DONLIN GOLD PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PUBLIC MEETING

KIPNUK, ALASKA

Taken February 17, 2016
Commencing at 2:15 p.m.

Volume I - Pages 1 - 59, inclusive

Taken at
Chief Paul Memorial School
Kipnuk, Alaska

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BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were taken at the time and place duly noted on the title page, before Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of Alaska.

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

MR. JOHN ACTIVE: I want to say thank you very much to all the high school students here. It's very important for young people like you to find out what's going on in the world because you are our future. When the mine opens, I don't know how old you are going be to. You are going to be able to work at the mine. You are going to be our leaders.

[speaking in Yup'ik.]

[speaking in English.] When I see young people come to find out what's happening in the world around them because [speaking in Yup'ik.] --

MR. KEITH GORDON: Thank you very much, John. As John mentioned, my name is Keith Gordon. I'm the Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District regulatory project manager for the proposed Donlin Gold Mine Project. As John mentioned, we're here today to get your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that is currently out for comment.

The purpose of that Draft Environmental Impact Statement is to provide all of you information on what Donlin is proposing by way of the gold mine project, the potential impacts of the project, and how the project might affect you, and to give you an opportunity to comment to us and tell us whether or not we have done an

adequate job of analyzing the effects of the project, and then whether you think the project should go forward or not.

The Army Corps of Engineers is assisted by 11 cooperating agencies in development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and you can see those federal and State agencies' logos on the bottom of the screen, as well as the Native communities that are assisting us in development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Our agenda today is basically we will go through this brief presentation that gives you some background information on the project as it's currently proposed, and then we will break and have a poster session. There is a dozen posters around the room, three of them up here that indicate what Donlin is proposing to do by way of the proposed mine project, and then nine more around the room that deal with major potential impacts of the project.

After I go through this presentation about the status of the draft EIS and what Donlin is proposing, we will then take a break and give you all an opportunity to look at these posters and talk to some of the folks that came here with me about the potential impacts of the project. Then we will reconvene and take your comments on the draft EIS and the proposed project.

Page 6

In some of the communities we are doing ANILCA 810 hearings, but we are not currently doing one here. So that's one step that we are not proposing to do here today.

Very briefly, it's beneficial if I give a little bit of information about what Donlin is proposing. Donlin's proposed mine site has three primary components: The mine site itself, which you can see on this slide, the pipeline infrastructure by which they propose to supply natural gas to the project, as well as transportation infrastructure by which they would move fuel and cargo to the proposed project.

As I mentioned, we are talking about a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. There are no final conclusions on Donlin's proposed project. The Army Corps of Engineers' role as a federal lead agency for developing this EIS is middle-of-the-road, unbiased analyses of this proposed project. We are neither a proponent for the project nor an opponent of the project.

Okay. So what is Donlin proposing? As you can see by this slide in No. 1 over there, Donlin is proposing the development of a mining pit that is actually two pits that would come together to form a single pit at some point in the mine's life if it were permitted. That pit would be approximately 2.2 square miles in size and, depending on

Page 7

whether or not you measured the depth from the low side of the pit or the high side of the pit, it's anywhere from 1,100 feet to 1,850 feet deep.

The second primary component is the tailings storage facility that you can see in No. 2. Tailings is the crushed rock that's left over after ore is processed and removed in the milling process. What Donlin is proposing to do is basically fill this valley with the crushed rock that's left over after the milling process. To give you an idea of the scale of that fill, that tailings facility would encompass about 3.5 square miles of area.

The waste rock facility that you can see under No. 3 up there is the rock that either is overburden and has to be removed by way of access to the ore or rock that may contain some quantity of gold, but not enough to be worth processing through the mill and extract the gold out of it. That facility is also 3.5 square miles in size. Rock from that facility would be mounded anywhere from approximately 60-some to maybe as much as 150 feet -- I'm sorry -- 100 feet high.

The proposed total footprint of all the developed infrastructure that would be developed if this project were permitted would cover 26 square miles. It's just by way of giving you an idea of the total footprint of the project if it were permitted.

Page 8

This is the transportation infrastructure that's the second major component of what Donlin is proposing that I was mentioning. This pink blob up here [indicating] is the proposed mine facility. Their camp facility where folks either during construction or during operations would work at the mine site is the next thing you see along this road, followed by a 5,000 foot airstrip.

This road, if constructed as proposed, runs 30 miles down to a new proposed port site on the Kuskokwim River at Jungjuk. This is a 30-mile two-lane road. It's a private road, if constructed, only used for operation of the mine site. And you can see a fair variety of small little pink blobs along the way. Those are areas where they would open material sites that they would use to develop the road and maintain the road.

The proposed port site at Jungjuk would be a brand-new facility that would receive all the cargo and all the fuel proposed to operate the mining equipment. Donlin is proposing to consume approximately 40 million gallons of diesel per year to operate the project, and that's for the mining equipment, primarily.

The next major component of the project is the supply of fuel that would operate the mill itself and most of those facilities. And that is a 315-mile-long, 14-inch steel buried natural gas pipeline that they propose to

Page 9

construct from the west side of Cook Inlet running through the Alaska Range over to the mine site.

The project, if constructed as proposed, would take approximately three to four years to construct, would operate for 27 and a half years, and then closure and reclamation is proposed to occur.

Well, what does closure and reclamation really mean? There is a whole variety of facilities that Donlin would construct in relation to this project, primarily in the mine site footprint. Not all of those facilities would be needed throughout the entire life of the mine, so those facilities that were needed for a short-term period of time would be reclaimed as soon as reasonably possible sometime during the mine site's life. The vast majority of facilities would be reclaimed to one degree or another at the closure of mining approximately 31 years after the mine were permitted if it goes forward as proposed.

What follows closure and reclamation is monitoring and treatment of water used at the mine site, effectively in perpetuity, as currently proposed. That 2.2-square-mile mining pit that I showed you in the earlier slide that would be 1,100 to 1,850 feet deep, depending on where you measure it from, that open pit would eventually, after mining ceased, fill with water. It's expected to take 50 to 55 years. And once that pit

Page 10

fills, that water has to be treated forever before it can be released so it's clean enough to go back into Crooked Creek, to go into the Kuskokwim River, or to go in any watershed so it doesn't harm fish, wildlife or people.

There is a variety of other water treatment that would have to go on in relation to just operation of the project from the time they initiate construction if it's permitted all the way through its life. So basically any water they release has to be treated to meet federal and State standards before it can go anywhere.

This slide just gives you a very brief overview of the EIS process. We put out a Notice of Intent in December of 2012 that said we are going to prepare an EIS. We held scoping meetings and were out here somewhere between December of 2012 and March of 2013 -- that was actually before I came into the project -- to get comments from you all and other folks in the Kuskokwim-Yukon River region regarding the potential impacts of the project. That gave us an idea of what we should be analyzing in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the amount of weight we should give to potential impacts of the project.

We put out the draft EIS in November of this year for public comment, and that draft EIS is open for public comment at this time until April 30, 2016. And we will talk a little bit more about that in a few minutes.

Page 11

After we get everybody's comment on this draft EIS, what we would then do is prepare what's referred to as a final EIS. The final EIS would respond to the comments you all make today and via any of the other mechanisms we talk about regarding ways you can comment on this project. And then if there is additional work we need to do in relation to the analyses that's been done to date, anything we need to change regarding conclusions that have been drafted to date, et cetera, we would do those at the Final Environmental Impact stage.

Currently, after we generate the Final Environmental Impact Statement and that also goes out to the public, the federal agencies -- the Bureau of Land Management, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Pipeline Hazardous Materials and Safety Administration -- would use the EIS to develop a Record of Decision to indicate whether we thought we could permit the project as Donlin is proposing it, permit some alternative to what Donlin is proposing, or not permit the project at all.

I'll very briefly give you a little bit of information on what's in the first half a dozen chapters of the EIS. Chapter 1 talks about the purpose and need of the project. Why do we need a gold mine? Donlin has their purpose and need. The Army Corps of Engineers is required to define the overall and basic purpose and need

Page 12

from a public interest review standpoint and in relation to how we will do the analyses of the project.

One of the things I need to point out, you can see the overall purpose that the Army Corps of Engineers has defined for the project on the screen. If you look at the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, this sentence in the document contains another half a sentence that was actually intended to be removed before that document went out. That other half a sentence notes that part of our purpose is to maximize economic benefit for Donlin's stockholders, Calista and TKC shareholders.

The potential economic benefit of this project is very important. It's something we recognize. It is a component of the analyses, but since the Army Corps of Engineers is neither a proponent for the project nor an opponent of the project, because we have to do unbiased middle-of-the-road analyses, maximizing economic benefit for anybody on this project is not part of our purpose when we do the analysis.

Again, we understand the importance of the economics of the project, but we cannot excessively weight the potential economic impact of any one project over another to individual entities and go down the middle of the road and do unbiased analyses. Okay.

Chapter 2 talks about alternatives. One of the ways

Page 13

we try to mitigate the impacts of projects or find ways to permit projects that are less potentially damaging to the human and natural environment is to generate alternatives to proposed projects. I won't go through each of these alternatives right now because we will look at all of them in a minute, save for the Alternative 2, which is what Donlin is proposing, which is what we just talked about.

We looked at over 300 alternative options in relation to the proposed project, and we winnowed those potential options that could have become alternatives down into these seven alternatives that we carried forward for detailed analysis in the draft EIS. What we need to know from you all is: Are those alternatives adequate? Are there options that could have been combined into alternatives that we set aside already that we should bring back? Are there new alternatives that we have not even considered that should be evaluated to determine, if the project were permitted, if it could be permitted in a way that will have less impact on the human and natural environment?

Okay. Alternative 1 is the no action alternative. The National Environmental Policy Act requires that anytime we do analyses, we start with the no action alternative, which means nothing happens. No mine is built. Nothing that Donlin is proposing takes place. If

Page 14

we start by analyzing that, we are analyzing the existing baseline, the current conditions that exist in this region against other alternatives that are being considered, including Donlin's; and therefore, that sets us up to do unbiased analyses that are based on what currently exists in this area.

Alternative 3A -- as I mentioned a minute ago, alternatives are analyzed by way of potentially minimizing impacts of projects. So Alternative 3A is what's called the LNG haul truck alternative. The intent of this alternative is to consume less diesel at the mine site, therefore less diesel has to be barged up and down the river. There is less potential for spill, there is less potential for barge stranding, et cetera.

So under this alternative, the heavy mining equipment at the mine site, the 300-ton haul trucks, et cetera, would run off of liquid natural gas instead of diesel fuel, therefore minimizing impacts related to barging and the consumption of diesel fuel.

Alternative 3B is another method by which we might get there. This alternative replaces the proposed 315-mile natural gas pipeline with a slightly longer diesel pipeline that would start down by Tyonek and means that the entire facility, not only the mining trucks and excavation equipment, but the mill and the rest of the

Page 15

facilities, would operate off of diesel.

So what's the benefit of this alternative? Well, it virtually eliminates, save for a very small amount at construction, of any diesel barging up and down the Kuskokwim River. So less impacts from barges, less potential for spill, et cetera. However, it also means that for 30-plus years, virtually everything is operated off of diesel instead of natural gas. Well, diesel doesn't burn as clean as natural gas, so that increases negative air emissions. It also means that there is the potential for spill along that pipeline corridor.

Currently, if the natural gas pipeline were constructed, what happens if you get a leak or a rupture in a natural gas pipeline? Well, the natural gas virtually all goes into the air. If you get a leak or a rupture in a diesel pipeline, well, that's going on the ground or it's going in the water, or both. And I think you are familiar with those kinds of impacts.

So again, we talk about these alternatives by way of finding ways, if possible, to permit projects in a way that has less impacts. And we need to know from you all, have we appropriately looked at alternatives that are out there and analyzed them.

Alternative 4, another method by which we might limit the impacts of barging is the Birch Tree Crossing port

Page 16

alternative. As we mentioned, Donlin is proposing to construct a port site at Jungjuk just downstream of Crooked Creek. The Birch Tree Crossing alternative means that instead of this proposed port site at Jungjuk about 30 miles away by road from the proposed mine site, now the port site would be constructed at Birch Tree Crossing. That means instead of a 30-mile road, there is a 76-mile road.

Well, what does that mean? Well, that means that all this fuel and cargo, millions of tons every year, that was going to be barged up to the port site at Jungjuk would stop here at Birch Tree Crossing, save for a very small amount of barging during construction. What's the benefit of going that route? Well, one of the benefits are you all are familiar with the potential for barge stranding on the Kuskokwim River. Five of the half a dozen points on the upper Kuskokwim River where there is a consistent potential to strand barges are upstream of Birch Tree Crossing. So if this port site were used, there is the potential to minimize the potential for barge stranding, but also you eliminate virtually all the impacts of barging upstream of Birch Tree Crossing.

Alternative 5A. So far we have talked about alternatives to potentially minimize the impacts of barging. This alternative, there is a way we might

Page 17

minimize impacts of the tailings facility itself. You remember that 3.5-square-mile valley full of tailings? Well, this is a variation on that theme. Donlin is proposing tailings disposal that is a lot of ground rock that includes a fair amount of water and some chemical constituents that are left over after it goes through the mill process.

If this alternative went forward, what it means is that dry stack tailings facility that filled almost this whole area [indicating] and had this big dam downstream of it and covered 3.5 square miles, well, now it has a much smaller footprint in regards to the tailings, but it's mounded up much higher. And by mounding it much higher and because it's drier, one of the potential impacts of that is that there is a fair amount of dust potentially that could be spread around in the area under this alternative that wouldn't be under Donlin's proposed alternative.

We also would need to, instead of having a dam downstream of this facility, have two dams, plus we have an operating pond full of water. That's all the water that is extracted from the tailings that primarily wouldn't be extracted in the same time frame under Donlin's alternative. All this water would have to be treated before it could be released downstream.

Page 18

And we talked about the potential for diesel spill. Well, there is also the potential for spill of tailings if there is any issue with the dam. And in this case, we are not just looking at a potential issue with the tailings dam; we also have to consider this hydraulic dam.

So as I mentioned, every time we change one alternative to another, every time we change anything that's proposed, it changes the weight and balance of how we compare and contrast one alternative to another and the potential impacts of the project.

The last alternative we will talk about is Alternative 6A. There were a variety of alternative pipeline route methodologies discussed in the document and considered earlier in the process. This is the alternative that survived the detailed analyses. If this alternative went forward, the pipeline route would be approximately two miles shorter than what Donlin is proposing. It also goes through, obviously, a different routing. And what that means is the gold line is Donlin's proposed route. The Dalzell Gorge route would run through Rainy Pass, obviously Dalzell Gorge, and the south fork of the Kuskokwim River.

So if we are concerned about potential impacts of opening this area up to access, now we have to consider potential impacts of opening this area to access and what

Page 19

that might mean. Just routing the Dalzell Gorge route also has the potential to have more impact on the Iditarod National Historic Trail than what Donlin is proposing. So again, change in the weight and balance of impacts.

