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DONLIN GOLD PROJECT  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
PUBLIC MEETING

TOKSOOK BAY, ALASKA

Taken March 15, 2016  
Commencing at 1:24 p.m.

Volume I - Pages 1 - 48, Inclusive

Taken at  
Traditional Council Building  
Toksook Bay, Alaska

Reported by:  
Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

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1 For U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:  
 2 Keith Gordon  
 Project Manager  
 3  
 4 For AECOM:  
 5 Nancy Darigo  
 Physical Science Lead  
 6 Jessica Evans  
 Public Involvement Lead  
 7 David Every  
 Biological Science Lead  
 8  
 9 Donne Fleagle  
 Senior Rural Outreach Lead  
 10  
 11 Amy Rosenthal  
 Social Science Lead  
 12  
 13 Yup'ik Translator:  
 Lillian Michael  
 14  
 15 Taken by:  
 Mary A. Vavrik, RMR  
 16  
 17  
 18 BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were taken  
 19 at the time and place duly noted on the title page, before  
 20 Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary  
 21 Public within and for the State of Alaska.  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25

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1 that would be required for Donlin's project to go forward.  
 2 Donlin is proposing an open pit gold mine north of  
 3 Crooked Creek, Alaska, and we will talk about what they  
 4 are proposing in a few minutes.  
 5 As far as the Army Corps of Engineers' role, we are  
 6 neither a proponent for nor an opponent of Donlin's  
 7 proposed project. In our job under the National  
 8 Environmental Policy Act, which is the law that generates  
 9 the need for an Environmental Impact Statement, we are to  
 10 conduct unbiased middle-of-the-road analyses to disclose  
 11 the potential impacts of the project. The National  
 12 Environmental Policy Act via the EIS is also one of the  
 13 main mechanisms that gives the public an opportunity to  
 14 comment on the proposed project and its potential effects.  
 15 The Army Corps of Engineers is assisted in  
 16 development of the Environmental Impact Statement by 11  
 17 cooperators. They are the federal and State entities  
 18 whose symbols you see on the screen, as well as the Native  
 19 communities that are assisting us in developing the  
 20 Environmental Impact Statement.  
 21 Our agenda today is basically a short opening  
 22 presentation that gives you information on the status of  
 23 the Environmental Impact Statement, Donlin's proposed  
 24 project, followed by a poster session in which you can  
 25 take a look at the posters in the room that we have on the

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S  
 2 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Good afternoon, folks.  
 3 It looks like we have probably got everybody who is going  
 4 to come over in the immediate future. As I mentioned, we  
 5 have got some folks that might be here in about 20 or 30  
 6 minutes, but we will go ahead and get started since the  
 7 presentation will likely still be going when they get  
 8 here. And then we have got some additional information to  
 9 give you that will give them an opportunity to get here  
 10 before we start taking comments.  
 11 My name is Keith Gordon. I'm a project manager with  
 12 the Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District Regulatory  
 13 Division, and our purpose today is to give you some  
 14 information on the status of the Donlin Gold Mine EIS,  
 15 which is out for public comment. Our purpose here is to  
 16 give you some information on how you can substantively  
 17 comment to us on the potential impacts of this project, to  
 18 give us an idea of what you think of the information in  
 19 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, as well as the  
 20 project itself.  
 21 One of the things I'll point out to begin with is the  
 22 role of the Army Corps of Engineers. The Army Corps of  
 23 Engineers is one of the entities that would need to issue  
 24 permits for the project if it were to go forward. There  
 25 is over 100 different permits, authorizations, et cetera,

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1 wall here, the dozen posters that describe Donlin's  
 2 proposed project and then some of the primary resources  
 3 that would be impacted, such as air quality, water  
 4 quality, fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence impacts,  
 5 et cetera.  
 6 We will start with a brief synopsis of what Donlin is  
 7 proposing by way of their project. The project as  
 8 proposed consists of three primary components: The mine  
 9 site, the pipeline and the transportation infrastructure.  
 10 We will start by taking a look at what they are proposing  
 11 by way of the mine site.  
 12 The mine site, as you can see on the screen, consists  
 13 first of the pit itself, and that's actually two pits, the  
 14 ACMA and Lewis pits, that would be combined into a single  
 15 pit as mining continued.  
 16 The second primary component is the tailings storage  
 17 facility. Tailings are the material left over after ore  
 18 is run through the mill and the gold is extracted.  
 19 Basically it's crushed rock with some water entrained in  
 20 it and maybe a small quantity of chemicals related to the  
 21 milling process.  
 22 The tailings storage facility is No. 2 on the screen.  
 23 And from what you can see, that tailings storage facility  
 24 is basically a small valley fill that would fill about 3.5  
 25 square miles of valley.

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1 The third primary component of the mine site is the  
 2 waste rock facility. Waste rock is either the overburden  
 3 removed to access the ore or it's ore that contains such  
 4 little gold that it's not worth processing. That waste  
 5 rock would be piled up, as you can see on the screen, into  
 6 another area that would comprise about 3.5 square miles in  
 7 size.  
 8 Each of these facilities would remain after mining  
 9 ceased on the project if it were constructed. The pit  
 10 would turn into a pit lake. The pit itself is about 2.2  
 11 square miles in size and, depending on whether you measure  
 12 its depth from the low side or the high side, it ranges  
 13 either from 1,100 feet deep to 1,850 feet deep. It would  
 14 take about 50 to 55 years to fill with water after mining  
 15 ceased. And then that water, before it could be released  
 16 into Crooked Creek, the Kuskokwim River, et cetera, would  
 17 have to be treated to meet State and federal water quality  
 18 standards so it's clean enough to be released.  
 19 That's also true of other water coming off the  
 20 project during construction or during the mine's life, if  
 21 it were permitted. Water that's released has to be  
 22 treated to State and water quality standards before it can  
 23 be released.  
 24 Okay. This is the second primary component of what  
 25 Donlin is proposing by way of the mine site or by way of

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1 the mine overall, and this is the transportation  
 2 infrastructure. That pink blob in the upper portion of  
 3 the screen that you see highlighted is the mine site as  
 4 it's proposed. Donlin is proposing to construct a 30-mile  
 5 access road from the mine site down to the Kuskokwim  
 6 River, and they propose a new port site that would be a  
 7 private industrial port to service the mine site itself at  
 8 Jungjuk on the Kuskokwim River.  
 9 In addition to what Donlin is proposing, there is a  
 10 5,000-foot airstrip proposed that would service the mine  
 11 site and the related construction and man camps.  
 12 There is also an expectation that diesel storage  
 13 would happen both at the port site for temporary storage  
 14 and the mine site for use during mining operations. There  
 15 is an expectation that the project would go through about  
 16 40 million gallons of diesel every year. That diesel, as  
 17 well as the rest of the cargo and materials needed to  
 18 operate the mine site, would all have to be barged up the  
 19 Kuskokwim River to that proposed port site at Jungjuk.  
 20 This is the third primary component of Donlin's  
 21 proposed project, and that is the natural gas pipeline  
 22 that would be used to supply the mining facility itself,  
 23 as well as a variety of the rest of the facilities. That  
 24 natural gas would be used to power the mill and a variety  
 25 of other facilities. The pipeline as proposed is 315

