)</b>  16:6;18:11;19:9;  25:8;28:4,7;37:16;47:7  <b>minimized (2)</b>  16:9;28:14  <b>minimizes (1)</b>  30:21  <b>mining (12)</b>  10:18;11:3,4;26:24;  38:24;41:21;50:16;  55:15;63:18,19;70:16;  71:6  <b>minutes (7)</b>  5:11;9:6;27:12;33:9,  12;51:2,11  <b>missed (2)</b>  31:13;50:5  <b>mitigated (2)</b>  28:10;46:13  <b>mitigation (4)</b>  28:3,3,6;46:11  <b>moderate (1)</b>  25:18  <b>modification (3)</b>  17:17,22;26:15  <b>modifies (1)</b></p>	<p>21:15  <b>modifying (1)</b>  19:4  <b>moisture (1)</b>  59:7  <b>moment (1)</b>  38:9  <b>momentarily (1)</b>  18:7  <b>money (15)</b>  55:23;57:4,25;63:8,  9,10,12,14,15;64:21;  65:2,21;66:1,12;69:14  <b>monies (1)</b>  68:13  <b>monitoring (1)</b>  10:22  <b>Montana (1)</b>  55:11  <b>month (2)</b>  64:9,17  <b>moose (8)</b>  41:19;43:14;53:24;  59:10;66:24,25;67:3,5  <b>more (28)</b>  5:10;11:15;20:7,8;  21:6,13;22:12;27:1,11;  28:17;29:18;30:22;  31:3,8;32:16,21;33:15;  35:8;51:12;52:9;54:11;  57:16;59:25;60:2,12,  12;62:13;64:19  <b>mortality (1)</b>  25:16  <b>Most (12)</b>  5:19;29:8,22;41:12;  56:13,15;59:6;61:12,  23;62:1;63:9;71:12  <b>mostly (2)</b>  61:10,11  <b>mother (1)</b>  62:10  <b>mounded (1)</b>  20:5  <b>Mount (1)</b>  67:7  <b>mountains (1)</b>  55:13  <b>mouth (2)</b>  43:2;44:7  <b>moved (1)</b>  54:14  <b>much (23)</b>  4:16;6:23;7:15;9:25;  19:24;20:4;33:16;  51:19,23;52:24;53:8;  54:8;59:3;60:13,18,19;  61:21;62:5,8;63:5;  66:19;70:19;71:18  <b>multiple (1)</b>  47:3  <b>must (2)</b>  46:14;65:5</p>
<b>M</b>				
<p><b>machinery (1)</b>  43:12  <b>magnitude (1)</b>  44:14  <b>mail (1)</b>  32:11  <b>mailed (1)</b>  47:24  <b>mainly (2)</b>  52:14,21  <b>maintain (2)</b></p>				

N	nets (1) 44:11 new (4) 9:12;39:17;46:10,10 newly (1) 37:25 Newman (2) 48:6,7 news (1) 60:6 newsletters (1) 33:1 next (6) 8:6;9:1;15:17;46:16; 48:12;64:1 Nicolai (2) 43:7;45:7 night (1) 55:7 Nikolai (1) 43:25 nine (2) 37:25;38:2 Nobody (1) 63:10 noise (2) 4:16;19:5 none (1) 26:11 nonlocal (2) 43:21;45:8 nonsubsistence (1) 35:17 nor (2) 4:22;14:24 north (5) 7:21;17:18;36:10,21; 67:1 note (5) 4:4;14:11;26:2; 31:18;69:23 noted (5) 14:10;20:2;30:4,17, 19 Notice (1) 11:19 notify (1) 11:20 November (2) 11:19;12:4 nowadays (2) 64:21;68:11 number (4) 10:10;27:22;31:23; 53:20	21:16 occurs (2) 13:19;22:23 ocean (2) 45:11;62:24 October (1) 40:3 off (13) 10:25;13:13;16:18; 26:13,22,24,25;51:24; 54:5;55:16;56:19; 64:23;65:3 offset (1) 19:9 offsets (1) 20:1 oil (1) 68:25 old (2) 62:9;65:9 once (4) 64:24;65:20;68:25; 69:12 One (35) 14:11,13,18;15:2; 16:10;17:1,3;19:10; 20:23;22:25;24:4;25:8; 28:6,9;30:15,19;34:9; 35:4,8;38:4,22,23; 49:18;50:2,3;52:7; 53:12;54:17;55:4; 56:12;58:11;61:23,25; 65:13;71:16 only (21) 6:3;10:13;12:6; 13:21;14:6;23:17; 25:12;26:13;27:11,20; 31:14;32:8;41:1;46:18; 53:18;56:17;60:7;63:6; 65:22;67:12;70:20 onto (1) 63:19 open (9) 7:20;15:5;36:19; 38:22,25;54:6;64:7,19, 24 opening (4) 5:24;21:18,21;54:1 opens (4) 54:8;64:23;65:5; 66:4 operate (4) 16:15;23:4;26:13; 36:4 operating (8) 10:16,20;20:10,21; 26:8,10,22,24 operation (7) 9:8,25;42:6;43:6; 50:16;70:16;71:6 operational (2) 9:19;28:12 operations (7)	10:9,14;11:1;24:17; 38:24;42:17;43:18 opponent (2) 4:22;14:24 opportunity (8) 5:1;7:12;11:14;32:8; 51:3,16;52:17;60:11 oppose (2) 30:12,14 opposed (1) 70:15 option (4) 30:21,21;60:14,15 options (3) 15:12;29:23;30:3 order (1) 37:16 ore (8) 8:9,20,21,22,25; 16:15;41:14;42:2 original (2) 20:15;70:13 Oscarville (1) 45:5 others (2) 28:7;62:13 otherwise (1) 7:3 ounce (1) 53:22 ourselves (1) 65:23 out (36) 5:9;11:19;12:4,16, 22;14:15;15:23;22:24; 27:1;34:9;53:17;54:7, 17;55:7,8,9,19,20,23; 56:4,11,16;57:3,20,22; 58:4,7,14;59:2,3;60:1; 64:16;65:14;68:8,12; 70:23 outlined (2) 40:15,16 outreach (1) 50:3 outsiders (2) 54:2;66:3 over (14) 8:8;10:6;15:2,12; 19:18;27:22;28:19; 48:16;54:16;58:3;65:8; 71:5,6,18 overall (4) 14:1,7,10,13 overburden (2) 8:19;16:16 overflowing (1) 39:3 own (2) 14:4;67:12 owns (1) 69:10	P page (2) 21:9;40:18 pages (1) 60:8 pairs (1) 44:18 paper (1) 64:9 parents (1) 66:16 part (6) 36:18;50:11;56:14, 15;60:3;63:19 participating (1) 5:13 particles (1) 59:8 particulate (1) 42:2 partner (1) 69:18 part-time (2) 59:18,19 pass (1) 65:3 passed (1) 62:10 past (6) 23:22;24:20;27:14, 18;56:1;61:4 patterns (1) 35:20 pay (1) 56:16 paying (1) 66:4 payload (1) 16:14 pdf (1) 40:18 people (41) 50:3;51:21;52:8,13, 15,17;54:5,10,12,14; 55:17,24;57:14,15; 62:17,21;63:16;64:10, 12,20,22,22;65:4,6,6,7, 12,25;66:17,22;67:6, 19;68:1,3,4,12,15; 70:17,23,25,25 per (2) 9:24;44:19 percent (4) 23:14;36:12,14,15 percentage (1) 17:11 period (8) 7:10;10:14;12:6; 23:22,25;24:1;32:1; 51:8 permit (6)