Very briefly, I'll give a little bit of information about what's in Chapter 3. Chapter 3 includes the baseline environmental analyses that we have done for the proposed project; in other words, it states what currently exists out here, how resources are used, how important they are to the communities, et cetera. And then it goes forward and looks at how the project might impact those resources and your ability to use them, the benefits it might have from an economic standpoint, as well as some of the impacts you all might have to deal with if it were constructed.

To give you an idea of what's in Chapter 3, we will use a barge traffic example. We have 26 major resource issues that have been discussed in the document. 14 of those, the 14 that you can see on the screen, are the major resource issues that could be impacted, to our understanding, by barging. So what we need to know is: Are we right? Are there other resource issues that we either have not included in the document or that we don't think might have substantial impacts?

By way of discussing potential barge impacts, it's

Page 20

beneficial if we talk about barging as it currently exists, to our understanding, on the Kuskokwim River versus barging that would result if Donlin's project were permitted. And at this point what I'm going to be talking about is barging from Bethel upstream; so riverine barging versus the combination riverine and marine barging that you all see down here.

To our understanding, this burnt gold color represents barging as it currently exists upstream of Bethel now, the riverine barges. As we understand it, there are 68 barges that leave Bethel every ice-free season and go some distance upstream before they come back downstream. If Donlin's project were permitted, the light blue color is a comparison of the barging impacts during that three- to four-year construction window of the project as Donlin is proposing it.

And as you can see, it doesn't matter which of these alternatives we talk about. The barging impacts are all the same, except it's important to understand that a graph like this doesn't always tell you everything. Remember that we talked about Alternative 2, meaning all the barge traffic went up to that proposed port site at Jungjuk, and Alternative 4 talked about that barge traffic only needing to go as far as Birch Tree Crossing?

Well, while the volume of barge traffic during

Page 21

construction is the same under Alternative 2 and Alternative 4, it doesn't go as far upstream. So graphs like this give you an idea of what we are trying to show, but they don't always tell the whole story. That's why it helps to look back into the document at what we are describing in the text, as well as what the various graphs and tables show you.

So what happens with barge traffic during operations in one alternative versus another? The best way I can describe this is if you were standing on the riverbank upstream of Bethel last summer, what you would have seen is a tug pushing a single barge going upstream and coming back downstream in a 24-hour period. So if you were standing on the shoreline in 24 hours, you would see one round trip of a barge, a tug pushing a barge.

With what Donlin is proposing, what you would see in that same 24-hour time frame is a tug pushing four barges. And based on the math, you would actually see approximately three and a half round trips in that 24-hour time frame. Well, we are basically referring to it as three.

Donlin looked at the math the other night and said, well, on one day, one 24-hour period, you would see three, and another 24-hour period you would see four. So it's basically three and a half round trips in a 24-hour

Page 22

period. And it's important to understand that Donlin is proposing bigger tugs and bigger barges.

So the change on the Kuskokwim River in relation to riverine barging going upstream from Bethel would mean you are going from commercial barging on a reasonably small scale to industrial scale barging going up- and downstream. And that would be for the life of the project.

Okay. The intent of this slide is just to give you, again, a little bit of information on what's in Chapter 3 regarding what the draft conclusions, the draft analyses show. And as I mentioned, they are draft. We have not made final decisions. We have not reached final conclusions.

Basically when we consider the potential impacts of barging on fish, you all know that barging can disturb fish habitat. It can disturb their behavior. It can disturb their reproduction. It can injure or kill fish. Well, what happens if we look at the various alternatives? The draft conclusions in the document that we have developed thus far indicate that Donlin's Alternative 2 would have a moderate impact on fish in relation to barging with potentially greater impact in shallow and narrow segments on the river. So what we need to know from you all is, is that accurate, is that what you

Page 23

typically see in relation to barging as it currently exists, and is that what you think would happen in relation to barging if it went to this scale.

Please note that under Alternative 2, the scale that we are talking about is the scale Donlin is proposing versus what currently exists. And then as you have seen in the other slides, limiting the amount of barging just limits impacts in different ways. So whether we are limiting impacts to fish or we are limiting impacts to air quality, water quality, et cetera, each time we make a modification in one direction, it changes the weight and balance from -- between alternatives.

This is just another slide that gives you some information on how the various alternatives could potentially minimize or change impacts to fish in relation to potential barge effects.

Chapters 4 and 5 of the document, we need your comments on Chapter 4 because Chapter 4 addresses cumulative impacts. What is a cumulative impact? A cumulative impact is a combination of all past, present and reasonably foreseeable future impacts. Basically, this is how we forecast the potential impacts of proposed projects. We look at what currently exists -- I'm sorry. We look at what's happened in the past and the effects that had. We look at what currently exists. And then we

Page 24

look at what Donlin is proposing in relation to other actions that we think might happen in the near future. We combine all of those, and we make a forecast regarding what impacts this project might have on those 26 major resource issues that we talked about existing in the document. So we need to know from you all, are we right, are we wrong, do we know what we are talking about.

Chapter 5, mitigation. As I mentioned, an alternative is a form of mitigation, a way to modify, minimize impacts from a proposed project. There is a whole variety of ways to mitigate impacts to projects. The purpose for mitigation is to apply something to a project, if it were to be permitted, that, of course, lessens impacts to the human and natural environment.

One category of those things are potential mechanisms by which the project might be designed and operated that Donlin has already eliminated because they felt they might have too much impact on the human and natural environment.

Then there is design features of the project, the scrubbers that might be on some of the stacks to deal with mercury emissions, et cetera, so that it doesn't get into the air; various operating procedures, regulatory requirements that minimize the potential for spill and provide mechanisms by which spill could be avoided, water could be cleaned, et cetera.

Page 25

And what we need to know from you all is, have we adequately defined potential mitigation for this project and analyzed the potential effects it might have.

In just a couple more minutes, I'll stop talking and you all can take look at the posters that we have around the room. As I mentioned, there is three posters on the proposed components of the project that depict what Donlin is proposing to construct, and then there is nine posters that give you information about potential major impacts of the project. And before we go to that poster session, I'll ask the folks that are with me in the room to stand up and introduce themselves so that you can get a little -- see who you might want to talk to about what those posters depict.

The primary intent of our whole meeting today is to give you all some information by way of how you may substantively comment on the project as proposed and give us comments that we can use in the draft EIS.

What do I mean by a substantive comment? Well, the EIS process under the National Environmental Policy Act is not a voting process. It is very important what people think about projects and whether they think they should be permitted or not, but what we are looking for by way of comments on the draft EIS are comments that tell us whether or not we have adequately analyzed the potential

Page 26

effects of the project so decisionmakers can make a decision regarding whether or not this project is actually in the public interest or not, should it happen or shouldn't it.

So what does that mean? Well, we respond to comments that you all will make here today and comments we will receive from you all and others in the future in the Final Environmental Impact Statement. So your comments would be listed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement as well as our responses.

So if I had 100 people who said, I like the project, how would we respond in the Final Environmental Impact Statement? Well, what we would have is those 100 comments would be reduced to a single comment that said, I like the project. And our response would be, "commented noted." If I had 100 people that said, I don't like the project, how would we respond to that? Well, those would be combined into a single comment that said, I don't like the project, and the response would be "comment noted."

What we need to know is if you can tell us that in the document we note that this particular fish species is important to your community for these reasons and you use it by way of subsistence and it has this level of importance in relation to sharing and your culture overall, if you can tell us whether we got that right or

Page 27

wrong, if you can tell us that we did not -- we either gave it adequate consideration or we did not give it adequate consideration. We need detailed comments that tell us basically whether or not we know what we are talking about.

You all live out here. We don't live here. We need information regarding whether or not we have effectively defined the potential impacts of this project and whether we have analyzed those impacts correctly so that the folks that actually have to make a decision regarding whether or not this project should or should not be permitted have the right information to base those decisions on.

Very briefly, how else can you comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement? As I mentioned, the comment period currently is open till April 30 of this year. You can submit comments in writing via email, via the website that you can see listed here. You can send them to me in the mail, or you can fax comments at that phone number listed. And you don't have to write all this down. We have it in the back of the room, and we can provide it to you. You can also find it on that website.

We have a variety of other public meetings that we will be holding that you all are welcome to attend or call into and make comments at. And then there is the website that I showed you a minute ago that has additional

Page 28

information on the project. The EIS documents tab has information on the project. It is the draft EIS. And then there is a variety of background information, newsletters, other project information, other presentation summaries that we have done.

There is my contact information if you would like to contact me about anything. It doesn't have to be a comment on the draft EIS. It can be anything related to the proposed project. And if you have issues that you specifically want to address of a tribal nature to Ms. Amanda Andraschko, she is our tribal liaison for the Alaska District of the Army Corps of Engineers, and you are certainly welcome to contact her directly. We constantly work together on the project to go forward.

At this point in time, what I'd like to do is ask the other folks in the room that are here to introduce themselves, let you know what their role in the project is so that as we take a break and go to the poster session, you have an idea of who you might want to get some additional information from. We typically leave the poster section open for about 45 minutes. We can run the poster session less time if you all would like. We can run it for longer if you like. We will just see how it goes.

So as I mentioned, my name is Keith Gordon. I'm the

Page 29

project manager for this project. Any recommendation I make on this project, whether we permit what Donlin is proposing, permit some alternative to it, or don't permit anything at all, has to go to my supervisor. My supervisor is Ms. Sheila Newman. Sheila.

MS. SHEILA NEWMAN: I'm Sheila Newman. I'm the Special Actions Chief for the Corps of Engineers for the Alaska District, and I'm happy to answer any questions that you have during the poster session.

MR. JEFF BRUNO: I'm Jeff Bruno. I'm with the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources. I'm here to answer any questions that relate to State permitting. There is a lot of permits going on at the same time as this process, and not all of those are always covered in this process. So if any questions relate specifically to State permits, I can either answer them or try to find the answer and get back to you if I don't know the answer right offhand.

MR. KEITH GORDON: And I don't believe I mentioned it during the presentation, but there are over 100 permits and authorizations of one kind or another that would be required for Donlin's project to go forward. So there are a variety of federal, State, tribal entities that would have to permit this project for it to go forward.

Page 30

MR. TAYLOR BRELSFORD: Good afternoon, everybody. I'm Taylor Brelsford, and I work with the contract team that provides technical backup to the Army Corps in preparing the EIS. We have about six of us from the EIS contract team to stand at the posters and provide more information. So let me introduce Nancy Darigo. She's the physical scientist. She works with geology, hydrology, air quality, water quality. So Nancy will be standing with the posters here about water flow and air emissions and water discharges.

Then the biological sciences lead is Mr. Dave Every. And he will be standing by the posters on fish and barge traffic. And then the social science lead is Amy Rosenthal, and she will stand near the posters on socioeconomics and subsistence. Then another really important member of our team is Jessica Evans. She's worked on the spill risk analysis quite a bit. So she will stand over where the poster says spill risk and hazardous chemicals. And I'll actually be standing by the project description posters, the mine site, the pipeline and power, and then the transportation infrastructure.

I do also want to introduce another really key member of our team. Donne Fleagle has worked with rural communities for many, many years, and she does a lot of the outreach for the Donlin EIS project.

Page 31

So Keith, I believe that's our whole -- that is our team.

MR. KEITH GORDON: Okay. Thank you very much, Taylor. And I apologize. I did forget to mention that AECOM is an international firm that does both environmental analyses as well as other scientific analyses. And they are assisting the Corps in not only the EIS, but the draft analyses, the draft conclusions, et cetera. But those conclusions are the federal, State and tribal entities' responsibilities to make, as is approval of all the other information in the document.

So at this point in time we will take 45 minutes -- or less if you like or more if you like -- to take a look at these posters before we come back together and start taking your comments.

Please note, as John mentioned, once we start the comments session, we will need to ask folks to come up here to provide your comments so Mary can document your comment. So please move to any of the posters you like or just ask any of us any questions you have, and we will do the best we can to answer them.

(Off the record.)

MR. KEITH GORDON: As we mentioned, we will start by going through the comments based on the numbers that are out there. The last I saw, we had one

Page 32

through nine out there. Once we are done with those folks who have numbers, anybody who wants to comment can comment. You don't have to have a number to comment.

We have less people in the room. If at all possible, we would appreciate if you would come forward and make your comments so that we -- Mary is sure that she can hear you and capture your comment. If there is -- if you would rather stay where you are at, let us know and we will make sure we can get a microphone to you. And we will just have to ask you to repeat your comment if we can't hear anything.

Given that Mary is keeping a transcript of this so that we can record your comments and make sure we address them appropriately in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, please state your name clearly; please state your comment clearly. And if you have a cell phone on, it would be beneficial to us if you could turn it on vibrate since that sometimes interferes with what Mary needs to do.

Who has comment No. 1?

MR. JAMES CHARLES: I have No. 3.

MR. KEITH GORDON: Go ahead. If you want to come up, that's fine. We will go back to No. 1 here in just a minute.

MR. JAMES CHARLES: James Charles. Thank

Page 33

you. [speaking in Yup'ik.']

[speaking in English.] First I want to testify like I did at Aniak, the EIS meeting in Aniak. I said too many barges that hurts subsistence fishing on the river. Too many barges per year. Where the river gets narrower, it's different than where I come from, Tuntutuliak. In Tuntutuliak, the fish can move away from the channel. There is a lot of room. The river is about three miles wide at Tuntutuliak, or on the Kuskokwim away from Tuntutuliak.

Anyway, upriver it's pretty narrow, and fish, they are scared of anything. I have a little camp over there up the Eek River where the river gets narrow. And the fish, when I walk towards the beach, they go away. How about the barge when a barge goes upriver? Fish are going to the sloughs or other areas where they can survive from that barge. So I said too many barges per season that goes up the river.

This Donlin Gold is yours and mine. We are shareholders on Calista. These people are trying to help us. So I myself --

By the way, I'm James Charles. I forgot to tell you my name a while ago. I'm James Charles, by the way.

Anyway, these people are trying to help you and I to write this EIS, whatever they call it; Environmental

Page 34

Impact Statement. So I go for pipeline 2 from -- to bring natural gas or diesel fuel from Anchorage area because the river is too narrow upriver. 100 barges per season is too many. But the pipeline -- if the animals got scared of the pipeline, they can move.

And just like you and I, we used to move around. We had four camps when I was a kid: Spring camp, fall camp, winter camp in the village, and summer camp. That's when we gather for -- we survived off the land. We subsistence fish and hunt. So you and I are shareholders of this Donlin Gold because Calista let them mine in their land.

And I saw the -- I was flying up north one time by Red Dog Mine. I saw gravel go from that mine to the ocean where the ocean -- or where the barge brought fuel and other equipment to that mine. Here in Kuskokwim, the river is the only way they are doing business now, fuel and other equipment. How about road? Even gravel road will work. Pipeline will work, like I said earlier.

But I want to save the fish on the river just like you and I because we live off the river all the time. Different kinds of salmon is on the river and other fish.

That's what I want to bring out this time. So I don't want to speak too long. There is other people who want to testify. Thank you.

MR. KEITH GORDON: All right. Thank you,

Page 35

sir. Those are very good comments. No. 1.