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1 miles in length, 14 inches in diameter and proposed to be  
 2 buried over almost its entire length. There is a few  
 3 fault crossings and a few river crossings where it would  
 4 be above ground. Other than that, as proposed, it's  
 5 buried.  
 6 If constructed, the project is expected to take three  
 7 to four years to construct; operate, as currently  
 8 proposed, for 27 and a half years; after which a variety  
 9 of the facilities at the mine would be reclaimed. But  
 10 it's important to understand that reclamation doesn't all  
 11 happen at the end of mining.  
 12 There is a variety of facilities that will be needed  
 13 only during the construction phase. And so a variety of  
 14 those facilities would be reclaimed as soon as they were  
 15 done being used in the construction phase. Other  
 16 facilities might only be needed for a portion of  
 17 operations and would be reclaimed at some point during the  
 18 mining operation but before it ceased. Other facilities  
 19 would not be reclaimed until mining ceased. And some of  
 20 the facilities -- for instance, the pit, the waste rock  
 21 facility and the tailings storage facility -- would never  
 22 be reclaimed. They exist in perpetuity.  
 23 What's proposed for the tailings storage facility and  
 24 the waste rock facility is some contouring and seeding of  
 25 those facilities to allow it to return to a somewhat more

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1 natural habitat so you don't simply have either a pile of  
 2 rock left or a pile of ground rock. It's able to  
 3 revegetate to a degree and provide some type of habitat.  
 4 As I mentioned, this is just a list of some of the  
 5 various federal permits required and consultations  
 6 required for the project to be permitted. The next slide  
 7 gives you a little bit of information about State permits  
 8 and consultations required. As I mentioned, there is over  
 9 100 different permits and other authorizations required if  
 10 the project were to be permitted.  
 11 Very briefly, the Corps of Engineers, as some of you  
 12 are likely aware, was out here between December and March  
 13 of 2012 to get comments, scoping comments on Donlin's  
 14 proposed project from you all. That information, as well  
 15 as information garnered from other communities during the  
 16 scoping process, is part of the information that was  
 17 utilized in the development of the Environmental Impact  
 18 Statement and gave us information on where we needed to  
 19 look as far as potential impacts of the project.  
 20 At this point in time, we are at that third box on  
 21 the screen, the draft EIS. The draft EIS has gone out for  
 22 public comment, and we will be taking public comment until  
 23 April 30 of this year. After we review the public  
 24 comment, determine if we need to do any additional  
 25 studies, if any of the draft conclusions or draft analyses

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1 need additional work, if there are analyses that need to  
 2 be reworked, if there are alternatives that were not  
 3 looked at in substantial enough detail, then we will go  
 4 back and do that.  
 5 What we would ultimately produce is a Final  
 6 Environmental Impact Statement that would also be put out  
 7 for the public to review, and the Final Environmental  
 8 Impact Statement would be used by the Army Corps of  
 9 Engineers, the Bureau of Land Management and the Pipeline  
 10 Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to make  
 11 decisions on whether or not the project would either be  
 12 permitted as Donlin currently proposes it or permit some  
 13 alternatives to what Donlin is proposing or not permit the  
 14 project at all.  
 15 Very briefly, I'll give a little bit of information  
 16 on what's in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. As  
 17 I mentioned, the analyses in the Environmental Impact  
 18 Statement are draft, and the conclusions are draft. We  
 19 need your input on whether or not our analyses are  
 20 correct, whether or not it's detailed enough, whether  
 21 there are things that we need to put into it that we left  
 22 out, et cetera. And if we got it right, you can also tell  
 23 us that.  
 24 One of the things I do need to point out is, as I  
 25 mentioned earlier, the Army Corps of Engineers is neither

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1 a proponent for nor an opponent of the project as  
 2 proposed. Our role is to do middle-of-the-road unbiased  
 3 analyses. Donlin's proposed -- has a purpose for the  
 4 project as proposed, but it falls to the Army Corps of  
 5 Engineers to define a basic and overall purpose for the  
 6 project that guides some of the analyses in the  
 7 Environmental Impact Statement.  
 8 You can see the overall purpose that we defined on  
 9 the screen that exists in the document. However, there  
 10 was one editorial change that did not get made before the  
 11 document went out that I need to point out. If you look  
 12 in the document under overall purpose, you will see that  
 13 there is an additional half a sentence added to this  
 14 sentence on the screen. That half a sentence says that  
 15 part of our purpose is to maximize economic benefit for  
 16 Donlin stockholders, Calista and TKC shareholders.  
 17 We are very aware of the potential economic and  
 18 socioeconomic benefits of the project to the region.  
 19 However, we cannot do unbiased analyses if we excessively  
 20 weight the economic benefits or negative impacts of a  
 21 project to any individual group of people more than  
 22 another.  
 23 So in other words, the editorial change was to remove  
 24 that last half a sentence I stated. So this is the  
 25 purpose and how we are analyzing the economic and

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1 socioeconomic benefits of the project in the document.  
 2 The second primary -- well, the second chapter of the  
 3 document talks about alternatives. We talk about  
 4 alternatives to find ways to potentially mitigate impacts  
 5 of proposed projects. So we have Donlin's proposed  
 6 alternative, which is Alternative 2, but the National  
 7 Environmental Policy Act, which directs us to do an  
 8 Environmental Impact Statement, also says we have to look  
 9 at ways to potentially limit impacts of what someone is  
 10 proposing.  
 11 You can see the seven alternatives on the screen that  
 12 we are currently looking at in detail. There were over  
 13 300 alternative options that were brought up as potential  
 14 ways to minimize impacts of the project. Of those 300  
 15 options, they were developed into those seven alternatives  
 16 you see on the screen.  
 17 One of the things that we could use your comments on  
 18 is whether or not those 300 alternative options that exist  
 19 in an appendix to the document and are available for you  
 20 to review were dismissed for the appropriate reasons;  
 21 whether or not there is ways we can combine those into  
 22 alternatives we haven't analyzed in detail, et cetera;  
 23 whether there is options that could be alternatives that  
 24 we have not analyzed at all; or whether we analyzed  
 25 everything we need to analyze.