<p>name (9) 4:12,18;32:5;49:1, 14;52:2;53:9;68:19; 70:12 Nancy (1) 49:24 Napaimute (3) 41:13;45:2,6 Napakiak (1) 45:4 Napaskiak (1) 45:4 narrow (1) 25:19 National (8) 6:25;11:10,11;14:2; 15:18;21:7;29:10; 37:14 Native (3) 58:5;62:25;63:7 natural (13) 10:4;16:8,16;17:8, 20;36:5;37:4;41:7; 43:3,6;49:3;53:4;60:18 nature (1) 50:16 navigate (1) 44:19 near (6) 18:14;24:12;36:7; 37:21;38:23;57:19 nearly (1) 27:7 necessary (3) 46:23;47:2,5 need (37) 10:22;12:16,17;13:2, 6;14:2,4,6,8,8;15:6,20; 17:13;19:10;24:25; 27:25;29:22;30:1,2,8; 31:7,9,10,11,24;39:6; 44:17;51:10,12;59:13, 25,25;60:2;63:5;67:17; 68:12;69:4 needed (7) 9:8;10:14;12:1; 15:10;40:8;48:17; 68:10 needing (1) 16:19 needs (6) 7:2;35:3;41:10; 57:20,21;60:4 negative (7) 27:1;31:12,13,14,15; 52:8;54:10 negatively (3) 43:15,23;44:14 neither (2) 4:22;14:23</p>	<p><b>O</b> occupancy (1) 7:4 occupy (1) 17:9 occur (1)</p>			

<p>7:4;13:19;26:6,6,18; 37:12 <b>permits (4)</b> 13:15,16,17;48:16 <b>permitted (4)</b> 9:9;24:5;29:18,19 <b>permitting (9)</b> 37:20;48:10,11,11; 49:4,5,6,8;57:24 <b>perpetuity (8)</b> 10:23;11:6;39:10; 40:10;42:25;56:22; 57:25;59:17 <b>person (3)</b> 65:10;66:11;71:15 <b>petroleum (1)</b> 61:14 <b>phases (1)</b> 41:21 <b>phone (4)</b> 33:20,25;34:4,7 <b>phones (1)</b> 4:13 <b>physical (2)</b> 35:23;49:25 <b>picking (2)</b> 41:23;42:4 <b>picture (2)</b> 12:18;18:7 <b>piece (2)</b> 64:9;71:16 <b>piles (2)</b> 55:15,20 <b>pink (1)</b> 9:10 <b>pipe (4)</b> 38:3;53:14,15;61:15 <b>piped (1)</b> 53:13 <b>pipeline (44)</b> 10:4,5;13:11;17:5,8, 9,17,19,20;18:2;20:25; 21:3,4,18;25:2;36:5,9, 18,22;37:2,3,4,6,12,14, 21,23;38:1,4,8;41:7; 43:3,6,12,13,23;45:9; 50:17;53:3,23;60:17; 61:24;69:2;70:4 <b>pit (27)</b> 7:20,24;8:1,1,2,4,4; 11:3,3,3;16:15;36:19; 38:19,21,23,25;39:1,5, 9,11,13;40:9;42:10,15, 18,22;45:13 <b>pits (6)</b> 7:25;9:14;38:3,19, 22;39:20 <b>place (6)</b> 8:16;10:20;17:16; 18:13;56:6;70:7 <b>places (1)</b> 56:13 <b>planned (1)</b></p>	<p>37:4 <b>plant (6)</b> 16:23;39:7,10;40:9; 42:13,18 <b>plants (4)</b> 35:13;59:4;68:22; 70:18 <b>plate (1)</b> 55:12 <b>play (2)</b> 33:14,15 <b>please (4)</b> 4:4;12:24;47:17; 51:14 <b>plenty (1)</b> 54:12 <b>pm (1)</b> 71:22 <b>point (9)</b> 10:23;12:22;16:2; 18:24;23:20;33:8;34:5, 21;71:18 <b>pointed (1)</b> 34:9 <b>points (2)</b> 53:11;70:15 <b>Policy (6)</b> 11:10,11;14:3;15:18; 29:11;37:14 <b>Polley (2)</b> 67:7,7 <b>polluting (1)</b> 18:1 <b>pollution (1)</b> 18:3 <b>pond (2)</b> 20:10,21 <b>popular (1)</b> 56:13 <b>population (1)</b> 35:12 <b>populations (2)</b> 42:7;44:13 <b>port (22)</b> 9:12,22;18:8,8,9,17, 19;19:7;24:11,14; 39:16,17,23;40:1,2,7, 12;41:15,16;44:5,19; 56:9 <b>portion (3)</b> 37:6,19;38:9 <b>portions (1)</b> 37:13 <b>positive (7)</b> 14:21;27:3;31:15; 53:11,12,19;54:1 <b>possible (6)</b> 16:9;33:17,24;42:16; 49:8;60:16 <b>possibly (1)</b> 55:21 <b>post (1)</b> 11:4</p>	<p><b>poster (11)</b> 6:6,15;28:16;29:1; 33:11,25;48:1,6;49:18; 50:6;51:10 <b>posters (11)</b> 6:7,13;28:18,18,23; 29:4;33:13;50:8,14; 51:4,21 <b>potential (42)</b> 5:15;6:4,10,18;7:13; 11:12,25;13:3;14:21; 15:25;16:21;17:2,6,23; 19:3,12;20:7,15,25; 21:6,15;22:2;24:21; 25:22,23;26:1,16; 27:17;28:5,14;29:16; 31:1,4;41:20;42:6,19, 22,23;43:5;44:3;45:10; 70:4 <b>potentially (11)</b> 21:13,21;22:7;25:18; 41:12,25;42:12;43:20; 44:21;46:4;50:12 <b>power (2)</b> 41:16;50:17 <b>powered (2)</b> 16:16;24:24 <b>practices (1)</b> 28:12 <b>predominant (1)</b> 58:17 <b>preliminary (6)</b> 7:6,7;34:25;40:14; 41:1;45:18 <b>prepared (3)</b> 7:6;46:18;50:14 <b>prescribed (1)</b> 35:6 <b>presence (1)</b> 43:11 <b>present (1)</b> 27:14 <b>presentation (5)</b> 5:24,25;33:2,21; 35:25 <b>presentations (2)</b> 6:6;28:16 <b>presented (1)</b> 46:3 <b>pretty (3)</b> 53:5;60:13;64:25 <b>prevent (3)</b> 39:2,10;61:20 <b>prevention (1)</b> 71:13 <b>previously (1)</b> 37:10 <b>primarily (6)</b> 6:11;11:15;13:22; 14:1;16:6;34:13 <b>primary (8)</b> 6:10;7:23;8:6,17;9:1, 7,10;3;29:6</p>	<p><b>principles (1)</b> 47:3 <b>printed (1)</b> 40:20 <b>probability (2)</b> 18:24;69:22 <b>probably (3)</b> 53:11;56:15;64:19 <b>problem (1)</b> 69:4 <b>problems (1)</b> 67:9 <b>procedures (1)</b> 28:12 <b>proceed (1)</b> 47:10 <b>Proceedings (1)</b> 71:22 <b>P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S (1)</b> 4:1 <b>process (21)</b> 4:7;5:19;8:13,24; 10:18;11:8,18,21;15:4, 9,11;19:18;26:12; 29:11,13;30:11;32:22; 35:2;37:20;47:9,12 <b>processed (1)</b> 8:21 <b>processing (2)</b> 42:2;44:11 <b>production (2)</b> 26:14;61:13 <b>prohibits (1)</b> 37:15 <b>project (94)</b> 4:18,20,21,23,25;5:2, 14,16;6:9,10,17;7:5,8, 13,18;8:6;9:2,2,7,21, 23;10:3,8,13,22,25; 11:12,23,25;12:14,20; 13:4,9,15,16,17;14:2,4, 7,20,24;15:4,6,8,13,15; 17:3;18:6;21:2;22:3; 23:3,5,13;24:5;26:5, 19;27:16,17,20,24; 28:7,10,17;29:16,17, 19;30:13,13,15,18; 31:1,4;32:21;33:1; 35:8;36:23;37:9,15,18; 40:25;41:5,9;46:4; 47:6,9,18;48:10,10,11, 17;50:16,24;61:7; 69:22 <b>projects (4)</b> 11:14;27:20;28:5,14 <b>proponent (3)</b> 4:22;14:24;69:21 <b>proposal (2)</b> 20:17;24:17 <b>proposed (68)</b> 4:21,23,24;5:1,2,5, 13,16;6:17;7:5,19,20, 