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DONLIN GOLD PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PUBLIC MEETING

6

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HOOPER BAY, ALASKA

8

Taken March 16, 2016
Commencing at 1:12 p.m.

9

Volume I - Pages 1 - 55, Inclusive

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Taken at
Traditional Council Building
Hooper Bay, Alaska

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Reported by:
Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

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

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1 course, to get your comments on Donlin's proposed project
 2 and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
 3 The Army Corps of Engineers is neither a proponent
 4 for Donlin's proposed project nor an opponent of it. We
 5 are tasked with doing middle-of-the-road unbiased analyses
 6 of what Donlin is proposing. There are over 100 different
 7 entities -- well, not entities, but 100 different permits,
 8 authorizations, et cetera, that would be required for
 9 Donlin's project to be permitted. So there is a whole
 10 variety of decisions to be made based on the Draft
 11 Environmental Impact Statement and other information
 12 related to the project.
 13 The Army Corps of Engineers is the lead for the
 14 Environmental Impact Statement simply because of our role
 15 in the project. We have 11 cooperating entities assisting
 16 us in that, and you can see their logos on the bottom of
 17 the screen. There are both federal and State agencies and
 18 half a dozen Native communities that are assisting in the
 19 development of the Environmental Impact Statement.
 20 Our agenda today is just to run through this brief
 21 opening presentation to give you some status of where we
 22 are at now and primarily how you can most substantively
 23 comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
 24 After we go through this presentation, we will go
 25 through a brief poster session which will give you 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 Before I start, what we normally do is about a 30-minute
 4 presentation on the status of Donlin's proposed project
 5 and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement before we
 6 start taking actual comment from folks on the project.
 7 Vernon mentioned that there are some folks here from
 8 other communities that might want to comment so that they
 9 can get back on their snowmachines and get home. Anybody
 10 here who would like to offer comment early so you can head
 11 back home?
 12 Okay. If anybody does come in that you are aware of
 13 that would like to do that so they can get on the road,
 14 just let us know and we will halt the presentation so they
 15 can do that. We can just kind of play this by ear and do
 16 this however works for you.
 17 Lillian is here to translate if anyone is interested.
 18 And we have a variety of headsets over here if you would
 19 like to use those for translation.
 20 So my name is Keith Gordon. I'm a project manager
 21 with the Army Corps of Engineers regulatory program. I'm
 22 the Army Corps of Engineers project manager for the
 23 proposed Donlin project. We're here today to give you
 24 some information on the proposed Donlin project and the
 25 status of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and, of

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1 opportunity to take a look at the dozen posters that we
 2 have on the wall; three of them that describe what Donlin
 3 is proposing to do by way of their project, and then the
 4 other nine that give you some information regarding the
 5 information we have in the EIS.
 6 Briefly to start, I'll give you a little bit of
 7 information on what Donlin is proposing.
 8 There are three primary components to their overall
 9 project: The mine site, which you see on this slide;
 10 transportation infrastructure, which you see on the next
 11 slide; and then the pipeline.
 12 The mine site itself has three primary components.
 13 The first one you see depicted by the No. 1 on the screen
 14 is the pit that Donlin would mine ore from when -- if the
 15 project is permitted, when Donlin starts mining there
 16 would actually be two pits, the ACMA and Lewis pit, that
 17 ultimately would be combined into a single pit. This pit
 18 would be approximately 2.2 square miles in size and,
 19 depending on whether you are measuring the depth of the
 20 pit either from the lowest elevation or the highest
 21 elevation, it's anywhere from 1,100 feet deep to 1,850
 22 feet deep.
 23 The next primary component of Donlin's proposed mine
 24 site is the tailings storage facility. Tailings are
 25 what's left over after rock is run through the milling