MR. PAUL DOCK: My name is Paul Dock. I'm one of the residents here in Kipnuk. And I want to thank you people that came to present this impact statement; also the people from the surrounding villages. When we -- if -- what I'm about to say I'm saying on behalf of my grandkids. By the time that mine is done and the benefits from that mine start coming to the villages, hopefully I'll still be here, but most likely I might be gone. Because a lot of these people that are sitting here now, especially these Elders, might not be here. There is a pretty good chance that they are not going to be there to enjoy the benefits, if there are any, from Donlin Gold.

Also one of the impacts that I listened to, that presentation you guys gave, and one of the impacts that they don't talk about is the impact that the subsistence lifestyle is going to have from the chemical -- of chemicals that they are using at the mine. And the impact that chemicals are having from that mine will not only affect the subsistence lifestyle near that mine.

And I was looking over that -- those papers that they gave out, and they only talked about the subsistence lifestyle in Sleetmute, which is close to the mine. But if there is any chemical discharge in the river, the Kuskokwim River, if there happens to be an accident, the

Page 36

impact of that subsistence lifestyle is not only going to have impact in the surrounding villages to the mine; it's going to have an impact all the way down the Kuskokwim River and probably out the mouth of the Kuskokwim River and have a significant impact on the villages that are dependent on subsistence lifestyle from the mouth of Kuskokwim all the way up to near where the Donlin Gold Mine is.

And that will have a long-term effect on my grandkids; not just my grandkids, but all the grandkids now in the other villages close to -- especially close to that mine.

And I guess there is some other stuff I have thought of, but I want to leave it to somebody else to bring up.

Thank you very much for the time.

MR. KEITH GORDON: All right. Thank you, sir. And later in the program, if you like, you can certainly make those comments later.

No. 2? Okay. How about No. 4?

MR. GEORGE CHUCKWUK: Thank you, Keith. My name is George Chuckwuk with Kipnuk Traditional Council. And I appreciate you guys coming here to get some testimonies from the people here. I wrote a few things down here on the paper. I'm not very good at choreographing how to speak, but I hope you bear with me.

Page 37

I'll do the best I can.

Subsistence fishing is very important here in the village year-round. And I'd like to see that continue happening. I retired from work due health issues not too long ago, but in subsistence there is no such thing as retire in fishing. If I can't go to old age, maybe I'll give my grandkids -- maybe buy them guns and shells to go out subsistence for me. And I'd like to see that continue happening.

I've heard of some other mines down in the Lower 48, and I understand that nowadays, the studies and whatnot, they say they improve over the years. Or are they just better at talking about it to say it's going to be okay? And in reality, at the end, I don't think it would be good. If they leave it, the animals are going to be on the grounds of Donlin's site. And from what I heard, they pick up that toxin or whatever might be left behind over the years. Or even the birds, they are always landing in places where there is water. And that water could have some toxins that are going to be taken out to other regions of the area.

And it's going to affect the river also on the salmon. I used to fly up and down the river on the Kuskokwim, and during the winter and summer months, there would be nets out there all the time. All the time. And

Page 38

it's very important for the people in the Kuskokwim River to have that food. That's their refrigerator, their food.

And if Donlin ever had a catastrophic accident, what's going to happen? It's going to wipe out everything. The people that eat there from the river, there is going to be no more. I used to think about that. If there is an accident, I'm not going to see nets out under the ice or people going up and down the river to catch fish. It's going to be done. I wish I wouldn't talk like that, but I'm -- that's what would happen.

And talk about earthquakes. I notice there have been a little more earthquakes out in the region here lately. I don't know why that is. But it's getting to be a little more apparent.

Now, we might be way out here out on the coast far from Donlin, so-called far, but as you can see over in the Fukushima disaster they had, back then, how far is it from there to California? And it already has impacted California animals that are slowly coming up towards the Gulf of Alaska. And they have been seeing some animals or fish washed up, or whales. And Donlin -- in comparison to that distance, Donlin is just right in front of our table here. If something happens, it's going to affect all of us here in the coastal regions.

And I really appreciate you guys coming here to

Page 39

listen to us. I want to come up here, even if I get a little nervous, but this is important to me.

And I think that's about all I got. And I want to thank you guys for coming by.

MR. KEITH GORDON: Thank you very much. We are here because, as I said, we want to hear your comments, and we need to know whether or not we really understand what's going on out here and the potential impacts of the project.

No. 5.

MR. JOHNNY PAUL: [speaking in Yup'ik.] I'm going to tell you where I came to many, many years ago, not from here. And we are all alone living off the land. But what you are talking about now, I like it. I like what I'm hearing. Yeah. I'm glad that you guys are concerned about our subsistence way of life. It's like this: We Elders, this was our land. This is where we came to. This is where we walked from the very beginning. This is our land.

And then a lot of people come to our area, and then they come here and try to -- try to promise us a better way of life. But we welcome you come when you come.

I wanted to mention now, the Elders used to talk about what they used to say to us. They tell us these strangers that come from the Lower 48 holding a pencil,

Page 40

and when they write something they ask us to pay for something. And what they write down they want us to pay for. These are the way outsiders, when they come to our area, that's the way they are.

This is our land. This is our land because we subsist off it. We live here. There is no way I see it, and that's the way I see it now. Once in a while I come to my senses and I see our leaders here in the villages -- yeah. They promise them that -- lawyers will promise them things that will make them stronger as a people, but nothing happens. Nothing of a -- nothing of benefit comes to us.

This subsistence way of life of ours is used all the time. It's a big thing to us. We use it every day. We live off the land. And -- and then there is also mention that the Fish & Game will come to our area and tell us what to do, how to fish it, when to fish. And then they are looking for our faults.

And those of you who are against the mine, don't stop -- and then I'm hearing about all these barges that are going to be going up the Kuskokwim. Yeah, sometimes it's too narrow to go through. And what are they going to do when they spill any fuel? And this Kuskokwim River is like a table to us. We must think about this. And if you are against the mine, keep talking about it. Don't stop.

Page 41

But it's like this, too: When mistakes are made, they want people to turn against each other on certain issues, but -- about talking about it and trying to come to one frame of mind. It's -- it would be a good thing, just like talking about it right now.

And when the fish arrive, they are just easy to guide the fish when they start coming up the Kuskokwim River.

And somebody was talking about the barges. That's a lot of barges coming up the Kuskokwim River. The fish will start dying. And our land, we are trying to -- we are trying to keep it clean, to be very careful with it. That's the way we are. We don't want anybody to come to destroy our land. That's the way they are supposed to respond. This -- you know, I'm not really -- I'm not totally against it, but I'm glad you are coming around to the villages and explaining this EIS draft statement.

And then all of this is ours that -- where the mine is going to be. We are supposed to take care of our land. And you will come to our area and learn in your ways how to try to keep our land clean. Of course our Elders taught us how to keep the land clean. It is our table, our food. That's all I have to say. And we eat all kinds of fish from the Kuskokwim, even dry fish from further up the Kuskokwim. And then, you know, if we were against the mine, that will help keep our fish coming.

Page 42

MR. KEITH GORDON: All right. Thank you very much, sir. No. 6.

MR. PATRICK PAVILA: Good afternoon. My name is Patrick Pavila, and I'm a Native council member from Native Village of Tuntutuliak. And we are glad that you guys invited us to make a comment and listen to us. I got several questions and concerns regarding the project up there. And you know, this mining area is pretty new to us, this Southwest Alaska. We only have the Red Dog Mine and, you know, it's a small one. But with this Donlin Creek, it's going to be a pretty big mine. And this mining stuff, it is alien to us. It's hard to come up with questions to be answered regarding impacts, especially on subsistence.

And a couple of questions I have, like I think the Army Corps of Engineers and maybe BLM, one or the other, had stated that there would be significant impact on our subsistence way of life. And what do they mean by "significant"? Reading this -- these posters and stuff, they mentioned that there would be medium or medium -- minimum impact. Well, I don't think minimum -- minimal and medium impact are good words to this project. I think someone needs to define what they mean by "significant." We can say significant just for that or significant all the way from subsistence to our way of life.

Page 43

And also, you know, like, you know, there is going to be air particles floating around like it says in the paper, too; that mercury and arsenic and all the other particles will be drifting around. And I don't know what impact that will have on our way of life but, you know, subsistence way of life, we not only eat the waterborne inhabitants, but we also eat the vegetables that grow around us. And some of those are very fragile. Like even little fish, if it goes through the barge, it's going to probably destroy it.

And those things we need to really understand and -- especially upriver. Like a gentleman was saying, when the river gets narrow and those barges go up there three or four times a day, I think that's going to be quite a bit of impact on the fish that we have.

Seems like under Alternative 2, I was thinking that maybe instead of the kind of barge -- if this is going to actually work, maybe it might be safer for our fisheries and stuff to try to do stuff over land instead of on water. If something spills in the water, it's going to affect -- like that gentleman said, it's going to affect even the delta.

So I think, you know, look for -- think for a minute on what happened in Exxon Valdez oil spill. There was a lot of significant impact on their way of life down there.

Page 44

And a couple years later -- I'm a commercial fisherman, too. We were fishing on the Kuskokwim, and we have never caught salmon that kind of looked halfway cooked. And we caught several of those. And I should have had that brought to Bethel and had it analyzed, but I gave it to Coastal Villages Fisheries to see if they could do something about it, but I never heard of what happened to that fish.

But I think although that fish came from Valdez -- like that guy was saying, there is an impact in California when it happened on other areas.

Lastly, we keep hearing about the benefits, economic benefits and other benefits that might come with the project. But what about the negative impacts? We never hear nothing about what happens to, like, if a barge goes up and hits a sandbar up there, it's going to stay up there for a while.

I remember one time my brother was working for a barge, and he ran into a sandbar and had to stay there for maybe a couple of weeks for the river to rise.

And the other rumors that I hear, like in the Lower 48, that they start -- where there is open pit mines in Oregon and Idaho and other places there, that they are seeing dead salmon in the mouth of the rivers where there are open pit mines. How come we never hear about those

Page 45

kind of things?

What will Donlin Creek do if this happens? Like if we start seeing our king salmon, chum salmon and other species floating down the river, what will happen to us?

Also, those will have impact on our younger generations. We are not going to be around for much longer, and we are probably not going to see the effects of the mining up there, but thinking about our young, I think they are not even ready to look at the impact that it might have on it.

Lastly, how many people are going to read 5,000 pages of double-spaced impact statement that Donlin -- that these guys are coming up with? It's probably got to be about this thick [indicating]. And who is going to read it? We can go through and analyze some of it, but actually a lot of people in the villages don't even have Internet, and that's right now the only way you can get that impact statement is go to the Internet and look at it.

And those are basically some of the concerns I have. And thank you very much.

MR. KEITH GORDON: Thank you, sir. We appreciate your comments. We do have some CDs here of the document if there are portions of it that you would like to review and comment on.

Page 46

No. 7.

MR. JOHNNY EVAN: Quyana. And I appreciate the opportunity to be hear in Kipnuk. I wanted to go attend one of the EIS meetings. I'm Johnny Evan, Tuntutuliak and tribal council president there. And first I'd like to say we are the product of the land, the air, the water. We are a product of subsistence. That's been our tradition ever since we -- ever since we were born, my parents, my grandparents. We are part of the subsistence in the area that we live. We are hunters. We are fishers. We are gatherers of the land where we came from. And nobody will take that away from us, from me.

Right now in my freezer I don't have turkey. I don't have chicken. I don't have trout. I don't have all these items. The only things you will see is what I gathered, I hunted. And I feed my family, my grandkids; every lunch and dinner is what my wife cooks for my family, what we hunted as a family where I came from. And I reckon everybody does that here at Kipnuk or in any other village or all the villages along the Kuskokwim. They don't rely on apples, oranges or whatever. Those are necessities, basic necessities.

After our public meeting at Tuntutuliak, my people felt left out because Corps of Engineers will not be there. And we don't have the means, the resources to

Page 47

bring everybody here and make comments like we are given an opportunity now. They feel left out and they requested that you guys come visit the village.

And look at all these posters. Me, even though I'm a selected official there at Tuntutuliak, I don't have time to look at all these or read through that 5,000-page document. I am busy hunting, fishing and gathering. So are my people in the village. They have Internet. They have cell phones. But getting on-line, they don't -- they don't -- you know, we might get on-line, but we don't have time to read 5,000 pages.

And these terms that these guys are using are not well translated or interpreted. Even though I might read -- for example, I heard John Angkayeak, one year he stated "buffalo," and he was "buffaloed." That's how we Natives -- when we read such terms, they are complex words. It's hard to understand for us, my people. We're illiterate.

And this economics, economics versus subsistence, my people, our people within the region, we will not get rich. Yes, the mine will be there for 30 years. Yes, our people might be working there 10, 15 years. But still, subsistence will be there. It's already implanted. It's our roots. And that's where we grow from. Yes, we might have money, but it will be gone. Our food in the rivers,

Page 48

in the air, on land, they will be --

Somebody might say minimal, minimum, but significant. And they use the word significant here in this document because there is no such fail-safe project that is built because the weather, stuff -- whatever the weather -- we don't control the weather. Whatever it wants to destroy, it destroys. There is earthquakes. There is wind. There is tsunamis. There is all this kind of weather that affects us. And despite the weather, our food, the things we gather, they will still be there.

But this project has come about by unknown people who just get rich off them. They are the ones who have significant impact on our way of life, not just for us, but for our younger generation who will -- you know, it will be harder for them than what it is now. As I realize from the time I was young, everything was right there. Now it's getting harder, and it will become harder for our younger kids. And I know that.

They mentioned there will be barges, bigger barges, bigger tugs. And the fish, after so many years, they go downriver. And the fish in the ocean knows what's up there. And if they know what's up there, they won't go up there to spawn, breed. They know already. The stuff we hunt, the stuff we gather, they know. They might just be fish. They might just be [indiscernible] or whatever.

Page 49

Whatever is up there, before they swim upriver, they already know what's up there. And what they know, they won't go there because they are like us. If I know it's not safe to go there, I won't go there. That's how our food, our -- in our area.

And they mention tailings. Somebody said, you know, tailings pond. It might be a pond and it will be treated. And somebody mentioned it will be dry. Dry particles, windy, all this. You know, if you go towards Bethel and it's windy, there will be dust all over the place. All that dust from up there can land around here in our region because we have no control over the weather, like I mentioned earlier.

And I'm talking too much. I have a laundry list, but I'll -- on behalf of Tuntutuliak, we request that you come to the village to present this EIS statement. Quyana.

MR. KEITH GORDON: Thank you very much, sir. I'll forward that request and ask if we can come to the community.

No. 8.