21;9:2,11,21,25;10:4,6,</p>	<p>12,24;11:12,14;12:14, 20;13:4,15,16;14:2,7, 24;15:8,13;17:20;18:6, 8,16,17;20:1,2,16;21:2, 7,8,22;25:17;26:19; 27:2,16;32:21;35:1; 36:9,19;37:9,23;38:8, 12;39:13,14,23;40:11; 44:15;46:4,23;47:4,18; 48:10,17 <b>proposing (20)</b> 6:8;7:17,25;8:9;9:5, 10,11;10:4;15:24;16:5, 8,23;20:7;23:4,14,25; 24:10;27:9;28:20;36:3 <b>props (1)</b> 54:20 <b>protect (1)</b> 54:5 <b>provide (5)</b> 5:2;7:12;47:13,15; 66:3 <b>provided (2)</b> 58:11,12 <b>providing (2)</b> 47:12;65:23 <b>public (16)</b> 4:10;5:1,10;7:4,6,10, 11;11:16,20;12:5; 32:15;40:24;45:22; 46:8;47:4,5 <b>publics (2)</b> 11:13,13 <b>public's (1)</b> 4:25 <b>pump (1)</b> 53:16 <b>pumped (3)</b> 38:25;39:9;42:18 <b>pumping (1)</b> 39:2 <b>purple (1)</b> 21:9 <b>purpose (7)</b> 14:1,4,7,7,10,14; 16:24 <b>purposes (3)</b> 14:18;35:19;47:6 <b>pushing (9)</b> 23:10,16,16,22;24:1; 40:4;54:15;55:24; 63:25 <b>put (9)</b> 4:14;11:19;12:4; 53:14;56:6,17;57:20; 68:13;69:3 <b>puts (1)</b> 58:20 <b>putting (3)</b> 26:25;58:7;70:24</p>
<b>Q</b>				

<p><b>quake (1)</b> 55:11</p> <p><b>quality (7)</b> 28:22,22;39:5;42:11, 15;50:1,20</p> <p><b>quantity (4)</b> 19:23;24:11,19;25:4</p> <p><b>quarter (1)</b> 54:19</p> <p><b>quickly (1)</b> 13:23</p> <p><b>Quinhagak (2)</b> 60:24;70:14</p> <p><b>quite (1)</b> 27:8</p>	<p><b>reduced (1)</b> 44:10</p> <p><b>reduces (1)</b> 17:6</p> <p><b>reduction (3)</b> 25:22;35:10,15</p> <p><b>reductions (1)</b> 35:18</p> <p><b>referred (2)</b> 13:7;16:12</p> <p><b>referring (3)</b> 10:12,23;36:16</p> <p><b>regarding (11)</b> 5:4;9:4;11:8,25;26:5, 18;29:17;31:4;48:10; 60:25;71:20</p> <p><b>region (6)</b> 14:22;27:24;36:17; 49:20;67:12;68:5</p> <p><b>regional (1)</b> 67:13</p> <p><b>regions (1)</b> 67:13</p> <p><b>regular (1)</b> 67:3</p> <p><b>regulations (1)</b> 14:4</p> <p><b>regulatory (3)</b> 4:20;28:12;48:8</p> <p><b>related (7)</b> 6:18,19;17:23;32:22; 34:13,14;50:25</p> <p><b>relates (1)</b> 21:25</p> <p><b>relating (1)</b> 70:3</p> <p><b>relation (22)</b> 7:18;10:13;20:1,4, 15;22:2,25;24:3,16; 26:1;27:15;29:3;30:4; 31:1;34:12,16,19;45:2; 48:9;70:3,6;71:20</p> <p><b>relative (1)</b> 47:14</p> <p><b>release (3)</b> 45:11,12,25</p> <p><b>released (6)</b> 10:25;11:2,6;20:14; 39:6;42:5</p> <p><b>releases (1)</b> 42:16</p> <p><b>rely (2)</b> 70:17,24</p> <p><b>remain (1)</b> 43:19</p> <p><b>remaining (1)</b> 14:17</p> <p><b>remediation (1)</b> 69:14</p> <p><b>removed (4)</b> 8:19;14:15,16;20:12</p> <p><b>repeat (1)</b> 32:20</p>	<p><b>reporter (1)</b> 4:8</p> <p><b>represented (1)</b> 25:6</p> <p><b>represents (2)</b> 22:22;36:12</p> <p><b>require (3)</b> 44:20;45:22;46:25</p> <p><b>required (10)</b> 14:25;18:12;20:10; 32:7;39:2;44:19;45:17; 46:21;68:10;69:23</p> <p><b>requirement (2)</b> 11:10;46:24</p> <p><b>requirements (3)</b> 25:1;28:13;68:9</p> <p><b>requires (5)</b> 7:1;11:11;14:3; 15:18;16:22</p> <p><b>reserve (1)</b> 7:3</p> <p><b>resident (2)</b> 42:7;44:13</p> <p><b>residents (1)</b> 43:21</p> <p><b>residual (1)</b> 8:12</p> <p><b>resolved (2)</b> 67:8,11</p> <p><b>resource (3)</b> 22:5,10;70:17</p> <p><b>resources (23)</b> 7:14;35:11,12,16,19, 22,23;42:21,23;43:1, 17,20,22;44:12,23; 47:8,20,21;49:3;50:12; 54:5,13;70:24</p> <p><b>respond (2)</b> 68:5;70:19</p> <p><b>responded (1)</b> 31:19</p> <p><b>response (4)</b> 30:16,19;31:21;69:8</p> <p><b>responsible (3)</b> 69:19;70:2,6</p> <p><b>rest (1)</b> 65:19</p> <p><b>restrict (4)</b> 45:21;46:9,12,19</p> <p><b>restriction (3)</b> 35:3;45:14;47:1</p> <p><b>restrictions (3)</b> 7:8;42:21;44:25</p> <p><b>result (5)</b> 7:8;35:4;42:20; 44:25;45:14</p> <p><b>resulting (2)</b> 46:11;47:8</p> <p><b>retain (1)</b> 20:11</p> <p><b>retired (1)</b> 58:6</p> <p><b>review (7)</b> 6:7;12:5,10,18;31:7; 34:11;37:17</p>	<p><b>reviewing (2)</b> 6:13;31:22</p> <p><b>revised (2)</b> 46:9,13</p> <p><b>rewards (1)</b> 59:15</p> <p><b>rich (1)</b> 70:25</p> <p><b>right (15)</b> 12:5;15:23;53:18; 54:24;55:20;57:8; 58:18,21,22,25;59:9; 60:17,24;69:15;71:17</p> <p><b>right-of-way (12)</b> 36:2,10,13;37:5,14, 24;38:1;43:11,14,19, 23;45:9</p> <p><b>rights (1)</b> 69:11</p> <p><b>risk (3)</b> 50:22;52:18;59:19</p> <p><b>risks (1)</b> 50:21</p> <p><b>River (50)</b> 9:13;14:22;16:20; 17:12;18:25;22:17,20, 23;23:15;24:3;25:3,20, 23;27:24;36:25;37:22; 39:4,12,12,15,17,19; 40:3;42:9,20,25;43:2, 9;44:6,6,7,12,16,21,22; 45:3,4,11,15;54:20,24; 55:13,17,20;56:10,11, 20,22;64:6;68:21</p> <p><b>riverine (1)</b> 23:17</p> <p><b>road (11)</b> 9:12,15,15;18:17,21, 21;19:8,8;27:7;39:19; 41:15</p> <p><b>roads (2)</b> 42:3,3</p> <p><b>rock (10)</b> 8:8,11,18,18,19,20; 19:17,22,24;38:13</p> <p><b>Rogers (1)</b> 58:4</p> <p><b>role (1)</b> 48:21</p> <p><b>roles (1)</b> 49:13</p> <p><b>room (8)</b> 4:15;6:8,11;28:18, 23;32:13;33:11;48:20</p> <p><b>rosebud (2)</b> 58:12,17</p> <p><b>Rosenthal (1)</b> 49:21</p> <p><b>round (4)</b> 23:23;39:25,25; 44:20</p>	<p><b>route (10)</b> 20:25;21:3,4,8,8,10, 22;37:6,21;38:8</p> <p><b>routes (2)</b> 21:18;67:4</p> <p><b>routing (1)</b> 67:2</p> <p><b>run (4)</b> 8:9;10:5;19:7,8</p> <p><b>running (1)</b> 54:19</p> <p><b>runoff (2)</b> 38:24;42:22</p> <p><b>runs (2)</b> 26:25;40:3</p> <p><b>ruptures (1)</b> 17:24</p>