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1 process and the gold is extracted. So basically tailings
 2 are crushed rock. So in the configuration that they are
 3 proposing, the tailings would be deposited in the valley
 4 that you can see there to form a partial fill of that
 5 valley, and those tailings would be contained by a
 6 downslope tailings dam. That facility itself would be
 7 about 3.5 square miles in size, and the tailings would
 8 consist of crushed rock, a quantity of water used in the
 9 process to process the ore, and some residual chemicals
 10 that might be left over after processing.
 11 The third primary component of what Donlin is
 12 proposing at the mine site is the waste rock facility.
 13 Waste rock is rock that is either overburden that has to
 14 be removed to get access to the gold or it's rock that
 15 contains so little gold in it that it's not economic to
 16 process it as ore. That waste rock facility is also about
 17 3.5 square miles in size.
 18 So what you can see on this slide, if the project
 19 were permitted and went through its mining life, what you
 20 have left over is the pit, which would actually become a
 21 pit lake. Over 50 to 55 years it would fill with water.
 22 The waste rock facility would see a variety of reclamation
 23 in the form of smoothing the contours of the surface of
 24 the rock to try to assist in some revegetation over a
 25 lengthy period of time. The tailings storage facility

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1 also would see some resurfacing so that it might
 2 revegetate.
 3 The second primary component of Donlin's proposed
 4 project is the transportation infrastructure. The pink
 5 blob in the center of the screen is Donlin's proposed mine
 6 site project. There is a 30-mile road that runs from the
 7 mine site down to what would be a new port facility at
 8 Jungjuk on the Kuskokwim River. That port would be a
 9 private industrial port that existed to serve the mine
 10 site in its operation. The 30-mile road would be a
 11 private access road that would be used to facilitate
 12 operations at the mine. You can also see a 5,000-foot
 13 airstrip that would need to be created to allow airborne
 14 access into and out of the mine site.
 15 And then there is a variety of little pink blobs
 16 along that road that indicate areas that would need to be
 17 opened up as materials sites; in other words, places they
 18 could get gravel to build the road, maintain the road,
 19 et cetera. And then there is the camp facilities that
 20 would be needed both for construction, as well as
 21 operations.
 22 In addition to that, you see 40 million gallons worth
 23 of diesel storage. The majority of that is at the mine
 24 site, but there would be some tank storage down at the
 25 port site. And then the vast majority of everything under

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1 Donlin's proposed action or alternative is barged in --
 2 that's both fuel and cargo -- up the Kuskokwim River. And
 3 we will talk about barging a few minutes later as we go
 4 through some other slides.
 5 The third primary component of Donlin's proposed
 6 project is the natural gas pipeline. They are proposing
 7 to construct a 14-inch steel buried pipeline that would
 8 run from the western side of Cook Inlet through the Alaska
 9 Range over to the mine site. There are only a few places
 10 along that entire route where the pipeline would be above
 11 ground. There is a couple of fault crossings and a couple
 12 of river crossings where the pipeline would need to be
 13 above ground, or there might be some valving that would
 14 need to be above ground. Other than that, they are
 15 proposing a buried pipeline.
 16 The project as it's currently proposed would take
 17 three to four years to construct. It is expected to
 18 operate for 27 and a half years, after which closure would
 19 occur. Now, as I noted on that first slide regarding the
 20 pit, the waste rock facility and the tailings storage
 21 facility, closure, of course, doesn't mean everything that
 22 exists would be reclaimed back to what it used to be.
 23 Some things would be there basically in perpetuity, and
 24 those three components would be there basically forever.
 25 It's also important to note that closure doesn't

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1 necessarily happen only at the end of the mine life.
 2 There are facilities that Donlin would need to construct
 3 for use during construction, and as soon as those
 4 facilities were no longer needed at construction,
 5 reclamation on those could happen during the construction
 6 phase. There's other proposed elements of the project
 7 that would be needed for a portion of operations that
 8 would be reclaimed at some point during operations. The
 9 vast majority of everything, however, would not be
 10 reclaimed until approximately 31 to 34 years after the
 11 project was permitted when mining ceased.
 12 And closure means a variety of different things.
 13 This is why it helps to take a look at the draft EIS. In
 14 some cases closure means reclamation basically returns the
 15 area almost back to what it was before. In other areas,
 16 for instance, some of the shoofly roads that would be used
 17 to construct the pipeline, while they are only used during
 18 construction and they are not open for people to use after
 19 construction, those short segments of roads are --
 20 basically have a little bit of material put on them to
 21 facilitate revegetation, but the road prism, fill placed
 22 to be used as a road, stays there.
 23 Now, it's important to note that when I'm referring
 24 to that 315-mile corridor in which the pipeline is
 25 proposed to be built, there is no road that Donlin is