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1 Alternative 1 is the no action alternative. What  
 2 that means is nothing happens. We don't do anything. We  
 3 analyze the no action alternative because that effectively  
 4 is the baseline condition as it currently exists out here  
 5 right now. So to do unbiased analyses, we need to base  
 6 all the analyses on current existing conditions.  
 7 We talked about Alternative 2, which is Donlin's  
 8 proposed alternative.  
 9 Alternative 3A is the LNG-powered haul truck  
 10 alternative. This alternative, one of the primary  
 11 components of it is a reduction of barging impacts. It  
 12 reduces barging impacts because if you power the 300-ton  
 13 payload mining trucks -- the trucks that move the rock in  
 14 the pit and to the waste rock facility, et cetera -- with  
 15 liquid natural gas instead of diesel, you burn less  
 16 diesel. Well, if you burn less diesel -- LNG burns  
 17 cleaner than diesel, so you have less negative air  
 18 emissions. It also means that you have to barge less  
 19 diesel to the mine site. So there is less impacts from  
 20 barging on the Kuskokwim River. There is less potential  
 21 for spills from diesel, et cetera.  
 22 Our purpose with these slides about the alternatives  
 23 is not only to give you an indication of what we looked at  
 24 by way of alternatives, but to demonstrate that anytime we  
 25 look at one alternative versus another or Donlin's

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1 proposed alternative versus some of these other  
 2 alternatives, we are potentially changing how we weigh and  
 3 balance the potential impacts of the project.  
 4 Alternative 3B is an alternative that would result in  
 5 a diesel pipeline being constructed instead of a natural  
 6 gas pipeline. The primary benefit of this alternative is  
 7 that it means we reduce diesel barging even further. If  
 8 this alternative went forward, there would be very little  
 9 diesel barging. Primarily, there would be a small amount  
 10 of diesel barging during construction on the Kuskokwim  
 11 River, and that would be it for diesel barging during the  
 12 construction and operation of the mine.  
 13 However, when we talk about comparing and contrasting  
 14 one alternative to another, well, what this alternative  
 15 means is you are not using natural gas to power the mine  
 16 site; you are using diesel. So we do have more negative  
 17 air emissions if this alternative goes forward. It also  
 18 means that that diesel that would be supplied -- would  
 19 have been supplied via barging on the Kuskokwim River  
 20 would now be barged through Cook Inlet, and it would  
 21 require an expansion of the North Foreland Barge Facility  
 22 at Tyonek. It would require an additional 19 miles of  
 23 pipeline that would run from approximately Beluga down to  
 24 Tyonek.  
 25 So again, if we change alternatives, we change the

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1 potential impacts of the project and how we weigh and  
 2 balance the effects of the project.  
 3 Alternative 4 is the Birch Tree Crossing port. This  
 4 is the last alternative that largely deals with potential  
 5 minimization of impacts related to barging. I'll give you  
 6 an idea of what this alternative looks like in just a  
 7 minute.  
 8 You remember that 30-mile road that Donlin was  
 9 proposing to construct from the mine site? Well, again,  
 10 the mine site is the red blob on the screen. You can see  
 11 Crooked Creek about 10 miles south of it. Donlin is  
 12 proposing that 30-mile road from the mine site down to the  
 13 new port site at Jungjuk. The Birch Tree Crossing  
 14 alternative says instead of building that 30-mile road  
 15 down to a port site at Jungjuk, we would construct a  
 16 76-mile road from the proposed mine site down to Birch  
 17 Tree Crossing. In other words, the purple line is the  
 18 76-mile road.  
 19 So how does this alternative potentially minimize  
 20 impacts in relation to what Donlin is proposing? Well,  
 21 primarily, as I mentioned, it relates to impacts from  
 22 barging. As you are all aware, barges do sometimes strand  
 23 on the Kuskokwim River. And as far as shallow spots on  
 24 the Kuskokwim River where Donlin might run into stranding  
 25 issues, five of the six shallow spots that we are aware of

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1 are upstream of Birch Tree Crossing. So if this  
 2 alternative went forward, it would mean that five of those  
 3 six shallow spots that we know exist would be avoided,  
 4 except for a small amount of barging during the  
 5 construction phase of the project.  
 6 It also, of course, means there would be  
 7 substantially more truck traffic that would occur since  
 8 now you are running 76 miles of road instead of 30 miles.  
 9 Now we will move to the last of the two alternatives.  
 10 We will talk about -- Alternative 5A is a dry stack  
 11 tailings alternative. This alternative deals with how the  
 12 tailings would be stockpiled. You remember that  
 13 3.5-square-mile valley fill that I referred to that Donlin  
 14 is proposing? Well, effectively, the tailings, if put in  
 15 that configuration, would largely be a flat fill in a  
 16 valley by the time it was filled up. The dry stack  
 17 tailings alternative means that those tailings, instead of  
 18 having a quantity of water in them, would be dried out  
 19 quite substantially and stacked in a smaller footprint,  
 20 but also higher up.  
 21 So if this alternative went forward -- you can see  
 22 the yellowish blob is the proposed dry stack tailings.  
 23 That yellowish blob is a much smaller footprint than what  
 24 Donlin is proposing, but it also requires that the water  
 25 removed from it now has to be retained downslope of it

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1 behind a dam, a hydraulic dam. So we have not only the  
 2 dry stack tailings, but we have an operating pond. So  
 3 again, Donlin is Proposing Alternative 2, those three  
 4 primary components: The mine site, the transportation  
 5 infrastructure, and the pipeline.  
 6 This is an alternative, one of the alternatives that  
 7 Donlin is not proposing, but one that we are looking at by  
 8 way of minimizing impact. For this alternative, it's  
 9 beneficial to keep in mind that the operating pond would  
 10 exist only during operations of the mine site. In other  
 11 words, when mining was going on. After mining ceased,  
 12 that area would effectively be drained and the water would  
 13 go over to the pit and/or be treated before it could be  
 14 released into Crooked Creek or the Kuskokwim.  
 15 Alternative 6A is the Dalzell Gorge pipeline route.  
 16 There were a variety of alternative pipeline routes looked  
 17 at during the project. This is the one that survived for  
 18 detailed analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact  
 19 Statement.  
 20 One of the advantages of this alternative or one of  
 21 the ways that potentially minimizes impacts in relation to  
 22 what Donlin is proposing is that it's two miles shorter.  
 23 But one of the tradeoffs of this alternative is that it  
 24 has more impact on the Iditarod National Historic Trail  
 25 than Donlin's proposed alternative. And if we take a look

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1 at it on the screen, Donlin's proposed alternative is  
 2 depicted by the gold line. The Dalzell Gorge route runs  
 3 through Rainy Pass, Dalzell Gorge, and along the south  
 4 fork of the Kuskokwim and is indicated by the purple line.  
 5 So again, this is just another one of the  
 6 alternatives that we are looking at that changes how we  
 7 weigh and balance the potential impacts of the project.  
 8 That was Chapters 1 and 2 of the document. Chapter 1  
 9 is basically purpose and need. Chapter 2 is alternatives.  
 10 Chapter 3 is the heart of the document, and this is  
 11 the kind of thing -- this is the chapter where it would be  
 12 also beneficial to us if you can tell us if we have got  
 13 the definition of the environment as it currently exists  
 14 out here, both the human and natural environment, as well  
 15 as the analysis of potential impacts of the project. This  
 16 is the chapter that contains what we feel are draft  
 17 analyses and draft conclusions that define the potential  
 18 impacts of this project.  
 19 These next couple of slides give you an idea of how  
 20 the analyses were done. I'm going to go through it pretty  
 21 briefly. The example we're using is potential impacts  
 22 related to barge traffic. There are 26 major resource  
 23 issues defined in the document that characterize Donlin's  
 24 proposed project and its effects. To give you an idea of  
 25 potential impacts of barge traffic, those 14 resource

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1 issues that you see on the screen are things that barge  
 2 traffic might impact. So whether we are talking surface  
 3 water hydrology or wetland impacts, recreation impacts,  
 4 subsistence impacts or transportation and spill risk,  
 5 those are all areas that barging could impact, in addition  
 6 to the others.  
 7 By way of the analyses that we did, it's beneficial  
 8 to understand the existing barge traffic on the Kuskokwim  
 9 River and how Donlin's project might change that barge  
 10 traffic. What you see on the screen is a depiction of  
 11 construction impacts on the left side of the screen versus  
 12 operations impacts on the right side of the screen. And  
 13 they are broken out by alternative.  
 14 On the far left of each of those two sets of bar  
 15 graphs is Alternative 1. And that's the existing  
 16 environment. That means there is no additional barge  
 17 traffic; in other words, Donlin's project doesn't get  
 18 built. So that burnt gold color is just barging as it  
 19 currently exists. The blue color indicates the change in  
 20 barging. If Donlin's project is constructed as proposed,  
 21 it means there is a 179 percent increase in barging on the  
 22 Kuskokwim River over what you are currently seeing. So  
 23 basically what you go to on the Kuskokwim River is the  
 24 current environment where you have light-duty commercial  
 25 barging to industrial scale barging.