<b>R</b>				
<p><b>Radio (2)</b> 57:10,11</p> <p><b>rafts (2)</b> 44:11,17</p> <p><b>rain (1)</b> 59:8</p> <p><b>raised (1)</b> 62:10</p> <p><b>raising (1)</b> 66:17</p> <p><b>Range (2)</b> 10:7;36:11</p> <p><b>ranging (2)</b> 37:24;38:4</p> <p><b>read (2)</b> 14:9;50:10</p> <p><b>real (2)</b> 56:17;60:6</p> <p><b>really (6)</b> 23:19;49:3,7;50:23; 60:10;67:11</p> <p><b>reason (3)</b> 29:6;37:17;50:11</p> <p><b>reasonable (2)</b> 22:19;47:7</p> <p><b>reasonably (1)</b> 27:14</p> <p><b>receive (1)</b> 12:10</p> <p><b>receiving (1)</b> 12:7</p> <p><b>reclaimed (2)</b> 10:15,17</p> <p><b>reclamation (1)</b> 10:19</p> <p><b>recommendation (1)</b> 48:9</p> <p><b>reconvene (2)</b> 6:15;33:18</p> <p><b>Record (3)</b> 13:20;51:24;52:2</p> <p><b>Records (1)</b> 13:13</p> <p><b>redistribution (1)</b> 43:14</p>	<p><b>region (6)</b> 14:22;27:24;36:17; 49:20;67:12;68:5</p> <p><b>regional (1)</b> 67:13</p> <p><b>regions (1)</b> 67:13</p> <p><b>regular (1)</b> 67:3</p> <p><b>regulations (1)</b> 14:4</p> <p><b>regulatory (3)</b> 4:20;28:12;48:8</p> <p><b>related (7)</b> 6:18,19;17:23;32:22; 34:13,14;50:25</p> <p><b>relates (1)</b> 21:25</p> <p><b>relating (1)</b> 70:3</p> <p><b>relation (22)</b> 7:18;10:13;20:1,4, 15;22:2,25;24:3,16; 26:1;27:15;29:3;30:4; 31:1;34:12,16,19;45:2; 48:9;70:3,6;71:20</p> <p><b>relative (1)</b> 47:14</p> <p><b>release (3)</b> 45:11,12,25</p> <p><b>released (6)</b> 10:25;11:2,6;20:14; 39:6;42:5</p> <p><b>releases (1)</b> 42:16</p> <p><b>rely (2)</b> 70:17,24</p> <p><b>remain (1)</b> 43:19</p> <p><b>remaining (1)</b> 14:17</p> <p><b>remediation (1)</b> 69:14</p> <p><b>removed (4)</b> 8:19;14:15,16;20:12</p> <p><b>repeat (1)</b> 32:20</p>	<p><b>reporter (1)</b> 4:8</p> <p><b>represented (1)</b> 25:6</p> <p><b>represents (2)</b> 22:22;36:12</p> <p><b>require (3)</b> 44:20;45:22;46:25</p> <p><b>required (10)</b> 14:25;18:12;20:10; 32:7;39:2;44:19;45:17; 46:21;68:10;69:23</p> <p><b>requirement (2)</b> 11:10;46:24</p> <p><b>requirements (3)</b> 25:1;28:13;68:9</p> <p><b>requires (5)</b> 7:1;11:11;14:3; 15:18;16:22</p> <p><b>reserve (1)</b> 7:3</p> <p><b>resident (2)</b> 42:7;44:13</p> <p><b>residents (1)</b> 43:21</p> <p><b>residual (1)</b> 8:12</p> <p><b>resolved (2)</b> 67:8,11</p> <p><b>resource (3)</b> 22:5,10;70:17</p> <p><b>resources (23)</b> 7:14;35:11,12,16,19, 22,23;42:21,23;43:1, 17,20,22;44:12,23; 47:8,20,21;49:3;50:12; 54:5,13;70:24</p> <p><b>respond (2)</b> 68:5;70:19</p> <p><b>responded (1)</b> 31:19</p> <p><b>response (4)</b> 30:16,19;31:21;69:8</p> <p><b>responsible (3)</b> 69:19;70:2,6</p> <p><b>rest (1)</b> 65:19</p> <p><b>restrict (4)</b> 45:21;46:9,12,19</p> <p><b>restriction (3)</b> 35:3;45:14;47:1</p> <p><b>restrictions (3)</b> 7:8;42:21;44:25</p> <p><b>result (5)</b> 7:8;35:4;42:20; 44:25;45:14</p> <p><b>resulting (2)</b> 46:11;47:8</p> <p><b>retain (1)</b> 20:11</p> <p><b>retired (1)</b> 58:6</p> <p><b>review (7)</b> 6:7;12:5,10,18;31:7; 34:11;37:17</p>	<p><b>route (10)</b> 20:25;21:3,4,8,8,10, 22;37:6,21;38:8</p> <p><b>routes (2)</b> 21:18;67:4</p> <p><b>routing (1)</b> 67:2</p> <p><b>run (4)</b> 8:9;10:5;19:7,8</p> <p><b>running (1)</b> 54:19</p> <p><b>runoff (2)</b> 38:24;42:22</p> <p><b>runs (2)</b> 26:25;40:3</p> <p><b>ruptures (1)</b> 17:24</p>	
<b>S</b>				
<p><b>Safety (1)</b> 13:11</p> <p><b>salmon (4)</b> 42:7;44:13;54:16,23</p> <p><b>salmon-rearing (1)</b> 38:7</p> <p><b>same (9)</b> 17:10,10;18:13;24:4, 9,11;37:4;55:9,25</p> <p><b>save (1)</b> 25:3</p> <p><b>saw (1)</b> 38:12</p> <p><b>saying (3)</b> 27:22;52:10;70:15</p> <p><b>scale (1)</b> 9:2</p> <p><b>scenario (1)</b> 17:25</p> <p><b>scenarios (1)</b> 45:10</p> <p><b>schools (1)</b> 68:8</p> <p><b>scoped (1)</b> 12:12</p> <p><b>scoping (2)</b> 11:21;28:21</p> <p><b>screen (10)</b> 5:6,11;7:22;22:24; 23:12;29:5;32:11,16, 23;47:25</p> <p><b>season (3)</b> 23:8,9;40:2</p> <p><b>Seattle (1)</b> 67:21</p> <p><b>second (6)</b> 8:1;9:7;35:18;43:3; 47:4;60:15</p> <p><b>Section (6)</b> 6:25;35:7;40:19; 45:24;46:17;49:23</p> <p><b>seeing (2)</b> 57:8;71:1</p>	<p><b>region (6)</b> 14:22;27:24;36:17; 49:20;67:12;68:5</p> <p><b>regional (1)</b> 67:13</p> <p><b>regions (1)</b> 67:13</p> <p><b>regular (1)</b> 67:3</p> <p><b>regulations (1)</b> 14:4</p> <p><b>regulatory (3)</b> 4:20;28:12;48:8</p> <p><b>related (7)</b> 6:18,19;17:23;32:22; 34:13,14;50:25</p> <p><b>relates (1)</b> 21:25</p> <p><b>relating (1)</b> 70:3</p> <p><b>relation (22)</b> 7:18;10:13;20:1,4, 15;22:2,25;24:3,16; 26:1;27:15;29:3;30:4; 31:1;34:12,16,19;45:2; 