MS. JOANN CARL: Hi. My name is Joann Carl. I'm from Kipnuk. I do subsistence gathering. Probably 80 percent of the summer I'm out on the water or land or doing something out there. And one thing -- you know, I'm a shareholder from Bristol Bay and Calista, and

Page 50

one thing I learned from Bristol Bay is about Pebble Mine, how they are fighting for their fish, you know.
Our fish, the fish, when it -- our fish travels in the river and it lays eggs inside the river, and they die. And when those fish hatches die -- they swim out of the river and then they come back. And when -- if this -- that mine happens, they are going to disturb what the natural habitat is, what they know of and everything around it, how the land is being disturbed, everything. What about the natural habitat of food, animals that come? They are going to move away from that area or they are going to be contaminated, and they are going to end up coming this way, and then we are going to end up being harmed.
Out of all this, you are aiming for gold. We are trying to protect our animals, our land, the way God created it. God created our land the way it was so it wouldn't be disturbed, just like our body. God created us the way we are, and God created the earth so it wouldn't be harmed. What would happen if I dig inside you and stuff, things that weren't -- mix everything up inside of you? It wouldn't function the way it would function. Things won't grow back the way they are. Things are not going to come back the way they were.
Growing up, I've seen lots of fish disappeared in

Page 51

Kuskokwim area because they didn't protect them as much as Bristol Bay. Bristol Bay help each other. They all gather up. They help each other. They fight together. And if -- if this is what we need to do to protect our animals, that's what we need to do because I live off these animals. I prepare them every summer for my whole family. Not only my family, but for my uncles and for my in-laws. It's not for only one family. It's multiple families that we do things for.
And, you know, growing up, we are introduced into Western culture. So all these White man's food that my parents thought to teach me to eat, and they are mixed together with Western and Native food. So that affected my health with all that salt, sugar, carbs, rice. That's not custom to our culture. That's not healthy. That leads to diabetes, heart attacks. And I have type II diabetes, and I have it very badly. And then my son, my youngest son, if -- that disease mutated because I was lacking Native food of mine. So I teach my kids to eat more Native foods because that -- more nutrients, because it's like diabetes; you lose energy, you lose things. Because all these White man food that we have been eating, it's not healthy. Our body does not recognize it.
And then when I start feeding my kids more White Western foods, the more pizza, the more hamburgers, which

Page 52

we hardly see around here, I feed them what's more natural, what's more healthier, our body recognizes. When I started feeding him more and more Native food, his health improved. I don't have to worry about him not waking up middle -- daytime when everybody is awake because sometimes my son cannot get up because of low -- low fat of energy that our bodies are used to. And if all that is gone, what's going to happen to us? More and more Natives are getting more diabetes or some kind of health issue. And I recognize -- I see that.
I really -- I'm really into looking into that Mount Polley at Canada, what they have been doing, the mining. You know what I'm talking about?
MR. KEITH GORDON: Mount Polley.
MS. JOANN CARL: Yeah, Mount Polley. And stuff they did in Canada, they -- it destroyed their natural habitat. Everything has been contaminated. They said it wouldn't. Things are not put in these papers what you guys introduce us to, just like in Bristol Bay. They have -- they didn't put things in there that would harm things that would be in the land. They kept them out just like what that guy said. They got no time to read that whole book, you know, the documents they have -- they don't know what's in there. Most of it is not told. Just what you guys want them to see are posted on these

Page 53

posters, just a few things you guys just want, tiny bit of that book.
There is a lot more to it that you guys need to talk about. All these -- it's going to affect me and my kids and my grandkids. I'd rather have my subsistence lifestyle instead of getting your gold, just for gold. Donlin Creek shareholders will get rich. What about us? You hear the shareholders fighting about money, getting more money in their pockets? No. They are talking about their -- we are talking about our animals, protecting our animals, not -- not money. Money comes, money goes. Our land will be here longer than the gold you guys dig out and take and go. And then we will be affected.
And who is going to be there to help when everything is -- after all the damage has been done? Who is going to fund if people start dying of health issue, cancer or something? Something new. Something new always pop up out of this.
I'm just speaking out of my heart because I really love to do subsistence life. I'm always out on the boat. So I just want to get that part out.
Thanks.
MR. KEITH GORDON: Thank you very much. Those are very good comments. And that is what we want to hear. We want to hear whether or not we understand the

Page 54

potential impacts of this project. And you are correct; if the project is built, there are impacts of this project that will exist forever. So again, I thank you for your comments.

No. 9.

MS. ELIZABETH MUTE: What's your name?

MR. KEITH GORDON: Keith Gordon.

MS. ELIZABETH MUTE: My name is Elizabeth Mute. I'm originally from Kwigillingok, but this is my second hometown. But all my family originally from two little Tern Mountains across from Kipnuk.

[speaking in Yup'ik.] Donlin Gold Project EIS, I want to -- I'm so short, I'm going to stand up on the bench here so people could watch me.

[speaking in English.] We are very far away from Donlin Gold. We are out in the coast, like we are on the edge of the ocean. And I'm going to talk a little bit, not a long one. Since I'm short, I have to be taller than you right now.

[speaking in Yup'ik.] This came in, and all of you people from here in the village -- I'm glad you all came to tell us about this draft EIS so we could understand it. We didn't know about it in the beginning. But these guys came to -- I think this is the second time that they came here to kind of explain what the draft EIS was.

Page 55

And some of the people were here when they met the first time. But -- but you know, we weren't too eager beaver to go to the meetings, but we wanted to hear about what this Donlin Gold was about. When they have -- once in a while we have lots of wind, and sometimes we have lots of rain, and sometimes like rain and wind. Sometimes the water go up from the ocean, and we are going to have a flood year around here.

So I'm going to talk a little bit. Donlin Gold -- because all the land on earth, sometimes all the earth gets flood to fill all the creeks. Different creeks all the world sometimes flood. We are talking about those chemicals because I heard one lady talked about in your project about chemicals. Those kind of stuff are very danger. I know it. We all know it. So I'm glad you guys came over to tell us that very dangerous stuff. You guys already prepared them already.

So go ahead and you guys -- not only me maybe. Maybe some people go ahead and dig for money, whatever. We all try to -- in summertime we all get some -- what we want from the earth, what we need from the ocean. So thank you very much for coming and tell us about these stuff that we don't know it. Maybe that's all I have to say right now. But anyway, good luck and so long. Quyana.

MR. DANIEL PAUL: Good afternoon.

Page 56

[speaking in Yup'ik.] The chemicals can spread on the river and down the land, down the plants. And then these -- some of these chemicals can cause cancer that they use at the mines. And then he's mentioning carbon monoxide also can cause sickness. All these sicknesses that can come from these chemicals will be -- I'll come back to that later.

Donlin Gold wants to open the mine so they can make money. In the summer if -- if the Donlin Creek begins to erode, it will not be good for fish. And then if the barges start going up, if we do happen to start fishing, they will be interrupting our fishing.

MR. JOHN ACTIVE: He's mentioning -- man, I can't hear him.

MR. DANIEL PAUL: [speaking in Yup'ik.] But I want to mention -- talking about the Lower 48 mines, they were having problems. They destroyed some mine areas. And then of course, accidentally spilling chemicals onto the land is very dangerous and hard to clean up. And they won't remediate the land right away back to what it was if they spill chemicals on the ground. And how are they going to be cleaning up all the dangerous chemicals from the land and the water?

MR. KEITH GORDON: Okay. Thank you, folks. As you notice, we have got some folks taking stuff

Page 57

down. That's simply because we have a plane coming, and it's going to take some of our folks out. But we are going to keep going. No. 9. Did we have No. 9? Okay. No. 10? Okay. Is there anybody else who would like to make a comment?

MR. RALPH FOX: [speaking in Yup'ik.] Another Elder mentioned what they learned from when he was young. And they were -- you Elders were speaking just as smart as -- eloquently as White people. You mentioned things that you didn't like about the mine. These gussacks -- if we want something that we want or we like, we Yup'ik, if we go to their lands and want what we want -- the gussacks are almost as smart as we Yup'ik. But we Yup'ik, because we are Yup'ik, we are smart in Yup'ik, and not trying to speak the White man ways.

MR. KEITH GORDON: Thank you very much. Is there anybody else who would like to make a comment? Okay.

As I mentioned, the -- we have requests to extend the comment period. We don't know at this time whether we will or not. That's something management has to decide. And we will talk to the federal, State and tribal cooperators about requests to extend comment periods, as well as the request to visit Tuntutuliak and some of the other requests we have received.

As I mentioned, you can email comments to us. You can mail them via the postal service. You can fax them to us. And if you need that information, let us know and we will get that to you before we leave today.

We very much appreciate the opportunity to come into the community. We thank you very much for your comments. And of course, please continue to give us any additional comments you have on the project. We will be here for a few more minutes as we pack things up. So if there is anything else you would like to talk to us about, let us know.

Thank you very much for your time today.

(Proceedings adjourned at 4:42 p.m.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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

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

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

MARY A. VAVRIK,
Registered Merit Reporter
Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission Expires: November 5, 2016

[

[indicating] (3)
8:3;17:10;45:14
[indiscernible] (1)
48:25
[speaking (12)
4:9,10,12;33:1,2;
39:11;54:12,15,20;
56:1,15;57:6

A

ability (1)
19:12
able (1)
4:7
access (3)
7:14;18:24,25
accident (3)
35:25;38:3,7
accidentally (1)
56:18
accurate (1)
22:25
across (1)
54:11
Act (2)
13:22;25:20
action (2)
13:21,23
actions (2)
24:2;29:7
ACTIVE (2)
4:2;56:13
actually (9)
6:22;10:16;12:8;
21:18;26:2;27:10;
30:19;43:18;45:16
additional (4)
11:6;27:25;28:20;
58:7
address (2)
28:10;32:13
addresses (1)
23:18
adequate (4)
5:1;13:13;27:2,3
adequately (2)
25:2,25
adjourned (1)
58:13
Administration (1)
11:15
AECOM (1)
31:5
affect (7)
4:24;35:20;37:22;
38:23;43:21,21;53:4
affected (2)
51:13;53:13
affects (1)
48:9
afternoon (3)
30:1;42:3;55:25
Again (5)
12:20;15:19;19:4;
22:10;54:3
against (6)
14:3;40:19,25;41:2,
15,24
age (1)
37:6
agencies (2)
5:5;11:13
agencies' (1)
5:7
agency (1)
6:16
agenda (1)
5:11
ago (5)
14:7;27:25;33:23;
37:5;39:13
ahead (3)
32:22;55:18,19
aiming (1)
50:15
air (9)
15:10,15;23:9;24:22;
30:8,9;43:2;46:6;48:1
airstrip (1)
8:7
Alaska (7)
4:15;9:2;28:12;29:8,
11;38:20;42:9
alien (1)
42:12
almost (2)
17:9;57:13
alone (1)
39:13
along (4)
8:7,13;15:11;46:20
alternative (40)
11:18;13:6,8,21,21,
24;14:7,9,10,11,15,20,
21;15:2,24;16:1,3,23,
25;17:8,17,18,24;18:7,
9,11,12,12,15,16;
20:21,23;21:1,2,9;
22:21;23:4;24:9;29:3;
43:16
alternatives (17)
12:25;13:3,5,10,11,
13,15,16;14:3,8;15:19,
22;16:24;20:18;22:19;
23:12,14
although (1)
44:9
always (6)
20:20;21:4;29:14;
37:18;53:17,20
Amanda (1)
28:11
amount (6)
10:20;15:3;16:13;
17:5,15;23:7
Amy (1)
30:13
analyses (14)
6:17;11:7;12:2,14,
17,24;13:23;14:5;
18:15;19:7;22:11;31:6,
7,8
analysis (3)
12:19;13:12;30:17
analyze (1)
45:15
analyzed (6)
14:8;15:23;25:3,25;
27:9;44:5
analyzing (4)
5:1;10:19;14:1,1
Anchorage (1)
34:2
Andraschko (1)
28:11
Angkayeak (1)
47:14
Aniak (2)
33:3,3
ANILCA (1)
6:1
animals (10)
34:4;37:15;38:19,20;
50:10,16;51:5,6;53:10,
11
answered (1)
42:13
apologize (1)
31:4
apparent (1)
38:14
apples (1)
46:21
apply (1)
24:12
appreciate (6)
32:5;36:22;38:25;
45:23;46:3;58:5
appropriately (2)
15:22;32:14
approval (1)
31:11
approximately (7)
6:25;7:19;8:19;9:4,
16;18:17;21:19
April (2)
10:24;27:15
area (17)
7:11;14:6;17:10,16;
18:24,25;34:2;37:21;
39:20;40:4,16;41:19;
42:8;46:10;49:5;50:11;
51:1
areas (4)
8:13;33:16;44:11;
56:18
Army (10)
4:15;5:4;6:15;11:14,
24;12:4,14;28:12;30:3;
42:16
around (15)
4:11;5:15,17;17:16;
25:5;34:6;41:15;43:2,
4,8;45:6;49:11;50:9;
52:1;55:8
arrive (1)
41:6
arsenic (1)
43:3
aside (1)
13:15
assisted (1)
5:4
assisting (2)
5:9;31:7
attacks (1)
51:16
attend (2)
27:23;46:4
authorizations (1)
29:21
avoided (1)
24:24
awake (1)
52:5
away (8)
16:5;33:7,9,14;
46:12;50:11;54:15;
56:20

B

back (15)
10:2;13:16;20:12;
21:5,13;27:20;29:17;
31:14;32:23;38:17;
50:6,23,24;56:7,21
background (2)
5:12;28:3
backup (1)
30:3
badly (1)
51:17
balance (3)
18:8;19:4;23:12
barge (22)
14:14;16:15,20;
19:17,25;20:21,23,25;
21:8,12,15,15;23:16;
30:12;33:15,15,17;
34:14;43:9,17;44:15,
19
barged (2)
14:12;16:11
barges (17)
15:5;16:18;20:10,11;
21:17;22:2;33:4,5,17;
34:3;40:20;41:8,9;
43:13;48:19,19;56:11
barging (24)
14:18;15:4,25;16:13,
22,25;19:21;20:1,3,5,5,
6,9,14,18;22:4,5,6,16,
16,23;23:1,3,7
base (1)
27:12
based (3)
14:5;21:18;31:24
baseline (2)
14:2;19:7
basic (2)
11:25;46:22
basically (9)
5:11;7:8;10:8;21:20,
25;22:15;23:21;27:4;
45:20
Bay (5)
49:25;50:1;51:2,2;
52:19
beach (1)
33:14
bear (1)
36:25
beaver (1)
55:3
become (2)
13:10;48:17
beginning (2)
39:18;54:23
begins (1)
56:9
behalf (2)
35:6;49:15
behavior (1)
22:17
behind (1)
37:17
bench (1)
54:14
beneficial (3)
6:5;20:1;32:17
benefit (6)
12:10,12,17;15:2;
16:13;40:11
benefits (7)
16:14;19:12;35:7,13;
44:12,13,13
best (3)
21:9;31:21;37:1
Bethel (7)
20:5,10,11;21:11;
22:4;44:5;49:9
better (2)
37:13;39:21
big (3)
17:10;40:14;42:11
bigger (4)
22:2,2;48:19,20
biological (1)
30:11
Birch (7)