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1 And as you can see by the bar graphs on the left,  
 2 whether we are talking Alternatives 2, 4, 5A, 6A or  
 3 Alternatives 3A and 3B, during construction the potential  
 4 impacts of barging on the Kuskokwim River to fish, to  
 5 subsistence, to shoreline erosion, et cetera, are all the  
 6 same, except remember that -- as you can see by the first  
 7 bar graph, we have Alternative 2 and Alternative 4  
 8 indicating the same level of impact, but remember that  
 9 Alternative 2 involves barging upstream to the Jungjuk  
 10 port just downstream of Crooked Creek. Alternative 4  
 11 means we only barge as far as Birch Tree Crossing.  
 12 So you need to look at more than just the graphs and  
 13 the tables in the document. You need to look at some of  
 14 the text, because while the amount of barging during  
 15 construction is the same for Alternatives 2 and 4,  
 16 Alternative 4 goes substantially less distance upstream  
 17 and avoids five of those half a dozen areas where barges  
 18 can strand that I mentioned earlier.  
 19 So on the right side of the screen we see the series  
 20 of bar graphs that depict the potential impacts of barging  
 21 related to each of these alternatives. And what you see  
 22 there is, again, Alternative 2 and 4 indicate the same  
 23 level of impact; but again, you have the same reality. If  
 24 you only barge as far as Birch Tree Crossing, you are  
 25 simply not running your barges as far upstream.

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1 The best way I can characterize barging impacts on  
 2 the Kuskokwim River now versus what you might see if  
 3 Donlin's project was permitted, at this point in time if  
 4 you were standing on the shoreline from Bethel to some  
 5 point upstream, you would see 68 barges passing you in a  
 6 24 -- I'm sorry. In a 24-hour period you would see one  
 7 tug and one barge pass you if you had been standing there  
 8 last summer.  
 9 A few years from now, if Donlin's project were  
 10 constructed and in operations, what you would see in that  
 11 same 24-hour period is a tug pushing four barges, but you  
 12 would see three of those go past you in a 24-hour period.  
 13 So again, 179 percent increase over what currently exists  
 14 and larger tugs and more barges.  
 15 The next couple of slides just give you some  
 16 additional information on the analyses in the document.  
 17 Basically what these slides show are the same things you  
 18 have already seen on the previous slides. You see that  
 19 Alternative 2 has a given impact on fish, shoreline  
 20 erosion, subsistence, et cetera. Alternative 3A has the  
 21 potential to limit some of those impacts. Alternative 3B  
 22 has the potential to limit some impacts, as well. And of  
 23 course, Alternative 4 has the potential to impact  
 24 alternatives to another degree and in other ways.  
 25 So all these slides are just basically to give you

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1 ideas of how the analyses break out and how, when we look  
 2 at one alternative versus another, it changes the  
 3 potential impacts and it changes how we weigh and balance  
 4 the impacts.  
 5 So what we are looking for are comments on whether or  
 6 not we have weighed and balanced the impacts correctly.  
 7 In other words, for a given community on the river, if we  
 8 determine that this particular fish species has this level  
 9 of value from a subsistence standpoint and from a sharing  
 10 standpoint, what we need to know is: Do we understand it?  
 11 Did we get it right? Is that species as important as we  
 12 said it is or is it more important or is it less  
 13 important? Because if we don't understand it from that  
 14 basic level, we can't be doing the analyses as accurately  
 15 as we need to do it.  
 16 Chapter 4 talks about cumulative impacts of the  
 17 project. Cumulative impacts are basically all past,  
 18 present and reasonably foreseeable impacts; in other  
 19 words, everything that has existed in the past, everything  
 20 that currently exists, and everything that we know of that  
 21 we reasonably feel would happen in the near future. What  
 22 we do is we combine all those things, and we are making a  
 23 forecast of what the potential impacts of the project  
 24 might be to the Kuskokwim and the Yukon River regions and  
 25 the folks living in them if Donlin's project were

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1 permitted or if one of these alternatives went forward.  
 2 So again, we need your input on whether or not we got it  
 3 right or wrong.  
 4 We talked about Chapter 5 being a way to potentially  
 5 mitigate impacts of what Donlin is proposing or one of the  
 6 alternatives mitigating impacts. There is a variety of  
 7 other types of mitigation that could potentially reduce  
 8 the impacts of the project. For instance, if you are  
 9 planning to put in a tank storage facility and you are  
 10 going to store diesel fuel in it, well, of course you  
 11 would have to berm around it, and you might have to put a  
 12 liner underneath it.  
 13 A way of mitigating the potential impacts of spill  
 14 might just mean that you reduce the amount of diesel fuel  
 15 stored to the minimum amount necessary so if there is a  
 16 spill, there is no excess quantity of fuel to spill. It  
 17 might mean that you change the timing of when diesel is  
 18 stored in those tanks, et cetera. So again, Chapter 5  
 19 gives you information on mitigation, and we need some  
 20 information from you all as to whether or not we have  
 21 adequately found ways to potentially mitigate impacts of  
 22 what Donlin is proposing or any of these other  
 23 alternatives that exist in the document.  
 24 What we will go to in just a few minutes is a poster  
 25 session. I purposely did not ask anybody else that came

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1 along today to introduce themselves because we are going  
 2 to introduce everybody just before we go to the poster  
 3 session. The purpose of the poster session, there is  
 4 three posters over here that give you that same  
 5 description, but in more detail, regarding what Donlin is  
 6 proposing, and then there is a variety of posters that  
 7 give you information on potential impacts of the project,  
 8 whether it's the socioeconomic impacts of the project,  
 9 positive and negative, whether it's subsistence impacts,  
 10 fisheries impacts, impacts of potential spill, impacts to  
 11 water quality or air emissions, et cetera.  
 12 There is a variety of folks in the room who will  
 13 introduce themselves in a moment who can give you a little  
 14 more detail on what might happen if the project is  
 15 permitted. We will take -- we generally set aside 45  
 16 minutes for the poster session, but we will just run it --  
 17 we will play it by ear. If you guys would like less time  
 18 or more time, we can do that.  
 19 So the whole point, as I mentioned earlier, of us  
 20 coming out here today is to let you know that the document  
 21 is out there for you to comment on. The current comment  
 22 closure deadline is April 30. What we need from you all  
 23 are the most substantive comments we can get regarding  
 24 whether or not we got it right in the document, whether or  
 25 not we have done too much, done too little, whether or not