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1 proposing to construct from Cook Inlet over to the mine
 2 site. There are only very little short segments of the
 3 road that they need to construct in relation to pipeline
 4 construction so that they can either do the construction
 5 or facilitate access to some gravel site, materials site
 6 to gain gravel, or some water source.
 7 One of the other things that we frequently point out
 8 in that slide, I mentioned that the pit lake would take 50
 9 to 55 years to fill with water, and then it would be a
 10 lake forever. Any water released off the project during
 11 construction, operations or after operations has to meet
 12 federal and State water quality standards to be released.
 13 So whether it's water out of that tailings storage
 14 facility that you saw or water out of the pit lake or
 15 somewhere else off the project, that water has to meet
 16 federal and State standards before it can be released. So
 17 Donlin would be required to treat water coming off the
 18 facility or provide a mechanism for it to be treated
 19 forever to make sure that that water meets federal and
 20 State water quality standards.
 21 The slide I just showed you talked about some of the
 22 federal permits required for the project. That was just
 23 by way of giving you an example of the various agencies'
 24 roles, federal agencies' roles in the project. And that's
 25 just a small sample of the federal permitting necessary.

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1 This slide talks about major State permit requirements.
 2 And again, it's just intended to give you a brief overview
 3 of some of the agencies' roles and the permitting
 4 required. As I mentioned, there is over 100 various
 5 authorizations needed for the project to go forward.
 6 The EIS process -- I mentioned that the Corps of
 7 Engineers is charged with unbiased analyses of the
 8 proposed project. We are the lead federal agency for the
 9 development of the Environmental Impact Statement. That's
 10 determined basically by NEPA requirements, the National
 11 Environmental Policy Act, that just defines that we are
 12 the agency that has the lead.
 13 We were out here in -- between December and March of
 14 2012 to take scoping comments from you all and a variety
 15 of folks in other communities to define what we need to
 16 analyze in the Environmental Impact Statement. And what
 17 we are here for today is to give you a status of that and
 18 to give you information on how you can comment back to us
 19 on that.
 20 The draft was released in November, on November 27th
 21 of last year, and our comment period on the draft EIS at
 22 this time closes on April 30 of 2016. So we have about a
 23 month and a half left on the comment period as it
 24 currently stands. After we get comments on the draft EIS,
 25 it's important to note that the comments you make today or

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1 the comments you provide in the future to us are responded
 2 to not directly. In other words, we won't be answering
 3 specific comments in most cases today, but when that Final
 4 Environmental Impact Statement comes out, comments you
 5 provide would be listed in that Final Environmental Impact
 6 Statement with the responses to your comments.
 7 And what we do with those comments -- what we are
 8 looking for are comments that tell us whether we got the
 9 analyses right, whether we got the analyses wrong, whether
 10 we didn't analyze enough, whether we need to do more
 11 studies, whether we understand the baseline condition that
 12 exists out here for everyone. So basically the document
 13 is open for you all to comment on anything in relation to
 14 the project, and then we will use your comments to try to
 15 determine if we did the analyses right or wrong and if the
 16 draft analyses and draft conclusions are right or wrong.
 17 I pointed out that we have 11 cooperators assisting
 18 us in the development of the Draft Environmental Impact
 19 Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is
 20 primarily being drafted, written, by an international
 21 engineering and environmental analysis firm. That firm is
 22 AECOM, and we will talk about them and you will get an
 23 opportunity to meet a few of their folks in the
 24 not-too-distant future. So in a few minutes, we will talk
 25 about that.

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1 After that Final Environmental Impact Statement goes
 2 out and everybody has a chance to take a look at it, the
 3 federal agencies -- the Army Corps of Engineers, the
 4 Bureau of Land Management, the Pipeline Hazardous
 5 Materials Safety Administration -- will use that document
 6 to make decisions regarding whether or not we would issue
 7 permits on Donlin's proposed alternative; in other words,
 8 how they want to build the project, or some alternative,
 9 some other way to build the project that might have less
 10 impact, or not permit the project at all.
 11 So to give you a little bit of information about
 12 what's in the Environmental Impact Statement as it
 13 currently exists, we will very briefly go through the
 14 chapters of the document, the first half a dozen, and what
 15 they really tell you.
 16 The first chapter in the document is primarily the
 17 purpose and need; in other words, what is Donlin's purpose
 18 for the proposed project, what's the need for a gold mine.
 19 One of the things to note is that because the Army
 20 Corps of Engineers is the lead federal agency, it falls to
 21 us to define the purpose and need for the project as it
 22 relates to the general public. The purpose for the
 23 project that we determined is listed there on the screen
 24 under the overall purpose. The thing that I have to point
 25 out is we had an editorial change that needed to be made

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1 that didn't get made before the document went out. In the
 2 document, if you look at the overall purpose, you will see
 3 that after "Western Alaska," there is another half a
 4 sentence in the document, and the half a sentence that's
 5 in the document says that part of our purpose is to
 6 maximize economic benefit for Donlin's stockholders,
 7 Calista and TKC shareholders.