48:9;70:3,6;71:20</p> <p><b>relative (1)</b> 47:14</p> <p><b>release (3)</b> 45:11,12,25</p> <p><b>released (6)</b> 10:25;11:2,6;20:14; 39:6;42:5</p> <p><b>releases (1)</b> 42:16</p> <p><b>rely (2)</b> 70:17,24</p> <p><b>remain (1)</b> 43:19</p> <p><b>remaining (1)</b> 14:17</p> <p><b>remediation (1)</b> 69:14</p> <p><b>removed (4)</b> 8:19;14:15,16;20:12</p> <p><b>repeat (1)</b> 32:20</p>	<p><b>reporter (1)</b> 4:8</p> <p><b>represented (1)</b> 25:6</p> <p><b>represents (2)</b> 22:22;36:12</p> <p><b>require (3)</b> 44:20;45:22;46:25</p> <p><b>required (10)</b> 14:25;18:12;20:10; 32:7;39:2;44:19;45:17; 46:21;68:10;69:23</p> <p><b>requirement (2)</b> 11:10;46:24</p> <p><b>requirements (3)</b> 25:1;28:13;68:9</p> <p><b>requires (5)</b> 7:1;11:11;14:3; 15:18;16:22</p> <p><b>reserve (1)</b> 7:3</p> <p><b>resident (2)</b> 42:7;44:13</p> <p><b>residents (1)</b> 43:21</p> <p><b>residual (1)</b> 8:12</p> <p><b>resolved (2)</b> 67:8,11</p> <p><b>resource (3)</b> 22:5,10;70:17</p> <p><b>resources (23)</b> 7:14;35:11,12,16,19, 22,23;42:21,23;43:1, 17,20,22;44:12,23; 47:8,20,21;49:3;50:12; 54:5,13;70:24</p> <p><b>respond (2)</b> 68:5;70:19</p> <p><b>responded (1)</b> 31:19</p> <p><b>response (4)</b> 30:16,19;31:21;69:8</p> <p><b>responsible (3)</b> 69:19;70:2,6</p> <p><b>rest (1)</b> 65:19</p> <p><b>restrict (4)</b> 45:21;46:9,12,19</p> <p><b>restriction (3)</b> 35:3;45:14;47:1</p> <p><b>restrictions (3)</b> 7:8;42:21;44:25</p> <p><b>result (5)</b> 7:8;35:4;42:20; 44:25;45:14</p> <p><b>resulting (2)</b> 46:11;47:8</p> <p><b>retain (1)</b> 20:11</p> <p><b>retired (1)</b> 58:6</p> <p><b>review (7)</b> 6:7;12:5,10,18;31:7; 34:11;37:17</p>	<p><b>route (10)</b> 20:25;21:3,4,8,8,10, 22;37:6,21;38:8</p> <p><b>routes (2)</b> 21:18;67:4</p> <p><b>routing (1)</b> 67:2</p> <p><b>run (4)</b> 8:9;10:5;19:7,8</p> <p><b>running (1)</b> 54:19</p> <p><b>runoff (2)</b> 38:24;42:22</p> <p><b>runs (2)</b> 26:25;40:3</p> <p><b>ruptures (1)</b> 17:24</p>	

<p>seems (2) 53:15;56:3</p> <p>segment (1) 17:19</p> <p>segments (1) 25:19</p> <p>selected (2) 28:20;46:19</p> <p>send (1) 58:10</p> <p>senior (3) 49:15,19;50:2</p> <p>sense (1) 18:1</p> <p>sentence (2) 14:14,17</p> <p>separately (1) 46:21</p> <p>SEPPI (2) 48:22,23</p> <p>series (1) 11:21</p> <p>service (1) 60:16</p> <p>session (19) 4:10,11;6:2,7,15; 28:16;29:2,7;33:11; 34:1,8,18;46:7;48:1,6; 49:18,22;50:7;51:10</p> <p>set (5) 12:17;29:25;30:1; 33:12;44:11</p> <p>seven (3) 15:14;38:5;63:22</p> <p>shake (1) 55:19</p> <p>shaker (1) 55:4</p> <p>shallow (2) 18:25;25:19</p> <p>shareholders (1) 14:20</p> <p>sharing (1) 30:8</p> <p>sheep (2) 53:23,24</p> <p>Sheila (3) 48:6,7,12</p> <p>shift (1) 55:12</p> <p>shipping (1) 40:2</p> <p>shoreline (2) 23:20;54:25</p> <p>short (1) 10:14</p> <p>shorter (1) 21:5</p> <p>show (3) 18:6;28:19;57:13</p> <p>showed (1) 11:3</p> <p>shows (1)</p>	<p>25:21</p> <p>shut (1) 54:5</p> <p>side (7) 8:4,4;10:6;22:24; 23:2;36:6;61:10</p> <p>significant (6) 7:8;35:3;42:21; 44:25;45:14;47:1</p> <p>significantly (4) 45:21;46:9,12,19</p> <p>sign-in (1) 40:21</p> <p>silts (1) 55:1</p> <p>similar (2) 47:11;49:5</p> <p>simple (1) 57:16</p> <p>simply (4) 16:5;17:7;24:13; 28:8</p> <p>single (7) 8:1;20:18;23:9,10, 16,16;30:16</p> <p>site (33) 7:23;8:7,17,24;9:11, 12,22,23;10:7;16:19, 23;17:8;18:8,9,16,17, 19;26:22,23;36:7,22; 37:10;38:12;39:13,17, 23;40:1,2;41:7,11,16; 45:2;68:24</p> <p>sites (1) 44:11</p> <p>sits (1) 58:23</p> <p>sitting (2) 51:17;54:7</p> <p>six (4) 19:1;37:1;40:16; 50:7</p> <p>size (6) 8:2,14,15,23;17:10; 38:4</p> <p>skills (1) 68:2</p> <p>Skwentna (1) 43:7</p> <p>Sleetmute (1) 43:9</p> <p>slide (1) 25:25</p> <p>slides (2) 13:21;15:17</p> <p>sliding (1) 55:16</p> <p>Small (3) 52:25;53:2;69:17</p> <p>smaller (2) 20:4;37:15</p> <p>smartphone (1) 60:7</p>	<p>smelt (1) 58:24</p> <p>smolt (2) 54:23;55:3</p> <p>socioeconomics (2) 49:22;51:1</p> <p>solar (1) 60:18</p> <p>solely (1) 26:9</p> <p>solicit (1) 45:22</p> <p>someone (4) 16:8;32:19,20;69:25</p> <p>son (1) 62:19</p> <p>soon (1) 33:23</p> <p>sorry (1) 48:15</p> <p>sort (1) 50:18</p> <p>sound (1) 47:2</p> <p>source (2) 50:17;53:12</p> <p>Southeast (1) 67:14</p> <p>speak (3) 4:5;32:6;60:11</p> <p>speaking (3) 4:10;52:16;62:8</p> <p>Special (1) 48:7</p> <p>specialists (1) 49:17</p> <p>species (5) 30:5,23;31:2;41:18; 44:13</p> <p>specific (2) 10:10;47:17</p> <p>specifically (1) 13:10</p> <p>SPENCER (2) 6:22;34:23</p> <p>spend (1) 57:11</p> <p>spill (10) 16:21;17:23,24; 20:15;25:24;45:10; 50:22;67:25;68:4;70:5</p> <p>spilled (1) 68:25</p> <p>spills (4) 67:23,24;68:3;69:8</p> <p>splitting (1) 37:15</p> <p>spoke (1) 44:3</p> <p>spots (4) 18:23,25;19:1;24:21</p> <p>square (6) 8:2,14,22;9:4;19:17;</p>	<p>20:3</p> <p>stack (1) 19:19</p> <p>stacks (1) 20:4</p> <p>staff (4) 48:2;49:13;50:4; 51:4</p> <p>standards (4) 11:2;39:5;42:12,15</p> <p>standing (1) 