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1 we need to clarify some things, et cetera.  
 2 So how do you provide substantive comments to us?  
 3 Well, if you support the project, that's fine; you can  
 4 tell us. If you oppose the project, that's fine. What we  
 5 need to know is why. If you tell me -- if 100 people tell  
 6 me I support the project, how do I respond to that? Well,  
 7 comments made during the Draft Environmental Impact  
 8 Statement comment period are responded to in the Final  
 9 Environmental Impact Statement.  
 10 So whether you make a comment here today, whether you  
 11 send us a letter, whether you send us an email, we won't  
 12 be responding directly to your comment. We will take your  
 13 comment, and it will be listed in the Final Environmental  
 14 Impact Statement with a response. So if I have 100 people  
 15 that say I support the project, well, our response would  
 16 be "comment noted." If I have 100 people that say I  
 17 oppose the project, then our response to that would be  
 18 "comment noted." If you say I support the project because  
 19 and give us some indication of why you support it, that  
 20 may or may not indicate that there is more -- that either  
 21 we got the analyses right or there is more we need to do  
 22 by way of the analyses to clarify it for folks.  
 23 If you have a comment that indicates a deficiency in  
 24 the document or that you oppose the project and you tell  
 25 me why, then that, again, gives us some indication of what

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1 we may need to address in the document to facilitate the  
 2 decision of federal and State folks who will use this  
 3 document to determine whether or not the project should be  
 4 permitted as it's currently proposed, some alternative to  
 5 it, or not at all. So again, the more detailed a comment  
 6 you can give us, the better we are set up to determine  
 7 whether or not we correctly analyzed the potential impacts  
 8 of the project or not.  
 9 There is a variety of ways you can comment. I  
 10 mentioned that the comment period is currently open until  
 11 April 30 of this year. You can comment today at this  
 12 meeting. You can comment at one of the other meetings we  
 13 have coming up that you will see in just a minute. You  
 14 can send written comments in. You can fax comments in.  
 15 You can email comments in. And we will return to this  
 16 slide in a few minutes while you all are going through the  
 17 poster session so you don't have to write the information  
 18 down immediately. You can get it in a few minutes or we  
 19 can get it to you at the end of today's meeting.  
 20 So you can see the variety of meetings that we have  
 21 already held and the meetings we are about to have. You  
 22 are certainly welcome to attend other meetings if you  
 23 would like or have anybody else attend meetings that are  
 24 coming up.  
 25 And if you want more information on the project, this

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1 poster session. When we do start taking comments, what we  
 2 will ask you to do is come up to the front of the room.  
 3 And if you would like to use the microphone so everybody  
 4 can hear your comment, Mary -- it benefits Mary if you use  
 5 the microphone to make sure she captures what you say, and  
 6 it benefits Ms. Lillian Michael, who is doing our  
 7 translation, so that we are sure that she can hear what  
 8 you are saying, as well.  
 9 So at this point in time, I'll ask the AECOM folks in  
 10 the room to introduce themselves. I mentioned earlier  
 11 that the Army Corps of Engineers is the lead federal  
 12 agency for development of an EIS, and we have 11 entities  
 13 assisting us in the development of it as cooperating  
 14 agencies.  
 15 One of the things I need to point out is that AECOM  
 16 is the third-party contractor who is actually drafting the  
 17 draft analyses and the draft conclusions in the  
 18 Environmental Impact Statement. And we have a variety of  
 19 folks here today from AECOM who have various roles in  
 20 development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
 21 They will introduce themselves. They will give you a  
 22 brief indication of their role in the project and which  
 23 posters they might be dealing with.  
 24 **MS. AMY ROSENTHAL:** Good afternoon,  
 25 everybody. Thank you for taking the time out of your day

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1 is the website that's currently maintained that contains  
 2 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. You will find  
 3 it under the EIS documents tab on that page. And there is  
 4 also information on past newsletters that have gone out,  
 5 basic background project information, other background  
 6 documents and presentations we have done in the past.  
 7 My contact information is on the screen if you would  
 8 like to contact me directly. And Ms. Amanda Andraschko's  
 9 information is there. She's our tribal liaison. If you  
 10 have issues of a tribal concern that you would like to  
 11 address directly to her, you can do that, as well.  
 12 So at this point in time, I'll go through a couple  
 13 other administrative details. As you can see, we have a  
 14 court reporter in the room because we need to capture your  
 15 comments for the administrative record so that we can  
 16 respond to your comments.  
 17 What we are going to ask you to do -- as you signed  
 18 in, you were able to get a number if you wanted to  
 19 comment. You do not have to have a number to comment, but  
 20 what we will do is run through the folks who have numbers  
 21 and who have indicated that they would like to comment  
 22 first and then open it up to anybody else in the room who  
 23 would like to comment, as well as anybody who may be on  
 24 the phone who would like to give us comments.  
 25 Before we start taking comments, we will do the

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1 to come to this meeting. It means a lot to us that you  
 2 are here and willing to let us know what your concerns are  
 3 around this project.  
 4 My name is Amy Rosenthal, and I am part of the AECOM  
 5 team that worked on the Draft Environmental Impact  
 6 Statement. I was in charge of the social environment, so  
 7 I will be over here at the posters around socioeconomics  
 8 and subsistence during the poster session.  
 9 The lead for our physical environment resources is  
 10 Nancy Darigo. She's in the back of the room back here.  
 11 And she will be available over at the posters in this area  
 12 [indicating], looking at water flow, hazardous chemicals,  
 13 spill risk, air and water discharges. She will be over  
 14 there to answer questions that you might have.  
 15 Mr. Dave Every here is the lead for the biological  
 16 resources. He will be standing exactly where he is right  
 17 now at the fisheries posters and the barge traffic.  
 18 We also have with us Jessica Evans, who is in the  
 19 back of the room. She is our public involvement lead, and  
 20 she will be up at the posters discussing the three project  
 21 components: The mine site, the transportation facilities,  
 22 and the pipeline.  
 23 We also have -- many of you met when you came in  
 24 Ms. Donne Fleagle. She will also be available during the  
 25 poster session. If you have further questions, she will

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1 be kind of roaming around, just making sure that everybody  
 2 has their questions answered.  
 3 And as Keith mentioned, we also have Lillian Michael  
 4 here doing translation for us. If you need a headset,  
 5 please let us know. Thank you.  
 6 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Thank you, Amy. We  
 7 also have a representative of Donlin and NOVAGOLD here, so  
 8 if you have any questions about the project that are more  
 9 detailed than what I or the AECOM staff can address, you  
 10 can ask them for additional detail regarding what Donlin  
 11 is proposing.  
 12 So at this point in time, we will just move to the  
 13 poster session. And the folks you were just introduced to  
 14 are -- will disperse throughout the room in relation to  
 15 these posters, give you an opportunity to review what's on  
 16 the poster. And then somewhere between 30 and 45 minutes  
 17 from now, approximately, we will reconvene and take your  
 18 comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. And  
 19 as I said, if it takes a little less time or a little more  
 20 time to get to the comments session, we will just play it  
 21 by ear. It kind of depends on how long you all would like  
 22 to review posters.  
 23 Thank you.  
 24 (Off the record.)  
 25 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Good afternoon, folks.