8 We are very much aware of the potential benefits of
 9 this project from a socioeconomic standpoint to the
 10 communities on the Kuskokwim and the Yukon region. We are
 11 also aware of some of the potential negative impacts of a
 12 greater shift for the cash economy versus a subsistence
 13 lifestyle. However, since we are charged with doing
 14 unbiased middle-of-the-road analyses, we cannot weight the
 15 economics of a project to substantially one direction or
 16 another toward individual groups versus everyone overall.

17 So that's a -- I need to clarify why we have something
 18 different in the document that you might read versus what
 19 was intended to go out.

20 Okay. I talk about alternatives. We talked about
 21 Donlin's proposed alternative, the proposed action, what
 22 they want to do. That's Alternative 2 on the screen.
 23 There is a number of other alternatives, half a dozen
 24 alternatives that we are analyzing. They analyzed over
 25 300 options that could be turned into alternatives.

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1 As I mentioned, alternatives are important because
 2 they are ways a project might be constructed that could
 3 potentially minimize impacts to the human and natural
 4 environment. These are the seven alternatives that were
 5 carried forward for detailed analyses in the Draft
 6 Environmental Impact Statement.

7 Effectively we talked about Donlin's proposed
 8 Alternative No. 2, so we won't go through that one again.

9 But very briefly, what are the benefits of those
 10 other alternatives? The first other alternative is
 11 Alternative 1. That's the no action. That would mean we
 12 would not permit anything. Nothing would be constructed.
 13 There would be no change over what currently exists. We
 14 have to look at that alternative, the no action
 15 alternative, because if we are doing unbiased analyses, we
 16 need to understand the environment, human and natural, as
 17 it currently exists and compare everything else back to
 18 that; otherwise, we don't have unbiased analyses to
 19 develop.

20 Okay. Alternative 3A is the LNG-powered haul truck
 21 alternative. Under this alternative, the big mining
 22 trucks, the 300-ton payload trucks that would move the
 23 rock around inside the mine and up to the waste rock
 24 facility or up to the mill, that equipment would be
 25 powered by liquid natural gas instead of diesel.

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1 Well, what are the benefits of this alternative?
 2 Well, the benefits of this alternative primarily is it
 3 means less diesel needs to be barged up the Kuskokwim
 4 River to the mine site. You remember that 40 million
 5 gallons of diesel they would burn every year for 27 and a
 6 half years? Well, a fair percentage of that would not
 7 have to be shipped up there nor burned if those trucks
 8 were powered with liquid natural gas.

9 However, of course, there are tradeoffs. Anytime we
 10 go from one alternative to another, we are potentially
 11 changing impacts. If we went with this alternative, one
 12 of the tradeoffs is that a liquid natural gas plant would
 13 have to be constructed at the mine site and, of course,
 14 more natural gas would be consumed than what Donlin is
 15 currently proposing to do.

16 Alternative 3B is the diesel pipeline alternative.
 17 The benefits of this alternative primarily by way of
 18 minimizing impact is it further reduces the amount of
 19 diesel that would need to be barged up the Kuskokwim
 20 River.

21 If the natural gas pipeline, that 315-mile natural
 22 gas pipeline, were replaced with a diesel pipeline, then,
 23 save for a small amount of diesel needing to be barged up
 24 the Kuskokwim River during construction, there is no need
 25 to barge diesel up the Kuskokwim. The diesel would be

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1 barged through Cook Inlet to the pipeline and then it
 2 would be shipped via pipeline over to the mine site. But
 3 that also means that substantially less -- almost no
 4 natural gas would be burned. Everything would be powered
 5 with diesel. Diesel doesn't burn as clean as natural gas,
 6 so there is an air emissions impact if we go with diesel
 7 over natural gas.