23:20</p> <p>start (8) 33:13;48:5,5,19; 52:1;59:12;63:23;65:2</p> <p>started (2) 4:3,4</p> <p>starting (2) 11:20;16:1</p> <p>state (27) 4:11,12;5:3,12;6:12; 11:2;13:8;32:5;36:13; 37:8;46:22;48:18;49:2, 4,5,7,9;52:2;57:21,24; 58:7,10,11,11;65:6,9; 67:25</p> <p>Statement (26) 5:8,9,23;6:2,24;11:9; 12:3,11,24;13:8,14; 22:7;29:7,9,22;30:11; 31:19,21;32:3,25; 34:16,18;43:5;46:1; 70:10;71:10</p> <p>statements (1) 30:16</p> <p>states (2) 14:18;71:5</p> <p>station (1) 57:9</p> <p>status (1) 5:17</p> <p>stay (1) 54:24</p> <p>steel (1) 10:5</p> <p>steeper (1) 21:12</p> <p>steps (2) 47:7;61:22</p> <p>stick (2) 53:15;56:11</p> <p>still (5) 52:18;59:6;62:15; 63:14;67:9</p> <p>stockholders (1) 14:19</p> <p>Stony (1) 43:9</p> <p>stop (3) 10:18,20;28:25</p> <p>stops (2) 10:15;24:14</p> <p>storage (7)</p>	<p>8:7,25;38:3,15,17; 39:18;40:12</p> <p>store (1) 9:21</p> <p>straight (2) 58:18,18</p> <p>strain (1) 54:9</p> <p>strand (2) 18:25;24:22</p> <p>standing (1) 19:3</p> <p>stream (3) 38:5;39:20;71:6</p> <p>streams (2) 38:7;61:18</p> <p>stretch (1) 51:16</p> <p>strictly (1) 26:12</p> <p>strip (1) 45:9</p> <p>strips (1) 37:24</p> <p>strong (1) 69:3</p> <p>strongly (1) 70:15</p> <p>structure (1) 62:1</p> <p>studies (3) 31:9;59:25;61:1</p> <p>study (3) 57:21;58:22;59:13</p> <p>studying (1) 58:20</p> <p>stuff (2) 52:12;68:16</p> <p>sturdy (1) 69:3</p> <p>subaqueous (2) 8:10;19:22</p> <p>subject (1) 6:11</p> <p>submitted (2) 32:9;36:1</p> <p>subsistence (78) 6:4,18;7:2,7,9,14; 28:22;30:6,7,23;31:2; 34:11,13,14,25;35:3, 11,19,21;37:18;40:15, 20,24;41:2,8,10,13,18; 42:5,8,21,24,25;43:5, 16,16,20,22;44:3,9,10, 12,21,22;45:1,15,17, 21,23;46:5,12,19;47:1, 8,12,16,19,21;48:23, 25;49:21;51:1;52:11, 13;54:9;56:13;57:23; 62:11,12,16;63:16; 64:22;65:5;66:8,10,12, 23;68:22</p> <p>substantial (2)</p>
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<p>15:2;17:11  <b>substantially (1)</b>  19:21  <b>substantive (3)</b>  5:21;29:14,22  <b>substitute (1)</b>  37:3  <b>subsurface (1)</b>  69:11  <b>summaries (1)</b>  33:2  <b>summarize (1)</b>  50:15  <b>summer (1)</b>  23:21  <b>super-duper (1)</b>  57:12  <b>supervisor (1)</b>  48:7  <b>supplies (1)</b>  68:24  <b>supply (4)</b>  17:17;36:18;39:24;  40:8  <b>support (2)</b>  30:13,18  <b>supposedly (1)</b>  56:21  <b>sure (2)</b>  69:3,13  <b>surface (4)</b>  18:3,4;38:22;70:20  <b>survive (1)</b>  57:5  <b>surviving (2)</b>  16:10;21:1  <b>swabs (1)</b>  59:2  <b>switch (1)</b>  19:15  <b>system (2)</b>  55:17;60:7</p>	<p>54:22;57:14  <b>talked (6)</b>  36:20,24;41:6;42:14;  46:22;58:7  <b>talking (8)</b>  12:23;18:1,2;23:17;  26:21;31:5,14;66:23  <b>talks (2)</b>  14:1;15:7  <b>tank (1)</b>  56:10  <b>tasked (1)</b>  4:23  <b>taught (1)</b>  68:13  <b>tax (2)</b>  55:25;56:2  <b>taxation (2)</b>  56:3,7  <b>TAYLOR (2)</b>  34:3;49:19  <b>teach (1)</b>  67:3  <b>teachers (2)</b>  66:16,18  <b>team (2)</b>  49:16;69:8  <b>ten (2)</b>  36:20;58:3  <b>tend (1)</b>  31:12  <b>terminal (1)</b>  39:16  <b>terrestrial (1)</b>  18:2  <b>testimony (5)</b>  40:23;46:6,7;47:15,  23  <b>teutonic (1)</b>  55:12  <b>Thanks (4)</b>  6:23;51:21,22;61:7  <b>therefore (4)</b>  15:1;19:2;24:25;  30:6  <b>thinking (2)</b>  62:16;69:2  <b>third (4)</b>  8:17;10:3;44:1;64:2  <b>third-party (1)</b>  69:24  <b>THOMAS (2)</b>  68:19,19  <b>thought (1)</b>  57:13  <b>three (14)</b>  7:23;10:1,9;23:2;  24:1;28:18;35:6,8;  37:10;41:6;46:21,25;  54:20;58:14  <b>three-part (1)</b>  46:14  <b>throughout (2)</b></p>	<p>41:22;61:4  <b>throw (1)</b>  64:11  <b>timeline (1)</b>  49:5  <b>times (4)</b>  23:9;24:1;27:8;  54:20  <b>TKC (1)</b>  14:19  <b>today (15)</b>  4:8;5:9,17;6:2;7:10;  28:25;29:7;32:5;33:11,  17;49:11,17;55:14;  62:13,14  <b>today's (1)</b>  61:5  <b>told (2)</b>  8:16;65:14  <b>tonight (4)</b>  46:2,6;47:23;48:16  <b>tons (1)</b>  8:18  <b>top (3)</b>  58:25;60:1;69:7  <b>topographically (1)</b>  21:13  <b>total (4)</b>  9:3;36:12;40:1;  54:10  <b>totally (1)</b>  71:7  <b>towed (1)</b>  44:18  <b>tower (4)</b>  58:8,8,8,23  <b>towers (2)</b>  58:12,20  <b>track (1)</b>  49:10  <b>tradeoffs (1)</b>  27:3  <b>traffic (9)</b>  22:3,8,12,15,19;44:9,  15;45:3;50:25  <b>Trail (1)</b>  21:7  <b>train (1)</b>  68:2  <b>translate (1)</b>  4:6  <b>translations (1)</b>  4:7  <b>transport (2)</b>  16:15;43:12  <b>transportation (9)</b>  9:8;36:23,24;37:11;  39:14;41:8;44:1,4;  50:18  <b>transported (2)</b>  40:4;70:7  <b>treat (1)</b>  42:14</p>	<p><b>treated (6)</b>  11:1,6;20:13;39:6,9;  56:19  <b>treating (1)</b>  40:9  <b>treatment (5)</b>  39:7,10;40:9;42:13,  18  <b>Tree (9)</b>  18:8,9,20,22;19:1;  24:10,14,20;27:6  <b>trenching (1)</b>  43:11  <b>tribal (4)</b>  5:14;33:4,5;48:18  <b>tried (2)</b>  57:14;71:4  <b>trip (4)</b>  23:23;40:5,6;44:19  <b>trips (5)</b>  23:7;39:25;40:1,1;  44:20  <b>trouble (1)</b>  63:11  <b>truck (4)</b>  16:13;19:5;24:23;  