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1 It looks like most everybody has had a chance to take a  
 2 look at the posters and get some of your questions  
 3 answered. So at this point in time, we will just open the  
 4 public meeting up to your comments. And we will start  
 5 with No. 1. And as I said, if you wouldn't mind, if you  
 6 could use the microphone.  
 7 I'm sorry. I did forget to mention, for Lillian and  
 8 Mary's sake, when you start to make your comments, would  
 9 you introduce yourself, state your name. If you are  
 10 representing a tribal council or any formal entity, please  
 11 note who that is. If not, that's fine. And then go ahead  
 12 and make your comments.  
 13 **MR. ROBERT BEANS:** Thank you. Good  
 14 afternoon. For the record, my name is Robert Beans,  
 15 B-E-A-N-S. I'm originally from Mountain Village. My  
 16 Yup'ik name is Qimugtailnuq. So if some of you got dogs,  
 17 I'm looking for a dog. No, I'm kidding you.  
 18 I'm here today representing the Calista board. I am  
 19 on the board. I am the board secretary this year.  
 20 Basically I'm up here to speak in favor of the project,  
 21 and I'll give you four reasons why.  
 22 The first reason is, it creates jobs for our  
 23 shareholders. Let me expand a little bit upon that. The  
 24 area I come from, the Mountain Village area, used to be  
 25 the Wade Hampton Census Area, which is now the Kusilvak

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1 Census Area. The average household for that area is  
 2 \$10,000, and no jobs. This project would give people that  
 3 opportunity, the shareholders and their descendents  
 4 opportunity for jobs. We all know that jobs is -- it  
 5 provides hope for our people.  
 6 I don't have to tell you this, but many of you know  
 7 that our people are hopeless, in my opinion. There is a  
 8 high rate of suicide in the region, a high rate of  
 9 unemployment. And there is no economic opportunities.  
 10 They are hopeless. These jobs will give them a little bit  
 11 of hope.  
 12 The other reason why I support this, it's going to be  
 13 a boost to the economy. Let me expand a little bit on  
 14 that. Under ANCSA law, your corporations must share their  
 15 wealth with other corporations. It's called 7(i) and  
 16 7(j). If this project goes forward, we will have a little  
 17 bit more 7(i) and 7(j) money that we can share, not only  
 18 with the other regional corporations, but the village  
 19 corporations under 7(j).  
 20 Thirdly, it fulfills the mandated obligation that  
 21 Calista has to its shareholders. And that's to become  
 22 socio- and economically more independent. And most  
 23 importantly, it increases the shareholders' wealth. The  
 24 more wealth we have, the more we can share with you, the  
 25 shareholders; not only shareholders, but descendents

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1 because just recently you shareholders voted to  
 2 increase -- to include our descendents, and that's  
 3 really -- that's a great idea.  
 4 So I'm up here to speak in favor of the project if it  
 5 goes forward. Qu yana.  
 6 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Thank you very much.  
 7 One thing I did forget to mention, Ms. Lillian Michael, as  
 8 you can see, is translating. We do have additional  
 9 headsets up here if you would like to listen to her  
 10 translation. And if we use up the headsets we have here,  
 11 we have plenty more in the suitcase. So just please raise  
 12 your hand if you would like one, and we will bring it to  
 13 you.  
 14 **MR. BOBBY HOFFMAN:** We have been working  
 15 and sharing information about a gold mine way up there for  
 16 a long time now, for about -- I don't know, I bet it's  
 17 been over ten years now working on that gold mine.  
 18 And traveling around the region all the time. When I  
 19 was in the military, I traveled all over. Shareholder  
 20 relations, I traveled all over. And now the gold mine, we  
 21 travel all over again.  
 22 What I'm seeing here -- what I have seen is lots of  
 23 us old guys, we're still working. Lots and lots --  
 24 [speaking in Yup'ik.] Nowadays us older people are  
 25 seeing these younger folks unemployed, sitting around and

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1 don't know a lot about subsistence. In their eyes, these  
 2 younger people's eyes, there is no such thing as  
 3 subsistence. It belongs to the government. The moose,  
 4 the animals, birds belong to the federal government. And  
 5 poor us, our poor younger people have nothing to do. They  
 6 just sit idle. And it's because -- maybe because of us  
 7 not sharing things, information, with them. And we don't  
 8 give them entertaining things like pool tables and stuff.  
 9 However, we have heard shareholders of ours -- these  
 10 younger new shareholders are now being involved in roads.  
 11 They'll be seeing income, or money will start coming in.  
 12 Is that good? Do you understand me? Okay.  
 13 [speaking in English.] Now, that is one of the great  
 14 big reasons why this gold mine is going to save our --  
 15 save us. It's not only going to save us; it's going to  
 16 save our economy. We can't even afford gas anymore, stove  
 17 oil.  
 18 [speaking in Yup'ik.] The younger people are there  
 19 at my home. There is even grandchildren because they have  
 20 no income. They have no jobs. Right?  
 21 [speaking in English.] That's the only thing that's  
 22 going to help our young kids to get a chance to start  
 23 learning it on their own. Our [indiscernible] and  
 24 grandmas are going to die pretty soon. I hope they get a  
 25 chance to work, to handle money, to take care of their own

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1 little families and be proud people.  
 2 I've seen many young men in homes of their  
 3 grandparents and grandmothers. They can't talk. They got  
 4 no pride. They got nothing because they never had a  
 5 chance. We give them nothing. We got no jobs for them,  
 6 nothing. When I was small --  
 7 [speaking in Yup'ik.] But a lot of them don't want  
 8 to --  
 9 [speaking in English.] Look at them jobs,  
 10 \$30-an-hour jobs. We got to start helping these little  
 11 guys along some way, because they are not -- it's getting  
 12 close for us going to pass away, and we never teach them  
 13 nothing. Like I said, they got those problems. They got  
 14 suicide, [indiscernible].  
 15 [speaking in Yup'ik.] Only the bad things they are  
 16 turning to. Then maybe if they have jobs, they can better  
 17 themselves.  
 18 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Thank you very much.  
 19 No. 3.  
 20 **MS. DIANA THERCHIK:** Diana Therchik. I  
 21 represent -- I'm a council member at traditional council.  
 22 I also work at the clinic, YKHC.  
 23 [speaking in Yup'ik.] In interest to the Yup'iks,  
 24 our people, our young people -- some of us are parents.  
 25 Maybe because we haven't taught the younger people how to