15:25;16:3,6,12,18, 22;20:24
birds (1) 37:18
bit (10) 6:5;10:25;11:20; 19:5;22:10;30:17; 43:14;53:1;54:17;55:9
BLM (1) 42:16
blob (1) 8:3
blobs (1) 8:13
blue (1) 20:14
boat (1) 53:20
bodies (1) 52:7
body (3) 50:18;51:23;52:2
book (2) 52:23;53:2
born (1) 46:8
both (2) 15:17;31:5
bottom (1) 5:7
brand-new (1) 8:17
break (3) 5:14,21;28:18
breed (1) 48:23
BRELSFORD (2) 30:1,2
brief (2) 5:12;10:11
briefly (4) 6:5;11:20;19:5; 27:13
bring (5) 13:16;34:1,22;36:14; 47:1
Bristol (5) 49:25;50:1;51:2,2; 52:19
brother (1) 44:18
brought (2) 34:14;44:5
Bruno (2) 29:10,10
buffalo (1) 47:15
buffaloed (1) 47:15
built (3) 13:25;48:4;54:2
Bureau (1) 11:13
buried (1) 8:25
burn (1) 15:9
burnt (1) 20:8
business (1) 34:16
busy (1) 47:7
buy (1) 37:7

C

California (3) 38:18,19;44:10
Calista (4) 12:11;33:20;34:11; 49:25
call (2) 27:23;33:25
called (1) 14:9
came (13) 5:22;10:16;35:4; 39:12,18;44:9;46:11, 18;54:20,21,24,24; 55:16
camp (6) 8:4;33:12;34:7,7,8,8
camps (1) 34:7
can (60) 5:6;6:8,20;7:5,12; 8:12;10:1,10;11:5; 12:3;19:19;20:17;21:9; 22:16,17,17,18;25:5, 12,18;26:1,20,25;27:1, 13,16,17,17,18,20,21; 28:8,21,22;29:16; 31:18,21;32:2,6,9,13; 33:7,16;34:5;36:17; 37:1;38:16;42:24; 45:15,17;49:11,18; 56:1,3,5,6,8;58:1,2,2
Canada (2) 52:12,16
cancer (2) 53:16;56:3
capture (1) 32:7
carbon (1) 56:4
carbs (1) 51:14
care (1) 41:18
careful (1) 41:11
cargo (3) 6:11;8:17;16:10
CARL (3) 49:21,22;52:15
carried (1) 13:11
case (1) 18:3
catastrophic (1) 38:3
catch (1) 38:9
category (1) 24:15
caught (2) 44:3,4
cause (2) 56:3,5
CDs (1) 45:23
ceased (1) 9:24
cell (2) 32:16;47:9
certain (1) 41:2
certainly (2) 28:13;36:18
cetera (9) 11:9;14:14,16;15:6; 19:10;23:10;24:21,25; 31:9
chance (1) 35:12
change (6) 11:8;18:6,7;19:4; 22:3;23:15
changes (2) 18:8;23:11
channel (1) 33:7
Chapter (9) 11:22;12:25;19:6,6, 16;22:10;23:18,18; 24:8
chapters (2) 11:21;23:17
CHARLES (5) 32:21,25,25;33:22, 23
chemical (3) 17:5;35:17,24
chemicals (11) 30:19;35:18,19; 55:13,14;56:1,3,6,19, 21,23
chicken (1) 46:14
Chief (1) 29:7
choreographing (1) 36:25
CHUCKWUK (2) 36:20,21
chum (1) 45:3
clean (6) 10:2;15:9;41:11,20, 21;56:20
cleaned (1) 24:25
cleaning (1) 56:22
clearly (2) 32:15,16
close (3) 35:23;36:11,11
closure (4) 9:5,7,16,18
coast (2) 38:15;54:16
coastal (2) 38:24;44:6
color (2) 20:8,14
combination (2) 20:6;23:20
combine (1) 24:3
combined (2) 13:14;26:18
coming (14) 21:12;35:8;36:22; 38:19,25;39:4;41:7,9, 15,25;45:13;50:13; 55:22;57:1
comment (28) 4:19,25;10:23,24; 11:1,5;25:17,19;26:14, 18,19;27:13,15;28:8; 31:19;32:2,3,3,7,10,16, 20;42:6;45:25;57:5,17, 20,23
commented (1) 26:15
comments (32) 4:17;5:24;10:16; 11:3;23:18;25:18,24, 24;26:5,6,8,13;27:3,16, 18,24;31:15,17,18,24; 32:6,13;35:1;36:18; 39:7;45:23;47:1;53:24; 54:4;58:1,6,8
commercial (2) 22:5;44:1
communities (4) 5:8;6:1;19:10;30:24
community (3) 26:22;49:19;58:6
compare (1) 18:9
comparison (2) 20:14;38:21
complex (1) 47:16
component (4) 7:4;8:2,22;12:14
components (2) 6:7;25:7
concerned (2) 18:23;39:16
concerns (2) 42:7;45:20
conclusions (7) 6:15;11:8;22:11,14, 20;31:8,9
conditions (1) 14:2
consider (3) 18:5,24;22:15
consideration (2) 27:2,3
considered (3) 13:17;14:3;18:14
consistent (1) 16:17
constantly (1) 28:14
constituents (1) 17:6
construct (5) 9:1,4,9;16:2;25:8
constructed (6) 8:8,11;9:3;15:13; 16:6;19:15
construction (6) 8:5;10:7;15:4;16:13; 20:15;21:1
consume (2) 8:19;14:11
consumption (1) 14:19
contact (3) 28:6,7,13
contain (1) 7:15
contains (1) 12:7
contaminated (2) 50:12;52:17
continue (3) 37:3,8;58:7
contract (2) 30:3,5
contrast (1) 18:9
control (2) 48:6;49:12
Cook (1) 9:1
cooked (1) 44:3
cooks (1) 46:17
cooperating (1) 5:5
cooperators (1) 57:23
Corps (13) 4:15;5:4;6:15;11:14, 24;12:4,14;28:12;29:7; 30:4;31:7;42:16;46:24

correctly (1)
27:9
corridor (1)
15:11
Council (3)
36:22;42:4;46:5
couple (4)
25:4;42:15;44:1,20
course (4)
24:13;41:20;56:18;
58:7
cover (1)
7:23
covered (2)
17:11;29:15
created (4)
50:17,17,18,19
Creek (6)
10:3;16:3;42:11;
45:2;53:7;56:9
creeks (2)
55:11,11
Crooked (2)
10:2;16:3
Crossing (7)
15:25;16:3,6,12,19,
22;20:24
crushed (2)
7:6,8
culture (3)
26:24;51:11,15
cumulative (3)
23:19,19,20
current (1)
14:2
currently (15)
4:19;5:13;6:2;9:20;
11:11;14:5;15:12;19:8;
20:1,9;23:1,6,23,25;
27:15
custom (1)
51:15

D

Dalzell (3)
18:20,21;19:1
dam (5)
17:10,19;18:3,5,5
damage (1)
53:15
damaging (1)
13:2
dams (1)
17:20
danger (1)
55:15
dangerous (3)
55:16;56:19,22
DANIEL (2)
55:25;56:15
Darigo (1)
30:6
date (2)
11:7,9
Dave (1)
30:11
day (3)
21:23;40:14;43:14
daytime (1)
52:5
dead (1)
44:24
deal (3)
5:18;19:14;24:20
December (2)
10:13,15
decide (1)
57:21
Decision (3)
11:16;26:2;27:10
decisionmakers (1)
26:1
decisions (2)
22:13;27:12
deep (2)
7:3;9:22
define (2)
11:25;42:23
defined (3)
12:5;25:2;27:8
degree (1)
9:15
delta (1)
43:22
Department (1)
29:11
dependent (1)
36:6
depending (2)
6:25;9:23
depict (2)
25:7,14
depth (1)
7:1
describe (1)
21:10
describing (1)
21:6
description (1)
30:20
design (1)
24:19
designed (1)
24:16
despite (1)
48:9
destroy (3)
41:13;43:10;48:6
destroyed (2)
52:16;56:17
destroys (1)
48:7
detailed (3)
13:12;18:15;27:3
determine (1)
13:17
develop (2)
8:14;11:16
developed (3)
7:21,22;22:21
developing (1)
6:16
development (3)
5:5,9;6:22
diabetes (4)
51:16,17,21;52:9
die (2)
50:4,5
diesel (13)
8:20;14:11,12,17,19,
23;15:1,4,8,8,16;18:1;
34:2
different (5)
18:18;23:8;33:6;
34:21;55:11
dig (3)
50:20;53:12;55:19
dinner (1)
46:17
direction (1)
23:11
directly (1)
28:13
disappeared (1)
50:25
disaster (1)
38:17
discharge (1)
35:24
discharges (1)
30:10
discussed (2)
18:13;19:18
discussing (1)
19:25
disease (1)
51:18
disposal (1)
17:4
distance (2)
20:12;38:22
District (3)
4:15;28:12;29:8
disturb (4)
22:16,17,18;50:7
disturbed (2)
50:9,18
Dock (2)
35:2,2
document (15)
12:7,8;18:13;19:18,
23;21:5;22:20;23:17;
24:6;26:21;31:11,18;
45:24;47:7;48:3
documents (2)
28:1;52:23
Dog (2)
34:13;42:9
done (8)
4:25;11:7;19:7;28:5;
32:1;35:7;38:9;53:15
Donlin (48)
4:16,22;5:16,20;6:6,
20,21;7:7;8:2,19;9:8;
11:17,18,23;13:7,25;
16:1;17:3;18:17;19:3;
20:16;21:16,22;22:1;
23:5;24:1,17;25:7;
29:2;30:25;33:19;
34:11;35:13;36:7;38:3,
16,21,22;42:10;45:2,
12;53:7;54:12,16;55:4,
9;56:8,9
Donlin's (12)
6:6,15;12:10;14:4;
17:17,24;18:19;20:3,
13;22:21;29:22;37:16
Donne (1)
30:23
double-spaced (1)
45:12
down (19)
8:9;12:23;13:10;
14:12,23;15:4;20:7;
27:20;36:3,24;37:10,
23;38:8;40:2;43:25;
45:4;56:2,2;57:1
downriver (1)
48:21
downstream (7)
16:2;17:10,20,25;
20:13;21:13;22:7
dozen (3)
5:15;11:21;16:16
Draft (27)
4:18,20;5:5,9,20,24;
6:13;10:20,22,23;11:1;
12:6;13:12;22:11,11,
12,20;25:18,24;27:13;
28:2,8;31:8,8;41:16;
54:22,25
drafted (1)
11:9
drier (1)
17:14
drifting (1)
43:4
dry (4)
17:9;41:23;49:8,8
due (1)
37:4
during (10)
8:5,5;9:14;16:13;
20:14,25;21:8;29:9,20;
37:24
dust (3)
17:15;49:10,11
dying (2)
41:10;53:16

E

eager (1)
55:2
earlier (4)
9:22;18:14;34:18;
49:13
earth (4)
50:19;55:10,10,21
earthquakes (3)
38:11,12;48:7
easy (1)
41:6
eat (6)
38:5;41:22;43:6,7;
51:12,19
eating (1)
51:22
economic (6)
12:10,12,17,22;
19:13;44:12
economics (3)
12:20;47:19,19
edge (1)
54:17
Eek (1)
33:13
effect (1)
36:9
effectively (2)
9:19;27:7
effects (6)
5:1;23:16,24;25:3;
26:1;45:7
eggs (1)
50:4
EIS (31)
5:20,25;6:17;10:12,
13,22,23;11:1,3,3,15,
22;13:12;25:18,20,24;
28:1,2,8;30:4,5,25;
31:8;33:3,25;41:16;
46:4;49:16;54:12,22,
25
either (5)
7:13;8:5;19:23;27:1;
29:16
Elder (1)
57:7
Elders (5)
35:11;39:17,23;
41:20;57:8
eliminate (1)
16:21
eliminated (1)
24:17
eliminates (1)
15:3
ELIZABETH (3)
54:6,8,8
eloquently (1)
57:9

else (5)
27:13;36:14;57:4,17;58:10
email (2)
27:16;58:1
emissions (3)
15:10;24:21;30:10
encompass (1)
7:11
end (3)
37:14;50:12,13
energy (2)
51:21;52:7
Engineers (10)
4:15;5:4;11:14,24;12:4,15;28:12;29:7;42:16;46:24
Engineers' (1)
6:16
English] (3)
4:10;33:2;54:15
enjoy (1)
35:13
enough (2)
7:15;10:2
entire (2)
9:11;14:24
entities (2)
12:23;29:23
entities' (1)
31:10
environment (4)
13:3,20;24:14,18
Environmental (19)
4:18,20;5:6,9;6:14;10:20;11:10,11;12:6;13:22;19:7;25:20;26:8,9,12;27:14;31:6;32:14;33:25
equipment (6)
8:18,21;14:15,25;34:15,17
erode (1)
56:10
especially (4)
35:11;36:11;42:14;43:12
et (9)
11:9;14:14,16;15:6;19:10;23:10;24:21,25;31:9
evaluated (1)
13:17
EVAN (2)
46:2,4
Evans (1)
30:16
even (11)
13:17;34:17;37:18;39:1;41:23;43:8,22;45:9,16;47:4,13
eventually (1)
9:24
everybody (4)
30:2;46:19;47:1;52:5
everybody's (1)
11:1
example (2)
19:17;47:14
excavation (1)
14:25
except (1)
20:19
excessively (1)
12:21
exist (2)
14:2;54:3
existing (2)
14:1;24:5
exists (8)
14:5;19:9;20:2,9;23:2,6,23,25
expected (1)
9:25
explain (1)
54:25
explaining (1)
41:16
extend (2)
57:19,23
extract (1)
7:16
extracted (2)
17:22,23
Exxon (1)
43:24

F

facilities (6)
8:24;9:8,10,12,15;15:1
facility (12)
7:5,10,12,17,18;8:4,4,17;14:24;17:1,9,20
fail-safe (1)
48:4
fair (3)
8:12;17:5,15
fall (1)
34:7
familiar (2)
15:18;16:15
families (1)
51:9
family (7)
46:16,17,18;51:7,7,8;54:10
far (8)
16:23;20:24;21:2;22:21;38:15,16,17;54:15
fat (1)
52:7
faults (1)
40:18
fax (2)
27:18;58:2
features (1)
24:19
federal (7)
5:7;6:16;10:9;11:13;29:23;31:9;57:22
feed (2)
46:16;52:1
feeding (2)
51:24;52:3
feel (1)
47:2
feet (5)
7:3,3,19,20;9:22
felt (2)
24:17;46:24
few (4)
10:25;36:23;53:1;58:9
fight (1)
51:3
fighting (2)
50:2;53:8
fill (4)
7:8,10;9:24;55:11
filled (1)
17:9
fills (1)
10:1
final (11)
6:14;11:3,3,10,11;22:13,13;26:7,9,12;32:14
find (5)
4:4,11;13:1;27:21;29:17
finding (1)
15:20
fine (1)
32:23
firm (1)
31:5
first (4)
11:21;33:2;46:5;55:2
fish (41)
10:4;22:16,17,18,22;23:9,15;26:21;30:12;33:7,11,14,15;34:10,19,21;38:9,21;40:16,17,17;41:6,7,9,23,23,25;43:9,15;44:8,9;48:20,21,25;50:2,3,3,3,5,25;56:10
fisheries (2)
43:18;44:6
fisherman (1)
44:1
fishers (1)
46:11
fishing (7)
33:4;37:2,6;44:2;47:7;56:11,12
Five (1)
16:16
Fleagle (1)
30:23
floating (2)
43:2;45:4
flood (3)
55:8,11,12
flow (1)
30:9
fly (1)
37:23
flying (1)
34:12
folks (11)
5:22;8:5;10:17;25:11;27:9;28:16;31:17;32:1;56:25,25;57:2
followed (1)
8:7
follows (1)
9:18
food (12)
38:2,2;41:22;47:25;48:9;49:5;50:10;51:11,13,19,22;52:3
foods (2)
51:20,25
foot (1)
8:7
footprint (4)
7:21,24;9:10;17:12
forecast (2)
23:22;24:3
foreseeable (1)
23:21
forever (2)
10:1;54:3
forget (1)
31:4
forgot (1)
33:22
fork (1)
18:21
form (2)
6:23;24:9
forward (11)
5:2;9:17;13:11;17:8;18:16;19:11;28:14;29:22,25;32:5;49:18
four (5)
9:4;21:17,24;34:7;43:14
four-year (1)
20:15
FOX (1)
57:6
fragile (1)
43:8
frame (4)
17:23;21:17,20;41:4
freezer (1)
46:13
front (1)
38:22
fuel (10)
6:11;8:18,23;14:18,19;16:10;34:2,14,16;40:23
Fukushima (1)
38:17
full (2)
17:2,21
function (2)
50:22,22
fund (1)
53:16
further (1)
41:23
future (4)
4:5;23:21;24:2;26:7