8 And we would also need to add 19 additional miles to
 9 the length of the pipeline because now the pipeline would
 10 have to drop down through Tyonek so that an expansion of
 11 the North Foreland Barge Facility would allow marine
 12 tankers to come in and off-load the diesel into the
 13 pipeline. That also means, of course, that the diesel
 14 would not be barged up the Kuskokwim. It would be barged
 15 through Cook Inlet. And so the impacts of barging diesel
 16 would occur over there.

17 Alternative 4 is the Birch Tree Crossing port
 18 alternative. This alternative also has potential impacts
 19 to minimize impacts of diesel barging. This
 20 alternative -- I'll show you a picture of it in a
 21 minute -- means that instead of the diesel needing to be
 22 barged up the Kuskokwim River, it only has to be barged up
 23 the Kuskokwim River as far as Birch Tree Crossing. So the
 24 red blob is Donlin's proposed mine site. South of it 10
 25 miles you see Crooked Creek and the road that runs down to

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1 Crooked Creek. The red line is Donlin's proposed 30-mile
 2 access road to that new port facility at Jungjuk, that
 3 industrial port.
 4 Well, that Birch Tree Crossing alternative would mean
 5 that a 76-mile road would be constructed along that purple
 6 line down to Birch Tree Crossing.
 7 So what are the benefits of this alternative? One of
 8 the primary benefits of this alternative is that there is
 9 the potential, anytime you barge something on the river,
 10 any river, that you can have barges strand. And that does
 11 sometimes happen on the Kuskokwim River. Well, five of
 12 the six shallow spots we are aware of on the Kuskokwim
 13 where barges may strand are actually upstream of Birch
 14 Tree Crossing. Therefore, that alternative has the
 15 potential not only to virtually eliminate barging on that
 16 stretch of river upstream of Crooked Creek, but it also
 17 has potential to limit potential impacts of stranding.
 18 Now we will switch to a couple of alternatives that
 19 talk about dry stack tailings -- or I'm sorry. This
 20 alternative talks about dry stack tailings. Under this
 21 alternative, you remember that on that slide about
 22 Donlin's proposed alternative we had that 3.5-square-mile
 23 valley fill that was tailings for leftover -- the crushed
 24 rock that was left over from the milling process?
 25 Well, the dry stack tailings alternative means that

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1 water is removed from the tailings before they are placed
 2 in that valley. But it also means that, as you can see,
 3 while the tailings are placed in a smaller footprint, they
 4 are mounded up a good bit higher than what Donlin is
 5 proposing to do. By mounding them higher and because they
 6 are drier, that means that there is potential for more
 7 dust deposition in that whole area because of wind erosion
 8 of tailings.
 9 It also means that instead of that one dam downslope
 10 of the tailings facility to retain the tailings and the
 11 water in them, now what we have is two dams retaining the
 12 tailings and an operating pond that needs to be maintained
 13 below the tailings facility for the life of the mining
 14 operation. That operating pond is basically a small lake
 15 and requires a hydraulic dam below it.
 16 So as you can see, every time we change alternatives,
 17 we change the impacts and we change how we weigh and
 18 balance one impact in relation to another.
 19 It's important to note that that operating pond is
 20 only proposed to exist during actual mining. Once mining
 21 ceases, the water in that pond would be either treated and
 22 released or pumped over to the pit lake where it would
 23 stay until either it evaporated or it was treated and
 24 released.
 25 The last alternative that we will talk about in

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1 Chapter 2 is Alternative 6A. There were a variety of
 2 alternatives that were looked at by way of modifying
 3 Donlin's proposed pipeline route to offset impacts. This
 4 is the one that survived for detailed analyses. This is
 5 the Dalzell Gorge pipeline route. One of the benefits of
 6 this alternative is the pipeline is a couple miles
 7 shorter. One of the tradeoffs of this alternative,
 8 however, is that this pipeline route potentially has more
 9 impact on the Iditarod National Historic Trail than what
 10 Donlin is proposing.
 11 Donlin's proposed pipeline route is in gold on this
 12 slide. The Dalzell Gorge pipeline route we can see in
 13 purple, and it runs through Rainy Pass through Dalzell
 14 Gorge and along the south fork of the Kuskokwim.
 15 That was Chapters 1 and 2 that give you background
 16 information on what Donlin is proposing and background
 17 information on what we are doing by way of the analyses of
 18 impacts of the project.
 19 Chapter 3 is the chapter in the document that is
 20 basically the heart of the document. This is the chapter
 21 that contains the baseline information that says we
 22 understand -- we believe we understand the existing human
 23 and natural environment of the region and lists the draft
 24 analyses and draft conclusions related to potential
 25 impacts either of Donlin's proposal or of the alternatives