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1 live like us and be like us, maybe they won't know how. A  
 2 long time ago there was no money, no income. And family  
 3 lived with family. Family worked with family.  
 4 [speaking in English.] As a family, grandfather,  
 5 great grandmother, grandmother, children, grandchildren,  
 6 they all work together.  
 7 [speaking in Yup'ik.]  
 8 [speaking in English.] All this sounds really good.  
 9 Lots of money, lots of jobs, but in the long run, it will  
 10 be gone.  
 11 [speaking in Yup'ik.] Our traditions, our customs  
 12 will soon be lost. And those are more important than  
 13 money. It's our identity. It's the way we live. That's  
 14 the way we are. And it's a part of that.  
 15 Quyana.  
 16 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Thank you very much.  
 17 No. 4.  
 18 **MR. CHARLES MOSES:** Charles Moses. I  
 19 belong to the [indiscernible] search and rescue and the  
 20 traditional dancers.  
 21 [speaking in Yup'ik.] First, there is two other men  
 22 that spoke and that there is no jobs. It is true. These  
 23 younger people are -- the people, the children to come  
 24 later on will be helped, and that would be great. But we  
 25 live the way we have been living from -- involving

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1 subsistence. We have grown up seeing it and living it.  
 2 When the birds or -- when the birds -- [I think he said]  
 3 when the birds were acting somehow or being somehow, we  
 4 couldn't hunt them. Even when they say we are lacking, we  
 5 don't believe them, especially to subsistence.  
 6 The Kuskokwim River, back then -- and it involves the  
 7 Yukon, too. When the missionaries first came through our  
 8 land, this part of the country they came to last. When  
 9 they came here, they built schools and they taught school.  
 10 They were teachers. And they taught our parents or even  
 11 our grandparents.  
 12 The teachings, some of the teachings are like this:  
 13 If you don't learn to speak English, you will not be able  
 14 to get a job. And using that in the Yukon and the  
 15 Kuskokwim, that's the way they lived. Did they get jobs?  
 16 To this day a lot of them do not -- do not have jobs. But  
 17 it kind of took -- took our language with it and it died.  
 18 It's kind of dying.  
 19 When Donlin Gold comes here, Donlin Creek comes here,  
 20 they tell us they want to -- there is gold they want to  
 21 reach, and this is a problem. And if it is a problem,  
 22 they will not go forward. But we don't know that. With  
 23 that in mind, our subsistence way of life has not changed.  
 24 The objects we subsist off of -- and the Kuskokwim drains  
 25 to the ocean, and the Akulurak River goes north.

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1 If anything happens or it spills at the mine or if  
 2 those barges has a spill, that is going to affect our  
 3 subsistence way of life and the animals that we subsist  
 4 off of, our food. And what are we going to do then?  
 5 These two are on -- always on [his] mind.  
 6 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Thank you, sir. No. 5.  
 7 **MR. SIMEON JOHN:** [speaking in Yup'ik.]  
 8 Quyana. First, the people that have come here to provide  
 9 information and to let us hear what -- the posters that  
 10 you see, the information from the posters they have shared  
 11 with us.  
 12 When I hear about this, I get two different things in  
 13 my mind. The problems to come -- our Elder, when he first  
 14 got in the council, he would talk about these things. And  
 15 he would say on the horizon things that will help us --  
 16 things that will help us will come, but sometimes things  
 17 that are coming that feel good to us do not end up -- end  
 18 up the opposite way. It sounds good, but when it actually  
 19 happens it's not, especially to watch it. Those people  
 20 that -- those that testified said we were hopeless, but  
 21 [he does not agree with that]. We have been forever --  
 22 we -- we are resilient, like try surviving as we go along.  
 23 And our food, when food is discussed, I sometimes  
 24 think these things that are coming, will these be talked  
 25 about, these things that look good but don't turn out

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1 good.  
 2 Nonrenewable resources will be gone some day. They  
 3 happen only once. And they are nonrenewable. And it's  
 4 done once, and then there is nothing after that. These  
 5 renewable resources, though, they can be used annually and  
 6 happen annually like keep -- they keep going. But if they  
 7 are disrupted, they can create problems for us. When I  
 8 think about this, the life expectancy of this project, how  
 9 long will it -- how long will it provide jobs? To the end  
 10 of the Kuskokwim River and even the coastal villages will  
 11 have jobs.  
 12 When I think about this, even if anything happens  
 13 like instantly, maybe they -- maybe we won't find jobs if  
 14 it even goes forward.  
 15 [speaking in English.] It will benefit the people of  
 16 the Kuskokwim area, but in the long run --  
 17 [speaking in Yup'ik.] If it has problems while it's  
 18 going --  
 19 [speaking in English.] Am I going to give -- sell my  
 20 livelihood to this project?  
 21 [speaking in Yup'ik.] It will not go past 20 years.  
 22 We need the money that we make right now or we have right  
 23 now. We need to think about these things, what we are  
 24 going to do after. How are we going to be affected after,  
 25 after the fact, just in case if it runs into problems?

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1 These renewable resources, it's related to the  
 2 Kuskokwim River and through the coast. If that spill  
 3 should go through there, the fish will probably not come  
 4 back. The bears, the bears will be affected, and then us,  
 5 too.  
 6 I have two -- my -- [he's saying he's got a pro and a  
 7 con mind, the things he fears might happen and the things  
 8 that could happen.]  
 9 In the long run, if we think 20 years from now when  
 10 the project is done, how are we going to live and how are  
 11 we going to be affected from it?  
 12 [speaking in English.] Am I going to sacrifice and  
 13 sell my livelihood to this project?  
 14 [speaking in Yup'ik.] And how are we going to be  
 15 affected afterwards?  
 16 [speaking in English.] Maybe I'm leaning more on the  
 17 conservative side.  
 18 [speaking in Yup'ik.] But we need to think about it.  
 19 There is lots to be first to be benefited from. When we  
 20 see money, we are also glad. We are always glad, but it  
 21 doesn't always happen. Our life, the way we live, it will  
 22 not stop.  
 23 [speaking in English.] It's like continuous, our  
 24 livelihood.  
 25 [speaking in Yup'ik.] [Like he said,] it's

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1 continuous. Even though I have two minds, the dangers and  
 2 the benefits, but 20 years from now [he] thinks about  
 3 what's going to happen after. And if they are going to go  
 4 for it -- I've heard people say that we want to help our  
 5 younger generations. This is most important for our  
 6 future generations to have jobs. We will be giving them  
 7 benefits for the future, that they will have jobs.  
 8 Even if I go back and forth between the pros and the  
 9 cons, there is the both of them.  
 10 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Thank you. I'm sorry.  
 11 I don't remember if we are on No. 5 or No. 6. Okay.  
 12 No. 6.  
 13 **MS. ANNA JOHN:** [speaking in Yup'ik.]  
 14 **MS. LILLIAN MICHAEL:** She's going to speak  
 15 as best as she can, she said.  
 16 **MS. ANNA JOHN:** [speaking in Yup'ik.] I  
 17 wish I could speak as good, but -- but if you even  
 18 understand a little bit, that will be good.  
 19 And if I don't talk about this now, I will regret it.  
 20 When I first started working in the IGAP department  
 21 in 2013, I went to Spokane, Washington for a conference.  
 22 And those Lower 48 people were -- those people that were  
 23 involved in mining, the animals that they eat were hurt,  
 24 were affected. And there were some -- some of their foods  
 25 were -- those were affected, too.