G

gallons (1)
8:20
Game (1)
40:16
gas (10)
6:9;8:25;14:17,22;15:8,9,12,14,14;34:2
gather (4)
34:9;48:10,24;51:3
gathered (1)
46:15
gatherers (1)
46:11
gathering (2)
47:7;49:22
gave (5)
10:19;27:2;35:15,22;44:5
generate (2)
11:11;13:3
generation (1)
48:14
generations (1)
45:6
gentleman (2)
43:12,21
geology (1)
30:7
GEORGE (2)
36:20,21
gets (4)
33:5,13;43:13;55:11
Given (2)
32:12;47:1
gives (3)
5:12;10:11;23:13
giving (1)
7:24
glad (5)

39:15;41:15;42:5;
54:21;55:15
God (4)
50:16,17,18,19
goes (12)
9:17;11:12;15:15;
17:6;18:18;19:10;
28:24;33:15,18;43:9;
44:15;53:11
Gold (20)
4:16,22;7:15,16;
11:23;18:19;20:8;
33:19;34:11;35:13;
36:7;50:15;53:6,6,12;
54:12,16;55:4,9;56:8
Good (12)
30:1;35:1,12;36:24;
37:15;41:4;42:3,22;
53:24;55:24,25;56:10
GORDON (19)
4:13,14;28:25;29:19;
31:3,23;32:22;34:25;
36:16;39:5;42:1;45:22;
49:17;52:14;53:23;
54:7,7;56:24;57:16
Gorge (3)
18:20,21;19:1
grandkids (7)
35:7;36:10,10,10;
37:7;46:16;53:5
grandparents (1)
46:9
graph (1)
20:19
graphs (2)
21:2,6
gravel (2)
34:13,17
greater (1)
22:23
ground (3)
15:17;17:4;56:21
grounds (1)
37:16
grow (3)
43:7;47:24;50:23
Growing (2)
50:25;51:10
guess (1)
36:13
guide (1)
41:6
Gulf (1)
38:20
guns (1)
37:7
gussacks (2)
57:11,13
guy (2)
44:10;52:22
guys (18)
35:15;36:22;38:25;
39:4,15;42:6;45:13;
47:3,12;52:19,25;53:1,
3,12;54:23;55:15,16,18

H

habitat (4)
22:17;50:8,10;52:17
half (7)
9:5;11:21;12:7,9;
16:16;21:19,25
halfway (1)
44:3
hamburgers (1)
51:25
happen (9)
23:2;24:2;26:3;38:4,
10;45:4;50:20;52:8;
56:11
happened (4)
23:24;43:24;44:7,11
happening (3)
4:11;37:4,9
happens (10)
13:24;15:13;21:8;
22:19;35:25;38:23;
40:11;44:15;45:2;50:7
happy (1)
29:8
hard (3)
42:12;47:17;56:19
harder (3)
48:15,17,17
hardly (1)
52:1
harm (2)
10:4;52:20
harmed (2)
50:14,20
hatches (1)
50:5
haul (2)
14:10,16
Hazardous (2)
11:14;30:19
health (5)
37:4;51:14;52:4,9;
53:16
healthier (1)
52:2
healthy (2)
51:15,23
hear (12)
32:6,10;39:6;44:15,
21,25;46:3;53:8,25,25;
55:3;56:14
heard (5)
37:10,16;44:7;47:14;
55:13
hearing (3)
39:15;40:20;44:12
hearings (1)
6:2
heart (2)
51:16;53:19
heavy (1)
14:15
held (1)
10:14
help (6)
33:20,24;41:25;51:2,
3;53:14
helps (1)
21:5
Hi (1)
49:21
high (3)
4:3;7:2,20
higher (2)
17:13,13
Historic (1)
19:3
hits (1)
44:16
holding (2)
27:23;39:25
hometown (1)
54:10
hope (1)
36:25
hopefully (1)
35:8
hours (1)
21:14
human (4)
13:3,19;24:14,18
hunt (2)
34:10;48:24
hunted (2)
46:16,18
hunters (1)
46:10
hunting (1)
47:7
hurts (1)
33:4
hydraulic (1)
18:5
hydrology (1)
30:8

I

ice (1)
38:8
ice-free (1)
20:11
Idaho (1)
44:23
idea (6)
7:10,24;10:19;19:16;
21:3;28:19
Iditarod (1)
19:2
II (1)
51:16
illiterate (1)
47:18
Impact (43)
4:18,20;5:6,10;6:14;
10:20;11:10,12;12:6,
22;13:19;19:2,11;
22:22,23;23:19,20;
24:18;26:8,9,12;27:14;
32:14;34:1;35:4,16,18;
36:1,2,3,5;42:17,21,22;
43:5,15,25;44:10;45:5,
9,12,18;48:13
impacted (2)
19:20;38:18
impacts (47)
4:23;5:18,23;10:18,
21;13:1;14:9,18;15:5,
18,21,25;16:21,24;
17:1,14;18:10,23,25;
19:4,14,24,25;20:14,
18;22:15;23:8,9,9,15,
19,21,22;24:4,10,11,
14;25:9;27:8,9;35:14,
15;39:9;42:13;44:14;
54:1,2
implanted (1)
47:23
importance (2)
12:20;26:24
important (11)
4:4;12:13;19:9;
20:19;22:1;25:21;
26:22;30:16;37:2;38:1;
39:2
improve (1)
37:12
improved (1)
52:4
included (1)
19:23
includes (2)
17:5;19:6
including (1)
14:4
increases (1)
15:9
indicate (3)
5:16;11:16;22:21
individual (1)
12:23
industrial (1)
22:6
information (20)
4:21;5:13;6:6;11:21;
19:5;22:10;23:14;25:9,
16;27:7,12;28:1,2,3,4,
6,20;30:6;31:11;58:3
infrastructure (5)
6:9,10;7:22;8:1;
30:21
inhabitants (1)
43:7
initiate (1)
10:7
injure (1)
22:18
in-laws (1)
51:8
Inlet (1)
9:1
inside (3)
50:4,20,21
instead (8)
14:17;15:8;16:4,7;
17:19;43:17,19;53:6
intended (1)
12:8
Intent (4)
10:12;14:10;22:9;
25:15
interest (2)
12:1;26:3
interferes (1)
32:18
international (1)
31:5
Internet (3)
45:17,18;47:8
interpreted (1)
47:13
interrupting (1)
56:12
into (15)
10:2,3,16;13:10,14;
15:15;21:5;24:21;
26:18;27:24;44:19;
51:10;52:11,11;58:5
introduce (5)
25:12;28:16;30:6,22;
52:19
introduced (1)
51:10
invited (1)
42:6
issue (4)
18:3,4;52:10;53:16
issues (7)
19:18,20,22;24:5;
28:9;37:4;41:3
items (1)
46:15

J

JAMES (5)
32:21,25,25;33:22,
23
JEFF (2)
29:10,10
Jessica (1)
30:16
JOANN (3)
49:21,21;52:15
job (1)
5:1
JOHN (7)
4:2,14,14,17;31:16;

47:14;56:13
JOHNNY (3)
39:11;46:2,4
Jungjuk (6)
8:10,16;16:2,4,11;
20:22

K

keep (7)
40:25;41:11,20,21,
25;44:12;57:3
keeping (1)
32:12
KEITH (21)
4:13,14;28:25;29:19;
31:1,3,23;32:22;34:25;
36:16,20;39:5;42:1;
45:22;49:17;52:14;
53:23;54:7,7;56:24;
57:16
kept (1)
52:21
key (1)
30:22
kid (1)
34:7
kids (4)
48:18;51:19,24;53:4
kill (1)
22:18
kind (8)
29:21;43:17;44:3;
45:1;48:8;52:9;54:25;
55:14
kinds (3)
15:18;34:21;41:22
king (1)
45:3
Kipnuk (6)
35:3;36:21;46:3,19;
49:22;54:11
knows (1)
48:21
Kuskokwim (25)
8:9;10:3;15:5;16:16,
17;18:22;20:2;22:3;
33:9;34:15;35:25;36:3,
4,7;37:24;38:1;40:21,
23;41:7,9,23,24;44:2;
46:20;51:1
Kuskokwim-Yukon (1)
10:17
Kwigillingok (1)
54:9

L

lacking (1)
51:19
lady (1)
55:13
Land (30)
11:13;34:9,11;39:14,
17,19;40:5,5,15;41:10,
13,18,20,21;43:19;
46:6,11;48:1;49:11,24;
50:9,16,17;52:21;
53:12;55:10;56:2,19,
20,23
landing (1)
37:18
lands (1)
57:12
last (3)
18:11;21:11;31:25
Lastly (2)
44:12;45:11
lately (1)
38:12
later (4)
36:17,18;44:1;56:7
laundry (1)
49:14
lawyers (1)
40:9
lays (1)
50:4
lead (3)
6:16;30:11,13
leaders (2)
4:8;40:8
leads (1)
51:16
leak (2)
15:13,15
learn (1)
41:19
learned (2)
50:1;57:7
leave (5)
20:11;28:20;36:14;
37:15;58:4
left (6)
7:6,9;17:6;37:17;
46:24;47:2
less (12)
13:2,19;14:11,12,13,
13;15:5,5,21;28:22;
31:13;32:4
lessens (1)
24:14
level (1)
26:23
liaison (1)
28:11
life (15)
6:24;9:11,14;10:8;
22:7;39:16,22;40:13;
42:18,25;43:5,6,25;
48:13;53:20
lifestyle (6)
35:17,20,23;36:1,6;
53:6
light (1)
20:13
likely (1)
35:9
limit (1)
15:24
limiting (3)
23:7,9,9
limits (1)
23:8
line (1)
18:19
liquid (1)
14:17
list (1)
49:14
listed (3)
26:9;27:17,19
listen (2)
39:1;42:6
listened (1)
35:14
little (15)
6:5;8:12;10:25;
11:20;19:5;22:10;
25:13;33:12;38:12,13;
39:2;43:9;54:11,17;
55:9
live (7)
27:6,6;34:20;40:6,
15;46:10;51:5
living (1)
39:13
LNG (1)
14:10
logos (1)
5:7
long (4)
34:23;37:5;54:18;
55:24
longer (4)
14:22;28:23;45:7;
53:12
long-term (1)
36:9
look (16)
5:21;12:5;13:5;21:5;
22:19;23:23,24,25;
24:1;25:5;31:13;43:23;
45:9,18;47:4,6
looked (4)
13:8;15:22;21:22;
44:3
looking (5)
18:4;25:23;35:21;
40:18;52:11
looks (1)
19:11
lose (2)
51:21,21
lot (10)
17:4;29:13;30:24;
33:8;35:10;39:20;41:9;
43:25;45:16;53:3
lots (3)
50:25;55:5,6
love (1)
53:20
low (3)
7:1;52:6,7
Lower (4)
37:10;39:25;44:21;
56:16
luck (1)
55:24
lunch (1)
46:16

M

mail (2)
27:18;58:2
maintain (1)
8:15
major (7)
5:18;8:2,22;19:17,
20;24:4;25:9
majority (1)
9:14
man (3)
51:22;56:13;57:15
Management (2)
11:13;57:21
manager (2)
4:16;29:1
man's (1)
51:11
many (10)
30:24,24;33:3,5,17;
34:4;39:12,12;45:11;
48:20
March (1)
10:15
marine (1)
20:6
Mary (4)
31:18;32:6,12,18
material (1)
8:14
Materials (1)
11:15
math (2)
21:18,22
matter (1)
20:17
maximize (1)
12:10
maximizing (1)
12:17
may (2)
7:14;25:16
maybe (10)
7:19;37:6,7;42:16;
43:17,18;44:20;55:18,
18,23
mean (8)
9:7;16:9;19:1;22:4;
25:19;26:5;42:18,23
meaning (1)
20:21
means (10)
13:24;14:23;15:6,10;
16:3,7,9;17:8;18:19;
46:25
measure (1)
9:23
measured (1)
7:1
mechanisms (3)
11:4;24:15,24
medium (3)
42:20,20,22
meet (1)
10:9
meeting (3)
25:15;33:3;46:23
meetings (4)
10:14;27:22;46:4;
55:3
member (3)
30:16,22;42:4
mention (5)
31:4;39:23;40:15;
49:6;56:16
mentioned (22)
4:14,17;6:13;14:7;
16:1;18:6;22:12;24:8;
25:6;27:14;28:25;
29:20;31:16,23;42:20;
48:19;49:8,13;57:7,9,
19;58:1
mentioning (3)
8:3;56:4,13
mercury (2)
24:21;43:3
met (1)
55:1
method (2)
14:20;15:24
methodologies (1)
18:13
microphone (1)
32:9
middle (2)
12:23;52:5
middle-of-the-road (2)
6:17;12:17
might (32)
4:24;14:20;15:24;
16:25;19:1,11,13,14,
24;24:2,4,16,17,20;
25:3,13;28:19;35:9,11;
37:17;38:15;43:18;
44:13;45:10;47:10,13,
22,24;48:2,24,25;49:7
miles (9)
6:25;7:11,17,23;8:8;
16:5;17:11;18:17;33:8
mill (4)
7:16;8:23;14:25;
17:7

milling (2)
7:7,9
million (1)
8:19
millions (1)
16:10
mind (1)
41:4
mine (49)
4:6,7,16,22;5:17;6:7,7;8:4,6,11;9:2,10,11,14,17,19;11:23;13:24;14:11,16;16:5;30:20;33:19;34:11,13,13,15;35:7,8,18,19,20,23;36:2,8,12;40:19,25;41:17,25;42:9,11;47:21;50:1,7;51:19;56:8,17;57:10
mines (5)
37:10;44:22,25;56:4,16
mine's (1)
6:24
minimal (2)
42:21;48:2
minimize (6)
16:20,24;17:1;23:15;24:10,23
minimizing (2)
14:8,18
minimum (3)
42:21,21;48:2
mining (12)
6:22;8:18,21;9:16,21,24;14:15,24;42:8,12;45:8;52:12
minute (5)
13:6;14:7;27:25;32:24;43:23
minutes (5)
10:25;25:4;28:21;31:12;58:9
mistakes (1)
41:1
mitigate (2)
13:1;24:11
mitigation (4)
24:8,9,12;25:2
mix (1)
50:21
mixed (1)
51:12
moderate (1)
22:22
modification (1)
23:11
modify (1)
24:9
money (8)
47:25;53:8,9,11,11,11;55:19;56:9
monitoring (1)
9:18
monoxide (1)
56:5
months (1)
37:24
more (24)
5:17;10:25;19:2;25:4;30:6;31:13;38:6,12,14;51:20,20,24,25,25;52:1,2,3,3,8,8,9;53:3,9;58:9
most (3)
8:23;35:9;52:24
mounded (2)
7:18;17:13
mounding (1)
17:13
Mount (3)
52:11,14,15
Mountains (1)
54:11
mouth (3)
36:4,6;44:24
move (6)
6:11;31:19;33:7;34:5,6;50:11
much (22)
4:3,13;7:19;17:11,13,13;24:18;31:4;36:15;39:5;42:2;45:6,21;49:14,17;51:1;53:23;55:22;57:16;58:5,6,12
multiple (1)
51:8
must (1)
40:24
mutated (1)
51:18
MUTE (3)
54:6,8,9
myself (1)
33:21