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1 that relate to it.
 2 There are 26 resource issues, major issues that were
 3 determined that need to be analyzed in the document, and
 4 14 of those are on the screen in blue. Those are the 14
 5 that are potentially impacted by barge traffic. So
 6 whether we are talking about impacts from noise and
 7 vibration resulting from barge operations, impacts to
 8 recreation, impacts to fish and aquatic resources, impacts
 9 to other transportation on the river, impacts to
 10 subsistence or fish species, we analyzed the potential
 11 impacts of barging on the Kuskokwim River. And these are
 12 the 14 categories of impacts that needed detailed
 13 analyses.
 14 So what we need from you all is, did we get it right?
 15 Did we -- have we adequately and sufficiently analyzed the
 16 potential impacts of barging? And so by way of this
 17 example, we did the same thing for everything else that
 18 was analyzed in the EIS. If it's pipeline construction,
 19 we looked at the primary resource issues that might result
 20 from pipeline construction, and there are draft analyses
 21 and draft conclusions in the document that talk about
 22 those effects. There is draft analyses and draft
 23 conclusions that talk about the potential effects of
 24 operating the mine, whether those are positive or
 25 negative. There is draft conclusions and analyses for

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1 everything that we felt might have a potentially
 2 significant impact and needed disclosure and analyses in
 3 the document.
 4 So this slide is basically depicting by
 5 way of an example barge traffic as it currently exists on
 6 the Kuskokwim River. The burnt gold color on the bottom
 7 of the screen is the existing barge traffic as we
 8 understand it on the Kuskokwim. As we currently
 9 understand it, there are 68 -- and we are talking here
 10 about riverine barge traffic versus the marine barge
 11 traffic that happens from Bethel south, or downstream.
 12 There is currently 68 barges annually that leave
 13 Bethel and run upstream some distance and then return.
 14 And what we have broken out on this slide is the
 15 difference in barging impacts during the construction
 16 phase in relation to each alternative on the left side of
 17 the screen and the potential impacts of barging during the
 18 operations phase, those 27 and a half years of proposed
 19 operations, in relation to each alternative.
 20 So what you can see on the left side of the screen is
 21 that Alternative 1 where nothing is permitted, well, there
 22 is no barging, so there is no additional impact indicated
 23 in light blue. All you have is the existing level of
 24 barge traffic that currently exists. And you see the same
 25 thing on the right side of the screen under Alternative 1.

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1 There is no blue, so that means there is no barging as a
 2 result of Donlin's proposed project since it wouldn't be
 3 constructed.
 4 The other three bar graphs on each side of the screen
 5 relate to the various other alternatives and what might
 6 happen if that alternative was permitted. The first bar
 7 graph on the left -- on each side is Alternative 2, 4A, 4,
 8 5A and 6A. Basically, if Donlin's project is permitted as
 9 proposed, there is a 179 percent increase in barge traffic
 10 on the Kuskokwim River.
 11 So what you basically have now, if you were standing
 12 on the shoreline upstream of Bethel this last summer
 13 without Donlin's proposed project, what you would
 14 typically see is a tug pushing one or two barges going
 15 upstream once in a 24-hour period. If Donlin's project
 16 were permitted, what that would mean is you would see a
 17 tug pushing anywhere from one barge to four barges going
 18 upstream three times in a 24-hour period.
 19 So one of the things I need to point out is the
 20 graphs and tables in the document don't always tell the
 21 whole story. That's why it's beneficial to look at some
 22 of the text.
 23 It appears that if you look at that bar graph that
 24 has Alternative 2 and Alternative 4 for construction and
 25 Alternative 2 and Alternative 4 for operations, it appears