26:3  <b>truckload (1)</b>  51:18  <b>trucks (14)</b>  16:14,15,19;19:5,6,  6;24:24;26:9,10,13;  27:7;41:14,15;42:2  <b>true (1)</b>  63:3  <b>trust (2)</b>  57:15,16  <b>try (3)</b>  49:10;60:7;65:12  <b>trying (4)</b>  5:20;29:14;49:8;  60:12  <b>TSF (1)</b>  38:25  <b>tug (7)</b>  23:10,16,16,22,23,  25;40:4  <b>Tuluksak (2)</b>  45:5;56:1  <b>Tundy (2)</b>  58:4,5  <b>turbines (4)</b>  58:13,13,14,15  <b>turn (1)</b>  71:18  <b>turns (1)</b>  23:11  <b>TV (1)</b>  57:9  <b>two (9)</b>  7:25;9:1;20:19;21:5;  27:8,10;37:1;38:19,22  <b>two-inch (1)</b></p>	<p>53:15  <b>Tyonek (3)</b>  17:18,21;43:7  <b>type (1)</b>  61:14  <b>typically (3)</b>  23:21;31:18;33:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>U</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>ultimately (1)</b>  8:1  <b>unbiased (2)</b>  4:24;14:25  <b>uncoupled (1)</b>  44:17  <b>Under (19)</b>  16:3,13;18:14,15,19;  20:16;21:3;24:13,14,  17,19;25:2,5;27:1,4;  32:25;45:23;46:17,22  <b>underground (1)</b>  53:3  <b>understood (1)</b>  30:25  <b>undesirable (1)</b>  42:4  <b>Unit (3)</b>  38:10;39:22;40:13  <b>unless (1)</b>  57:10  <b>unlimited (1)</b>  54:2  <b>untreated (3)</b>  39:11;42:11;45:13  <b>unusable (1)</b>  42:5  <b>up (32)</b>  7:25;9:10;16:20;  19:8,8;20:5;21:18;  27:7;32:15;35:8;48:12;  52:11;53:3;54:1,6,20;  55:6,7,9;56:18;57:1;  58:2,3,8;61:18;64:19;  67:1;68:24;69:8,23;  70:2;71:6  <b>upon (1)</b>  47:8  <b>Upper (1)</b>  45:5  <b>upriver (5)</b>  18:14;24:13;25:1;  55:24;64:13  <b>upstream (6)</b>  18:22;19:1;23:11,20;  70:16,25  <b>upwards (1)</b>  54:15  <b>URS (1)</b>  11:23  <b>use (11)</b>  5:3,22;7:4;14:8;  22:3;28:6;30:5,25;</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>T</b></p>				
<p><b>tab (1)</b>  32:25  <b>table (2)</b>  40:19,22  <b>tables (1)</b>  4:5  <b>tailings (29)</b>  8:7,7,10,10,13,15,16;  19:16,19,20,21,22;  20:2,4,5,8,13,16,17,20;  38:15,16;42:22;45:12,  13;50:1,19;55:20;67:9  <b>Takotna (3)</b>  43:8,25;45:7  <b>talk (15)</b>  7:17;9:6;20:14;  21:24;27:10;29:2;33:5;  50:15,18,20,23;51:1,1;</p>				

<p>43:16;47:3;60:17  <b>used (3)</b>  35:6;50:22;65:9  <b>users (6)</b>  35:17;37:18;41:10;  42:5;45:8,23  <b>uses (11)</b>  7:2,9;35:3;41:10;  45:1,15,21;46:12,19;  47:2,8  <b>using (2)</b>  25:13;43:21</p>	<p>38:20,21;50:8  <b>wants (2)</b>  56:17;71:1  <b>washing (1)</b>  54:21  <b>Wasilla (1)</b>  54:8  <b>waste (3)</b>  8:18,18;38:13  <b>wastewater (2)</b>  39:10;40:9  <b>watch (2)</b>  64:25;69:13  <b>watched (1)</b>  69:5  <b>water (37)</b>  8:11;10:24;11:4,5,7;  14:6;18:3;19:23;20:12,  13,21;24:22;28:21;  35:14;39:5,5,7,8,11;  40:9;42:5,11,11,13,14,  15,16,17,18;44:16;  45:13;49:25;50:20;  56:18;59:8;60:2;69:6  <b>waters (2)</b>  67:10,21  <b>watershed (6)</b>  11:7;36:8,11;38:10;  39:4;59:5  <b>watersheds (1)</b>  38:5  <b>waves (1)</b>  54:25  <b>way (24)</b>  6:21;11:16;16:7;  22:15;25:10;29:20;  53:17;54:17;56:21,21;  61:12,16,16,20;62:11,  12,16,17,19;65:5;66:8,  10,12;68:23  <b>ways (1)</b>  50:5  <b>web (1)</b>  42:8  <b>website (2)</b>  32:10,23  <b>week (1)</b>  64:17  <b>weight (3)</b>  15:1;17:2;51:19  <b>weighted (1)</b>  15:3  <b>welcome (3)</b>  32:16,17;46:7  <b>weren't (1)</b>  22:10  <b>west (3)</b>  36:6,11;55:11  <b>western (1)</b>  10:6  <b>what's (20)</b>  4:25;8:8;10:24;13:7,  22,24;15:23;27:18;</p>	<p>50:15,16,17,17,22;  57:10;59:25;60:1,2,13;  68:10;70:7  <b>wheels (2)</b>  30:22;44:11  <b>White (2)</b>  62:17;65:6  <b>wide (1)</b>  38:23  <b>wildlife (5)</b>  35:13;41:18;42:12;  48:23;49:23  <b>willing (1)</b>  59:19  <b>WILLY (2)</b>  53:9,9  <b>wind (3)</b>  20:7;58:10,13  <b>winds (1)</b>  58:17  <b>Windy (2)</b>  37:21;38:9  <b>winnowed (1)</b>  15:13  <b>winter (1)</b>  58:17  <b>withdraw (1)</b>  7:3  <b>within (3)</b>  14:5;36:8;37:4  <b>without (2)</b>  15:23;63:16  <b>woke (2)</b>  55:6,7  <b>wood (1)</b>  41:24  <b>word (1)</b>  59:16  <b>work (3)</b>  13:6;50:4;68:10  <b>worked (1)</b>  63:22  <b>workers (2)</b>  9:18;43:12  <b>working (1)</b>  63:18  <b>works (1)</b>  51:20  <b>world (1)</b>  71:6  <b>worried (1)</b>  63:5  <b>worry (1)</b>  57:6  <b>worst (1)</b>  55:21  <b>worth (2)</b>  51:15;71:1  <b>write (1)</b>  32:13  <b>written (4)</b>  14:12;32:9;47:24;  48:24</p>	<p><b>wrong (2)</b>  30:8,9  <b>wrote (1)</b>  49:16  <b>wwwdonlingoldeiscom (1)</b>  32:24</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Y</b></p> <p><b>year (7)</b>  9:24;12:9;30:24;  32:10;54:24;57:20;  58:22  <b>years (20)</b>  9:25;10:2,9,10,11;  11:4;23:3,4;27:22;  39:2,8;42:13;53:21;  54:14;58:4,5;59:17;  61:4;62:9;63:23  <b>yellow (1)</b>  21:9  <b>Yellowstone (1)</b>  55:12  <b>young (8)</b>  62:10;64:20,21,22;  65:4,7,12,25  <b>younger (3)</b>  63:11,11;67:3  <b>Yukon-Kuskokwim (1)</b>  14:22  <b>Yup'ik (10)</b>  4:5;56:16,24,24;  57:15,16,18;58:4;  62:19;64:22  <b>Yup'ik] (10)</b>  