N

name (10)
4:14;28:25;32:15;33:23;35:2;36:21;42:4;49:21;54:6,8
Nancy (2)
30:6,8
narrow (6)
22:24;33:11,13;34:3;40:22;43:13
narrower (1)
33:5
National (3)
13:22;19:3;25:20
Native (7)
5:8;42:4,5;51:13,19,20;52:3
Natives (2)
47:16;52:9
natural (19)
6:9;8:25;13:3,19;14:17,22;15:8,9,12,14,14;24:14,18;29:11;34:2;50:8,10;52:2,17
nature (1)
28:10
near (4)
24:2;30:14;35:20;36:7
necessities (2)
46:21,22
need (26)
11:6,8,22,23,24,25;12:3;13:12;15:21;17:19;19:21;22:24;23:17;24:6;25:1;26:20;27:3,6;31:17;39:7;43:11;51:4,5;53:3;55:21;58:3
needed (2)
9:11,12
needing (1)
20:23
needs (2)
32:18;42:23
negative (2)
15:10;44:14
neither (2)
6:18;12:15
nervous (1)
39:2
nets (2)
37:25;38:7
new (5)
8:9;13:16;42:8;53:17,17
Newman (3)
29:5,6,6
newsletters (1)
28:4
next (2)
8:6,22
night (1)
21:22
nine (3)
5:17;25:8;32:1
nobody (1)
46:12
nor (2)
6:19;12:15
north (1)
34:12
note (3)
23:4;26:21;31:16
noted (2)
26:15,19
notes (1)
12:9
Notice (3)
10:12;38:11;56:25
November (1)
10:22
nowadays (1)
37:11
number (2)
27:19;32:3
numbers (2)
31:25;32:2
nutrients (1)
51:20

O

obviously (2)
18:18,21
occur (1)
9:6
ocean (6)
34:13,14;48:21;54:17;55:7,21
off (11)
14:17;15:1,8;31:22;34:9,20;39:13;40:6,15;48:12;51:5
offhand (1)
29:18
official (1)
47:5
oil (1)
43:24
old (2)
4:6;37:6
once (5)
9:25;31:16;32:1;40:7;55:4
one (33)
6:2,3;9:15;12:3,22,25;16:14;17:14;18:6,9;21:9,14,23,23;23:11;24:15;29:21;31:25;34:12;35:3,14,15;41:4;42:10,16;44:18;46:4;47:14;49:24;50:1;51:8;54:18;55:13
ones (1)
48:12
on-line (2)
47:9,10
only (15)
8:11;14:24;20:23;31:7;34:16;35:19,22;36:1;42:9;43:6;45:17;46:15;51:7,8;55:18
onto (1)
56:19
open (8)
8:14;9:23;10:23;27:15;28:21;44:22,25;56:8
opening (2)
18:24,25
opens (1)
4:6
operate (5)
8:18,20,23;9:5;15:1
operated (2)
15:7;24:16
operating (2)
17:21;24:22
operation (2)
8:11;10:6
operations (2)
8:5;21:8
opponent (2)
6:19;12:16
opportunity (5)
4:24;5:21;46:3;47:2;58:5
options (3)
13:8,10,14
oranges (1)
46:21
ore (2)
7:6,14
Oregon (1)
44:23
originally (2)
54:9,10
others (1)
26:7
ours (2)
40:13;41:17
out (41)
4:4,11,19;7:16;10:12,14,22;11:12;12:3,9;15:22;19:9;27:6;31:25;32:1;34:22;35:22;36:4;37:8,20,25;38:4,7,12,15,15;39:8;46:24;47:2;49:23,24;50:5,15;52:21;53:12,18,19,20,21;54:16;57:2
outreach (1)
30:25
outsiders (1)
40:3
over (18)
6:21;7:6,9;9:2;12:22;13:8;17:6;29:20;30:18;33:12;35:21;37:12,17;38:16;43:19;49:10,12;55:16
overall (3)
11:25;12:4;26:25
overburden (1)
7:13
overview (1)
10:11

P

pack (1)
58:9
pages (2)
45:11;47:11
paper (2)
36:24;43:3

papers (2)
35:21;52:18
parents (2)
46:9;51:12
part (4)
12:9,18;46:9;53:21
particles (3)
43:2,4;49:8
particular (1)
26:21
Pass (1)
18:21
past (2)
23:20,24
PATRICK (2)
42:3,4
PAUL (5)
35:2,2;39:11;55:25;
56:15
PAVILA (2)
42:3,4
pay (2)
40:1,2
Pebble (1)
50:1
pencil (1)
39:25
people (35)
4:4,10;10:4;25:21;
26:11,16;32:4;33:20,
24;34:23;35:4,5,10;
36:23;38:1,5,8;39:20;
40:10;41:2;45:11,16;
46:23;47:8,17,20,20,
22;48:11;53:16;54:14,
21;55:1,19;57:9
per (4)
8:20;33:5,17;34:3
percent (1)
49:23
period (7)
9:12;21:13,23,24;
22:1;27:15;57:20
periods (1)
57:23
permit (9)
11:17,18,19;13:2;
15:20;29:2,3,3,24
permits (3)
29:13,16,21
permitted (12)
6:24;7:23,25;9:17;
10:8;13:18,18;20:4,13;
24:13;25:23;27:11
permitting (1)
29:13
perpetuity (1)
9:20
phone (2)
27:19;32:16
phones (1)
47:9
physical (1)
30:7
pick (1)
37:17
pink (2)
8:3,12
pipeline (16)
6:8;8:25;11:14;
14:22,23;15:11,12,14,
16;18:13,16;30:20;
34:1,4,5,18
pit (10)
6:22,23,24;7:2,2;
9:21,23,25;44:22,25
pits (1)
6:22
pizza (1)
51:25
place (2)
13:25;49:10
places (2)
37:19;44:23
plane (1)
57:1
plants (1)
56:2
Please (6)
23:4;31:16,19;32:15,
15;58:7
plus (1)
17:20
pm (1)
58:13
pockets (1)
53:9
point (5)
6:23;12:3;20:4;
28:15;31:12
points (1)
16:16
Policy (2)
13:22;25:20
Polley (3)
52:12,14,15
pond (3)
17:21;49:7,7
pop (1)
53:17
port (9)
8:9,16;15:25;16:2,4,
6,11,19;20:22
portions (1)
45:24
possible (3)
9:13;15:20;32:4
postal (1)
58:2
posted (1)
52:25
poster (7)
5:14;25:10;28:18,21,
22;29:9;30:18
posters (16)
5:15,22;25:5,6,8,14;
30:5,9,12,14,20;31:14,
19;42:19;47:4;53:1
potential (37)
4:23;5:18,23;10:18,
21;12:12,22;13:9;
14:13,14;15:6,11;
16:15,18,20,20;17:14;
18:1,2,4,10,23,25;19:2,
25;22:15;23:16,22;
24:15,23;25:2,3,9,25;
27:8;39:8;54:1
potentially (6)
13:2;14:8;16:24;
17:15;22:23;23:15
power (1)
30:21
prepare (3)
10:13;11:2;51:6
prepared (1)
55:17
preparing (1)
30:4
present (3)
23:20;35:4;49:16
presentation (5)
5:12,19;28:4;29:20;
35:15
president (1)
46:5
pretty (4)
33:11;35:12;42:8,11
primarily (3)
8:21;9:9;17:22
primary (3)
6:7;7:4;25:15
private (1)
8:10
probably (5)
36:4;43:10;45:7,13;
49:23
problems (1)
56:17
procedures (1)
24:22
Proceedings (1)
58:13
P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S (1)
4:1
process (9)
7:7,9;10:12;17:7;
18:14;25:20,21;29:14,
15
processed (1)
7:6
processing (1)
7:16
product (2)
46:6,7
program (1)
36:17
project (91)
4:16,16,22,23,23;5:1,
2,13,17,18,23,25;6:10,
12,15,18,19,19;7:22,
25;8:20,22;9:3,9;10:7,
16,18,21;11:5,17,19,
23;12:2,5,12,15,16,18,
21,22;13:9,18;18:10;
19:8,11;20:3,13,16;
22:8;24:4,10,13,16,19;
25:2,7,10,17;26:1,2,11,
15,16,19;27:8,11;28:1,
2,4,9,14,17;29:1,1,2,22,
24;30:20,25;39:9;42:7,
22;44:14;48:4,11;54:1,
2,2,12;55:14;58:8
projects (8)
13:1,2,4;14:9;15:20;
23:23;24:11;25:22
promise (3)
39:21;40:9,9
proponent (2)
6:18;12:15
propose (2)
6:9;8:25
proposed (33)
4:16;5:13,17,25;6:7,
11,15,18;7:21;8:4,8,9,
16,18;9:3,6,17,20;13:4,
9;14:21;16:4,5;17:17;
18:8,20;19:8;20:22;
23:22;24:10;25:7,17;
28:9
proposing (25)
4:22;5:16,20;6:3,6,
20,21;7:7;8:2,19;
11:17,18;13:7,25;16:1;
17:4;18:18;19:3;20:16;
21:16;22:2;23:5;24:1;
25:8;29:3
protect (3)
50:16;51:1,4
protecting (1)
53:10
provide (5)
4:21;24:24;27:21;
30:5;31:18
provides (1)
30:3
public (7)
10:23,23;11:12;12:1;
26:3;27:22;46:23
purpose (8)
4:20;11:22,24,25;
12:4,10,18;24:12
pushing (3)
21:12,15,17
put (4)
10:12,22;52:18,20

Q

quality (4)
23:10,10;30:8,8
quantity (1)
7:15
quite (2)
30:17;43:14
Quyana (3)
46:2;49:16;55:24

R

rain (2)
55:6,6
Rainy (1)
18:21
RALPH (1)
57:6
ran (1)
44:19
Range (1)
9:2
rather (2)
32:8;53:5
reached (1)
22:13
read (7)
45:11,14;47:6,11,14,
16;52:22
Reading (1)
42:19
ready (1)
45:9
reality (1)
37:14
realize (1)
48:15
really (10)
9:7;30:15,22;38:25;
39:7;41:14;43:11;
52:11,11;53:19
reasonably (3)
9:13;22:5;23:21
reasons (1)
26:22
receive (2)
8:17;26:7
received (1)
57:25
reckon (1)
46:18
reclaimed (2)
9:13,15
reclamation (3)
9:6,7,18
recognize (3)
12:13;51:23;52:10
recognizes (1)
52:2
recommendation (1)
29:1
reconvene (1)
5:24
Record (3)
11:16;31:22;32:13
Red (2)
34:13;42:9
reduced (1)

26:14
referred (1)
11:2
referring (1)
21:20
refrigerator (1)
38:2
regarding (10)
10:18;11:5,8;22:11;
24:3;26:2;27:7,10;
42:7,13
regards (1)
17:12
region (5)
10:18;14:2;38:12;
47:20;49:11
regions (2)
37:21;38:24
regulatory (2)
4:15;24:22
relate (2)
29:12,15
related (2)
14:18;28:8
relation (12)
9:9;10:6;11:7;12:1;
13:8;22:3,22;23:1,3,
15;24:1;26:24
release (1)
10:9
released (2)
10:2;17:25
rely (1)
46:20
remediate (1)
56:20
remember (3)
17:2;20:20;44:18
removed (3)
7:7,14;12:8
repeat (1)
32:10
replaces (1)
14:21
represents (1)
20:9
reproduction (1)
22:18
request (3)
49:15,18;57:24
requested (1)
47:2
requests (3)
57:19,23,25
required (2)
11:25;29:22
requirements (1)
24:23
requires (1)
13:22
residents (1)
35:3
resource (4)
19:17,20,22;24:5
resources (4)
19:9,12;29:11;46:25
respond (5)
11:3;26:5,12,17;
41:14
response (2)
26:15,19
responses (1)
26:10
responsibilities (1)
31:10
rest (1)
14:25
result (1)
20:3
retire (1)
37:6
retired (1)
37:4
review (2)
12:1;45:25
rice (1)
51:14
rich (3)
47:21;48:12;53:7
right (17)
13:5;19:22;24:6;
26:25;27:12;29:18;
34:25;36:16;38:22;
41:5;42:1;45:17;46:13;
48:16;54:19;55:23;
56:20
rise (1)
44:20
risk (2)
30:17,18
River (41)
8:9;10:3,17;14:13;
15:5;16:16,17;18:22;
20:2;22:3,24;33:4,5,8,
13,13,18;34:3,16,19,
20,21;35:24,25;36:4,4;
37:22,23;38:1,5,8;
40:23;41:7,9;43:13;
44:20;45:4;50:4,4,6;
56:2
riverbank (1)
21:10
riverine (4)
20:5,6,10;22:4
rivers (2)
44:24;47:25
road (12)
8:7,8,10,11,15,15;
12:23;16:5,7,8;34:17,
17
rock (7)
7:6,8,12,13,14,17;
17:4
role (2)
6:16;28:17
room (8)
5:15,17;25:6,11;
27:20;28:16;32:4;33:8
roots (1)
47:24
Rosenthal (1)
30:14
round (3)
21:15,19,25
route (6)
16:14;18:13,16,20,
20;19:1
routing (2)
18:19;19:1
rumors (1)
44:21
run (4)
14:17;18:20;28:21,
23
running (1)
9:1
runs (1)
8:8
rupture (2)
15:13,16
rural (1)
30:23