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1 And even here -- I don't remember what he just said.  
 2 Those -- that the barges will be coming back and forth  
 3 from Seattle -- the barges will come from Seattle to the  
 4 Aleutians. If they found that -- how the fish will be  
 5 affected as the barges go from Seattle to the Aleutians  
 6 over here and how our food will be affected.  
 7 [She was talking about that Red Devil Mine.] That  
 8 was back in the 1930s. It opened then to 1971. And in  
 9 between those years, it closed when they were having  
 10 problems. And whatever it is, maybe DEA, when they tested  
 11 that area, the spill area, it had spread. Maybe that  
 12 would happen if there was such a spill if they do open  
 13 Donlin Gold, Donlin Creek.  
 14 And our Elders say not to learn how to depend on the  
 15 Western way of eating. And to remember 9/11 and how it  
 16 affected a lot of people, some people's food were  
 17 affected. And those stores started getting empty, and the  
 18 orders that usually come from down there were slowing  
 19 down. All of us Native people like to eat Native food.  
 20 And we have to think about that.  
 21 It's good to hear that there will be jobs. Donlin  
 22 Gold will open jobs for us, especially the younger folks.  
 23 And I have nothing else to say. But I wanted to  
 24 share that.  
 25 **MS. LILLIAN MICHAEL:** She wanted to share

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1 especially the information she received when she was down  
 2 there.  
 3 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Thank you very much.  
 4 No. 7. No. 8?  
 5 **MR. NICK THERCHIK, SR.:** My name is Nick  
 6 Therchik from Toksook.  
 7 [speaking in Yup'ik.] In the Western cultures, the  
 8 Western culture is -- before they do anything, they say  
 9 they are fixing stuff along the way, and that's what they  
 10 share with us. And it makes us want to follow them, want  
 11 to agree with them. But even so, even so they say that,  
 12 some things do not go according to what they say.  
 13 When I grew up, when I became aware, there was only  
 14 kayaks, no motors. And in the winter we would travel by  
 15 dog teams. At that time our mother and our parents, they  
 16 were sitting idle. Back then we never saw even one cent,  
 17 no money. And from the store -- we never even saw stores,  
 18 either. [He never planned -- he never thought about  
 19 running to the store and getting candy.] But all day  
 20 long, as far as I remember, there was no -- we didn't see  
 21 anything from the stores.  
 22 Nowadays, and back then, too, all we had was our  
 23 Native foods, and we never included anything else. Our  
 24 ancestors took care of their bodies. Even though they  
 25 didn't have any money, they didn't starve. They used

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1 their minds and stuff as a defense. And nowadays we can't  
 2 live like the way they did. I only know so much from the  
 3 time I -- from the time I became aware. And when I became  
 4 aware, there was a lot of reindeers around here. There  
 5 was wolves, too. We used to see wolves.  
 6 This thing we are hearing, the more noise they make  
 7 about something, the more problems it creates. [Seems  
 8 like that's what he's saying, compared to what he used to  
 9 see back then.] And then later on, whatever that is is  
 10 gone.  
 11 When people make too much noise, our Creator takes  
 12 care of that, and the animals die, or whatever it is isn't  
 13 around anymore.  
 14 Our Yup'ik way of life -- and if we know it and  
 15 practice it, we will not starve even if we have no money.  
 16 But learn about it. If we keep learning about it, even  
 17 though we don't have any money, we will not starve. Our  
 18 Creator gave us Yup'ik people what we need to use. And  
 19 the Western culture were given the same thing.  
 20 Our Yup'ik way of life, we know our Yup'ik way of  
 21 life, but there are some of us who are like more  
 22 westernized than us. And that's not us. The Western  
 23 culture way of living is not the way we live. From way  
 24 back then is how we lived. Whatever it is that comes up  
 25 pretty soon disappears. Even when it looks like it's

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1 going to last forever, while it goes on, it's gone.  
 2 Those people that said that the food from the  
 3 ocean -- mercury can kill our food that we live off of.  
 4 When I went to NYAC, I used to see them. And they would  
 5 be floating, and we couldn't touch them. If they -- if a  
 6 spill should happen, it's going to affect the Kuskokwim  
 7 River and the ocean which contains our food. We don't  
 8 know the future. Only the Creator knows. We are not  
 9 taking care of ourselves, but the Creator is.  
 10 Quyana.  
 11 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Thank you, sir. I know  
 12 we had eight people signed up. Do we have any more?  
 13 **MS. JESSICA EVANS:** Those are all the  
 14 numbers.  
 15 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay. Is there anybody  
 16 else in the room who would like to comment on the draft  
 17 EIS? Is there anybody on the phone who would like to make  
 18 a comment on the Donlin Draft Environmental Impact  
 19 Statement?  
 20 Okay. Is there anything else we can do for you all  
 21 this afternoon? We appreciate the opportunity to come out  
 22 here. And as I mentioned, the responses to your comments  
 23 will be in the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Is  
 24 there anything else we can -- anything else we can give  
 25 you information on or anything else anybody would like to

1 say?  
2 **MR. BOBBY HOFFMAN:** I just got one thing  
3 to say. There was a mine, Red Devil Mine. Red Devil Mine  
4 had a problem with smelting, or whatever, a long time.  
5 It's 100 miles from Bethel, 150 miles, about.  
6 [speaking in Yup'ik.] When it started, I was very  
7 small. I am 64, 65.  
8 **MS. LILLIAN MICHAEL:** That man asked him,  
9 when he said he was almost 65, he said, is that all.  
10 He has not seen anything from that Red Devil Mine.  
11 **MR. BOBBY HOFFMAN:** [speaking in Yup'ik.]  
12 I have not -- I have not heard anybody hurt by the Red  
13 Devil Mine, old Red Devil Mine. I'm going to be 65. I  
14 haven't gone to the hospital yet for anything. How will  
15 that Red Devil Mine -- we used to hear -- or I used to  
16 hear that they don't affect us. But look at me. I  
17 haven't gone to the hospital yet.  
18 That's all I want to share.  
19 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** All right. Thank you  
20 all very much. As I mentioned, we very much appreciate  
21 the opportunity to come out here and talk about the draft  
22 EIS. Please note that the comment period is open until  
23 April 30 of 2016 at this point in time. And as I  
24 mentioned, there is various ways you can comment on the  
25 document. So if you didn't comment today and you decide

1 in the near future that you would like to comment, you are  
2 welcome to either send us any additional comments you have  
3 or provide any comments that you haven't made already.  
4 Thank you very much for your time and your  
5 participation.  
6 (Proceedings adjourned at 3:20 p.m.)  
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

1  
2 I, MARY A. VAVRIK, RMR, Notary Public in and for  
3 the State of Alaska do hereby certify:  
4 That the foregoing proceedings were taken before  
5 me at the time and place herein set forth; that the  
6 proceedings were reported stenographically by me and later  
7 transcribed under my direction by computer transcription;  
8 that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings  
9 taken at that time; and that I am not a party to nor have  
10 I any interest in the outcome of the action herein  
11 contained.  
12 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed  
13 my hand and affixed my seal this 21st day of March 2016.  
14  
15  
16 MARY A. VAVRIK,  
17 Registered Merit Reporter  
18 Notary Public for Alaska  
19  
20 My Commission Expires: November 5, 2016  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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