60:22;62:9;63:4,15,  21,24;64:3,15;65:2;  68:20</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b></p> <p><b>1 (5)</b>  7:23;14:1;47:1;52:1,  4  <b>1,100 (1)</b>  8:5  <b>1,653 (1)</b>  38:21  <b>1,850 (2)</b>  8:5;38:20  <b>1.29 (1)</b>  40:6  <b>10 (1)</b>  7:21  <b>100 (7)</b>  30:12,13,14,16,17,  18;48:16  <b>11 (2)</b>  40:23;46:3  <b>110-day (1)</b>  40:2  <b>12 (4)</b>  6:7;28:18;37:24;</p>	<p>54:4  <b>122 (1)</b>  40:1  <b>13 (2)</b>  39:20;58:5  <b>14 (2)</b>  22:7,12  <b>14-inch (2)</b>  10:5;36:4  <b>15 (1)</b>  33:8  <b>150 (2)</b>  20:6;58:8  <b>150-foot-wide (1)</b>  37:23  <b>15-minute (1)</b>  33:20  <b>170 (1)</b>  57:11  <b>179 (1)</b>  23:14  <b>19A (2)</b>  39:22;40:13  <b>19C (1)</b>  38:11  <b>19-mile (1)</b>  17:19  <b>1st (2)</b>  40:3,3</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p> <p><b>2 (12)</b>  15:7;18:15;21:23;  24:8,9,18;44:15,25;  45:19,24;52:24;53:1  <b>2,000 (1)</b>  54:14  <b>2,240 (1)</b>  38:14  <b>2,351 (1)</b>  38:16  <b>2.2 (2)</b>  8:2;38:23  <b>2.8 (1)</b>  39:18  <b>2012 (3)</b>  11:19,22;36:2  <b>2013 (2)</b>  11:22;36:3  <b>2015 (1)</b>  12:4  <b>2016 (1)</b>  12:8  <b>233 (1)</b>  38:2  <b>24 (1)</b>  23:23  <b>24/7 (1)</b>  52:11  <b>24-hour (3)</b>  23:22,25;24:1  <b>26 (2)</b></p>
<b>V</b>				
<p><b>valley (2)</b>  8:11;19:17  <b>variation (2)</b>  20:22;24:2  <b>varies (1)</b>  10:11  <b>variety (11)</b>  5:6;6:11;7:18;8:23;  9:13;10:16,19;11:24;  19:25;20:25;28:11  <b>various (3)</b>  5:12;11:13;42:1  <b>vast (2)</b>  10:16;26:22  <b>venue (1)</b>  34:1  <b>verify (1)</b>  34:4  <b>Vern (1)</b>  60:21  <b>VERNON (1)</b>  60:21  <b>versus (8)</b>  9:5;17:1;20:16;  21:15,21;25:8;70:3,4  <b>via (2)</b>  14:5;32:10  <b>vibrate (1)</b>  4:14  <b>village (4)</b>  18:16;30:4;36:21;  52:5  <b>villages (9)</b>  41:11;43:7,8,23;  44:6;53:14;60:5,24;  68:8  <b>virtually (10)</b>  17:12,14,25;18:13,  22;24:13;25:3,6;26:24;  27:5  <b>voting (2)</b>  29:13;30:11</p>				
<b>W</b>				
<p><b>walked (1)</b>  62:20  <b>wall (3)</b></p>				

<p>9:4;22:5  <b>27 (3)</b>                  9:24;10:9;23:3  <b>27th (1)</b>                  12:4</p>	<p>37:7  <b>464-foot-high (1)</b>                  38:17</p>	<p>6:25  <b>810a3 (2)</b>                  46:17,22</p>		
	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>		
<b>3</b>	<p><b>5 (3)</b>                  27:13;28:3;61:8  <b>5,000 (2)</b>                  37:25;60:8  <b>5,000-foot (2)</b>                  9:16;39:21  <b>50 (6)</b>                  11:4;20:6;38:4;39:1,                  8;42:13  <b>55 (1)</b>                  11:4  <b>58 (1)</b>                  39:25  <b>5A (3)</b>                  19:15,19;45:19</p>	<p><b>97 (2)</b>                  36:10;37:19  <b>97-mile (1)</b>                  37:13</p>		
<p><b>3 (3)</b>                  21:24,24;53:8  <b>3,500 (1)</b>                  37:25  <b>3.5 (4)</b>                  8:14,22;19:17;20:3  <b>3.7 (1)</b>                  36:15  <b>3:43 (1)</b>                  71:22  <b>30 (8)</b>                  12:8;19:7;36:12;                  51:2,11;53:21;54:14;                  59:17  <b>300 (4)</b>                  15:12;29:23;56:18;                  57:3  <b>300,000,000 (1)</b>                  56:25  <b>300-ton (1)</b>                  16:14  <b>30-mile (3)</b>                  9:11;18:17,20  <b>30-mile-long (1)</b>                  39:18  <b>30th (1)</b>                  32:9  <b>30-year (1)</b>                  59:16  <b>315 (1)</b>                  10:5  <b>315-mile (2)</b>                  36:4,9  <b>396 (1)</b>                  38:5  <b>3A (6)</b>                  16:10,12;24:23;26:2,                  16;45:19  <b>3B (4)</b>                  17:5;26:20;37:2;                  45:19</p>	<b>6</b>			
	<p><b>6 (2)</b>                  45:19;62:5  <b>6,500 (1)</b>                  54:15  <b>60s (1)</b>                  63:19  <b>64 (1)</b>                  39:25  <b>65 (2)</b>                  36:14;38:3  <b>68 (2)</b>                  23:7,9  <b>6A (2)</b>                  21:3;37:6</p>			
	<b>7</b>			
	<p><b>7 (1)</b>                  66:20  <b>70 (1)</b>                  38:3  <b>70s (1)</b>                  63:20  <b>76 (1)</b>                  19:8  <b>76-mile (1)</b>                  18:21  <b>77 (1)</b>                  38:6</p>			
<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>			
<p><b>4 (13)</b>                  18:5,7,19;24:8,10,13,                  18,20;27:4,13,13;                  45:19;60:20  <b>40 (2)</b>                  9:21,23  <b>409 (1)</b>                  40:18  <b>45 (2)</b>                  33:12;39:20  <b>46 (1)</b></p>	<p><b>810 (25)</b>                  5:25;6:2,5,17,21;                  7:11;33:9,19,21;34:8,                  13,15,19,22;35:7;41:2;                  45:18,24;46:5;47:9,16;                  51:14;70:11;71:19,21  <b>810a (1)</b></p>			