S

safe (1)
49:4
safer (1)
43:18
Safety (1)
11:15
salmon (6)
34:21;37:23;44:3,24;
45:3,3
salt (1)
51:14
same (5)
17:23;20:19;21:1,17;
29:14
sandbar (2)
44:16,19
save (4)
13:6;15:3;16:12;
34:19
saw (3)
31:25;34:12,13
saying (3)
35:6;43:12;44:10
scale (6)
7:10;22:6,6;23:3,4,5
scared (2)
33:12;34:4
school (1)
4:3
science (1)
30:13
sciences (1)
30:11
scientific (1)
31:6
scientist (1)
30:7
scoping (1)
10:14
screen (3)
5:8;12:5;19:19
scrubbers (1)
24:20
season (3)
20:12;33:17;34:3
second (4)
7:4;8:2;54:10,24
section (1)
28:21
seeing (3)
38:20;44:24;45:3
Seems (1)
43:16
segments (1)
22:24
selected (1)
47:5
send (1)
27:17
senses (1)
40:8
sentence (3)
12:6,7,9
service (1)
58:2
session (6)
5:14;25:10;28:18,22;
29:9;31:17
set (1)
13:15
sets (1)
14:4
seven (1)
13:11
several (2)
42:7;44:4
shallow (1)
22:23
shareholder (1)
49:25
shareholders (5)
12:11;33:20;34:10;
53:7,8
sharing (1)
26:24
Sheila (4)
29:5,5,6,6
shells (1)
37:7
shoreline (1)
21:14
short (2)
54:13,18
shorter (1)
18:17
short-term (1)
9:12
show (3)
21:3,7;22:12
showed (2)
9:21;27:25
sickness (1)
56:5
sicknesses (1)
56:5
side (3)
7:1,2;9:1
significant (10)
36:5;42:17,19,23,24,
24;43:25;48:2,3,13
simply (1)
57:1
single (4)
6:23;21:12;26:14,18
site (20)
6:7,8;8:6,9,12,16;
9:2,10,19;14:11,16;
16:2,4,5,6,11,19;20:22;
30:20;37:16
sites (1)
8:14
site's (1)
9:14
sitting (1)
35:10
six (1)
30:4
size (2)
6:25;7:17
Sleetmute (1)
35:23
slide (6)
6:8,21;9:22;10:11;
22:9;23:13
slides (1)
23:7
slightly (1)
14:22
sloughs (1)
33:16
slowly (1)
38:19
small (5)
8:12;15:3;16:12;
22:5;42:10
smaller (1)
17:12
smart (3)
57:9,13,14
so-called (1)
38:16
social (1)
30:13
socioeconomics (1)
30:15
somebody (5)
36:14;41:8;48:2;
49:6,8
someone (1)
42:23

sometime (1)
9:14
sometimes (8)
32:18;40:21;52:6;
55:5,6,6,10,12
somewhere (1)
10:14
son (3)
51:17,18;52:6
soon (1)
9:13
sorry (2)
7:20;23:23
south (1)
18:21
Southwest (1)
42:9
spawn (1)
48:23
speak (3)
34:23;36:25;57:15
speaking (2)
53:19;57:8
Special (1)
29:7
species (2)
26:21;45:4
specifically (2)
28:10;29:16
spill (12)
14:13;15:6,11;18:1,
2;24:23,24;30:17,18;
40:23;43:24;56:21
spilling (1)
56:18
spills (1)
43:20
spread (2)
17:16;56:1
Spring (1)
34:7
square (5)
6:25;7:11,17,23;
17:11
stack (1)
17:9
stacks (1)
24:20
stage (1)
11:10
stand (5)
25:11;30:5,14,18;
54:13
standards (1)
10:10
standing (5)
21:10,14;30:9,12,19
standpoint (2)
12:1;19:13
start (15)
13:23;14:1,23;31:14,
16,24;35:8;41:7,10;
44:22;45:3;51:24;
53:16;56:11,11
started (1)
52:3
State (10)
5:7;10:10;29:11,12,
16,23;31:9;32:15,15;
57:22
stated (2)
42:17;47:15
Statement (19)
4:18,21;5:6,10;6:14;
10:20;11:12;12:6;26:8,
9,13;27:14;32:15;34:1;
35:4;41:16;45:12,18;
49:16
states (1)
19:8
status (1)
5:19
stay (3)
32:8;44:16,19
steel (1)
8:25
step (1)
6:3
still (3)
35:9;47:22;48:10
stockholders (1)
12:11
stop (4)
16:12;25:4;40:20,25
storage (1)
7:4
story (1)
21:4
strand (1)
16:18
stranding (3)
14:14;16:15,20
strangers (1)
39:25
stronger (1)
40:10
students (1)
4:3
studies (1)
37:11
stuff (14)
36:13;42:12,19;
43:19,19;48:5,23,24;
50:21;52:16;55:14,16,
22;56:25
submit (1)
27:16
subsist (1)
40:6
subsistence (25)
26:23;30:15;33:4;
34:9;35:16,20,22;36:1,
6;37:2,5,8;39:16;
40:13;42:14,18,25;
43:6;46:7,9;47:19,23;
49:22;53:5,20
substantial (1)
19:24
substantive (1)
25:19
substantively (1)
25:17
sugar (1)
51:14
summaries (1)
28:5
summer (6)
21:11;34:8;37:24;
49:23;51:6;56:9
summertime (1)
55:20
supervisor (2)
29:4,5
supply (2)
6:9;8:22
supposed (2)
41:13,18
sure (3)
32:6,9,13
surrounding (2)
35:5;36:2
survive (1)
33:16
survived (2)
18:15;34:9
swim (2)
49:1;50:5

T

tab (1)
28:1
table (3)
38:22;40:24;41:21
tables (1)
21:7
tailings (13)
7:4,5,10;17:1,2,4,9,
12,22;18:2,4;49:6,7
talk (17)
5:22;10:25;11:5;
15:19;18:11;20:1,18;
25:13;35:16;38:10,11;
39:23;53:3;54:17;55:9;
57:22;58:10
talked (8)
13:7;16:23;18:1;
20:21,23;24:5;35:22;
55:13
talking (18)
6:13;20:4;23:5;24:7;
25:4;27:5;37:13;39:14;
40:25;41:3,5,8;49:14;
52:13;53:9,10;55:12;
56:16
talks (2)
11:22;12:25
taller (1)
54:18
taught (1)
41:21
TAYLOR (3)
30:1,2;31:4
teach (2)
51:12,19
team (5)
30:3,5,16,23;31:2
technical (1)
30:3
terms (2)
47:12,16
Tern (1)
54:11
testify (2)
33:2;34:24
testimonies (1)
36:23
Thanks (1)
53:22
theme (1)
17:3
therefore (3)
14:4,12,18
thick (1)
45:14
thinking (2)
43:16;45:8
though (2)
47:4,13
thought (3)
11:17;36:13;51:12
three (10)
5:15;6:7;9:4;21:19,
21,23,25;25:6;33:8;
43:13
three- (1)
20:15
throughout (1)
9:11
thus (1)
22:21
till (1)
27:15
times (1)
43:14
tiny (1)
53:1
TKC (1)
12:11
today (8)
4:17;5:11;6:4;11:4;
25:15;26:6;58:4,12
together (5)
6:23;28:14;31:14;
51:3,13
told (1)
52:24
tons (1)
16:10
total (2)
7:21,24
totally (1)
41:15
towards (3)
33:14;38:19;49:9
toxin (1)
37:17
toxins (1)
37:20
tradition (1)
46:8
Traditional (1)
36:21
traffic (6)
19:17;20:22,23,25;
21:8;30:13
Trail (1)
19:3
transcript (1)
32:12
translated (1)
47:13
transportation (3)
6:10;8:1;30:21
travels (1)
50:3
treated (4)
10:1,9;17:25;49:7
treatment (2)
9:19;10:5
Tree (7)
15:25;16:3,6,12,18,
22;20:24
tribal (6)
28:10,11;29:23;
31:10;46:5;57:22
trip (1)
21:15
trips (2)
21:19,25
trout (1)
46:14
truck (1)
14:10
trucks (2)
14:16,24
try (7)
13:1;29:17;39:21,21;
41:20;43:19;55:20
trying (8)
21:3;33:20,24;41:3,
10,11;50:16;57:15
tsunamis (1)
48:8
tug (3)
21:12,15,17
tugs (2)
22:2;48:20
Tuntutuliak (10)
33:6,7,9,10;42:5;
46:5,23;47:5;49:15;
57:24
turkey (1)
46:13
turn (2)

32:17;41:2
two (4)
6:22;17:20;18:17;
54:10
two-lane (1)
8:10
Tyonek (1)
14:23
type (1)
51:16
typically (2)
23:1;28:20

U

unbiased (4)
6:17;12:16,24;14:5
uncles (1)
51:7
under (10)
7:12;14:15;17:16,17,
23;21:1;23:4;25:20;
38:8;43:16
unknown (1)
48:11
up (57)
5:15;7:13;8:3;14:4,
12;15:4;16:11;17:13;
18:24;20:22;25:12;
31:17;32:23;33:13,18;
34:12;36:7,14;37:17,
23;38:8,19,21;39:1;
40:21;41:7,9,23;42:8,
12;43:13;44:16,16,16;
45:8,13;48:21,22,22;
49:1,2,11;50:12,13,21,
25;51:3,10;52:5,6;
53:17;54:13;55:7;
56:11,20,22;58:9
up- (1)
22:6
upper (1)
16:17
upriver (5)
33:11,15;34:3;43:12;
49:1
upstream (9)
16:18,22;20:5,9,12;
21:2,11,12;22:4
use (9)
8:14;11:15;19:12,17;
25:18;26:22;40:14;
48:3;56:4
used (11)
8:11;9:19;16:19;
19:9;34:6;37:23;38:6;
39:23,24;40:13;52:7
using (2)
35:18;47:12

V

Valdez (2)
43:24;44:9
valley (2)
7:8;17:2
variation (1)
17:3
variety (8)
8:12;9:8;10:5;18:12;
24:11;27:22;28:3;
29:23
various (4)
21:6;22:19;23:14;
24:22
vast (1)
9:14
vegetables (1)
43:7
versus (5)
20:3,6;21:9;23:6;
47:19
via (4)
11:4;27:16,16;58:2
vibrate (1)
32:17
village (8)
34:8;37:3;42:5;
46:19;47:3,8;49:16;
54:21
villages (10)
35:5,8;36:2,5,11;
40:8;41:16;44:6;45:16;
46:20
virtually (4)
15:3,7,15;16:21
visit (2)
47:3;57:24
volume (1)
20:25
voting (1)
25:21

W

waking (1)
52:5
walk (1)
33:14
walked (1)
39:18
wants (3)
32:2;48:6;56:8
washed (1)
38:21
waste (1)
7:12
watch (1)
54:14
water (23)
9:19,24;10:1,5,9;
15:17;17:5,21,21,24;
23:10;24:24;30:8,9,10;
37:19,19;43:20,20;
46:7;49:23;55:7;56:23
waterborne (1)
43:6
watershed (1)
10:4
way (47)
4:22;5:16;7:14,24;
8:13;10:8;13:19;14:8;
15:19,20;16:25;19:25;
21:9;24:9;25:16,23;
26:23;33:22,23;34:16;
36:3,7;38:15;39:16,22;
40:3,4,6,7,13;41:12,13;
42:18,25,25;43:5,6,25;
45:17;48:13;50:13,16,
17,19,22,23,24
ways (8)
11:5;12:25;13:1;
15:20;23:8;24:11;
41:19;57:15
weather (6)
48:5,5,6,8,9;49:12
website (3)
27:17,21,24
weeks (1)
44:20
weight (5)
10:21;12:21;18:8;
19:4;23:11
welcome (3)
27:23;28:13;39:22
weren't (2)
50:21;55:2
west (1)
9:1
Western (3)
51:11,13,25
whales (1)
38:21
whatnot (1)
37:11
what's (21)
4:4,11;11:2,21;14:9;
15:2;16:13;19:6,16;
22:10;23:24;38:4;39:8;
48:21,22;49:2;52:1,2,8,
24;54:6
White (5)
51:11,22,24;57:9,15
whole (8)
9:8;17:10;21:4;
24:11;25:15;31:1;51:6;
52:23
wide (1)
33:9
wife (1)
46:17
wildlife (1)
10:4
wind (3)
48:7;55:5,6
window (1)
20:15
windy (2)
49:9,10
winnowed (1)
13:9
winter (2)
34:8;37:24
wipe (1)
38:4
wish (1)
38:9
within (1)
47:20
word (1)
48:3
words (3)
19:8;42:22;47:17
work (9)
4:7;8:6;11:6;28:14;
30:2;34:18,18;37:4;
43:18
worked (2)
30:17,23
working (2)
44:18;47:22
works (1)
30:7
world (3)
4:5,11;55:12
worry (1)
52:4
worth (1)
7:15
write (4)
27:19;33:25;40:1,2
writing (1)
27:16
wrong (2)
24:7;27:1
wrote (1)
36:23

Y

year (7)
8:20;10:22;16:10;
27:16;33:5;47:14;55:8
year-round (1)
37:3
years (13)
9:4,5,16,25;15:7;
30:24;37:12,18;39:12;
44:1;47:21,22;48:20
young (5)
4:4,10;45:8;48:16;
57:8
younger (3)
45:5;48:14,18
youngest (1)
51:18
Yup'ik (5)
57:12,13,14,14,15
Yup'ik] (8)
4:9,12;39:11;54:12,
20;56:1,15;57:6
Yup'ik'] (1)
33:1

1

1 (6)
6:21;11:22;13:21;
32:20,23;35:1
1,100 (2)
7:3;9:22
1,850 (2)
7:3;9:22
10 (2)
47:22;57:4
100 (6)
7:20;26:11,13,16;
29:21;34:3
11 (1)
5:4
14 (2)
19:18,19
14-inch (1)
8:24
15 (1)
47:22
150 (1)
7:19

2

2 (10)
7:5;12:25;13:6;
20:21;21:1;22:21;23:4;
34:1;36:19;43:16
2.2 (1)
6:25
2.2-square-mile (1)
9:21
2012 (2)
10:13,15
2013 (1)
10:15
2016 (1)
10:24
24 (1)
21:14
24-hour (6)
21:13,17,19,23,24,25
26 (3)
7:23;19:17;24:4
27 (1)
9:5

3

3 (6)
7:12;19:6,6,16;
22:10;32:21
3.5 (3)
7:11,17;17:11
3.5-square-mile (1)
17:2
30 (5)
8:8;10:24;16:5;

27:15;47:21
300 (1)
13:8
300-ton (1)
14:16
30-mile (2)
8:10;16:7
30-plus (1)
15:7
31 (1)
9:16
315-mile (1)
14:22
315-mile-long (1)
8:24
3A (2)
14:7,9
3B (1)
14:20

4

4 (7)
15:24;20:23;21:2;
23:17,18,18;36:19
4:42 (1)
58:13
40 (1)
8:19
45 (2)
28:21;31:12
48 (4)
37:10;39:25;44:22;
56:16

5

5 (3)
23:17;24:8;39:10
5,000 (3)
8:7;45:11;47:11
5,000-page (1)
47:6
50 (1)
9:25
55 (1)
9:25
5A (1)
16:23

6

6 (1)
42:2
60-some (1)
7:19
68 (1)
20:11
6A (1)
18:12

7

7 (1)
46:1
76-mile (1)
16:7

8

8 (1)
49:20
80 (1)
49:23
810 (1)
6:1

9

9 (3)
54:5;57:3,3