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1 that the impacts of barging are the same between
 2 Alternative 2 and Alternative 4. Well, that's not quite
 3 accurate because while there is the same amount of fuel
 4 and cargo barging for both Alternative 2 and Alternative
 5 4, remember that Alternative 2, Donlin's proposed
 6 alternative, the barging goes all the way upstream to that
 7 proposed port site at Jungjuk just downstream of Crooked
 8 Creek. Under Alternative 4 it only goes to Birch Tree
 9 Crossing. So there is approximately 70-some river miles
 10 of barging that is eliminated.
 11 So if you are looking at the document, please look
 12 past some of the tables and figures, because if you are
 13 looking at a table and figure, look elsewhere in the
 14 document to the text that describes what that table or
 15 figure is telling you because the table or figure alone
 16 doesn't always tell you the whole story.
 17 Okay. The next couple of slides just give you
 18 information on how some of the analyses were done. And
 19 again, we were using barge traffic in relation to fish
 20 impacts and how one alternative versus another might limit
 21 the impacts to fish.
 22 As you can see on this screen, on this slide,
 23 Alternative 2, the draft conclusion is that barging has
 24 the potential to have moderate impacts on fish with
 25 potentially greater level of effect in shallow or narrow

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1 stretches of the river. We need to know from you all if
 2 that's correct in relation to what you see barging doing
 3 to fish and fishing. Each of the other alternatives has
 4 the potential to limit some of the impacts of barging on
 5 fish, their habitat, your ability to catch them,
 6 et cetera. But again, each time you look at one of those
 7 alternatives, there are tradeoffs for that alternative
 8 versus what Donlin is proposing.
 9 And so as you can see, this slide and the next slide
 10 tell the same story you have been seeing in previous
 11 slides. Each time we look at one of those alternatives,
 12 it has the potential to minimize some of the impacts, but
 13 it also has other impacts that Donlin's proposed
 14 alternative doesn't have.
 15 Chapters 4 and 5 in the document. Chapter 4 is
 16 cumulative impacts. One of the things we have to do is
 17 forecast potential future impacts of the project. How do
 18 we forecast how this project might affect the human and
 19 natural environment in the future? We will do that by
 20 looking at what's referred to as cumulative impacts.
 21 Cumulative impacts are all past, present, and reasonably
 22 foreseeable future impacts.
 23 So we take everything that's happened in the past in
 24 this region, we take what's currently taking place, and we
 25 take those things that we know that might occur in the

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1 lifetime of Donlin's proposed project or slightly after.
 2 We combine all of those, along with Donlin's proposed
 3 project and/or one of these alternatives, and that gives
 4 us the cumulative impacts that allows us to forecast the
 5 potential effects of the project into the future. And
 6 again, we need your input on whether or not we have got
 7 that right, wrong.
 8 Chapter 5 is the mitigation chapter. Chapter 5, you
 9 remember I talked about alternatives potentially
 10 minimizing or offsetting or eliminating some of the
 11 impacts of the project? Well, that's mitigation. Any
 12 time you are minimizing, modifying, limiting or
 13 eliminating impacts of a proposed project, you are
 14 mitigating it.
 15 Chapter 5 talks about a whole host of ways impacts of
 16 the project might be mitigated. And so what we need to
 17 know from you all is: Have we analyzed it correctly?
 18 Have we drawn the right conclusions? Have we included the
 19 right mitigation in there? In other words, there are
 20 other ways we could potentially minimize impacts of barge
 21 traffic to fish, to subsistence fishing, to their habitat,
 22 et cetera. Do those need to be considered or have we
 23 adequately considered what needs to be done?
 24 In a few minutes -- I purposely started this
 25 presentation out by not introducing anybody else that came

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1 with me today because we are about to do that. We are
 2 going to go to a poster session. There is three posters
 3 on the wall behind me that give you some additional
 4 information on Donlin's proposed project, those three
 5 primary components I talked about; and then there is nine
 6 other posters around the room that give you some
 7 additional information on the primary impacts of the
 8 project that we largely heard about via scoping and as
 9 analyzed in the document, things that people indicated
 10 primary concern about.
 11 And so you will have an opportunity to talk to some
 12 of the folks that came with me today about those potential
 13 impacts, get some of your questions answered and get a
 14 little more information in relation to the posters that
 15 they can run you through.
 16 After that we will reconvene and we will take any
 17 comments you have on the proposed project. And as I
 18 mentioned, you don't have to comment today. You can
 19 comment today or you can comment in the near future. At
 20 this time we are requesting comments be in by April 30.
 21 So how do you provide a substantive comment to us?
 22 While we do need to know if you support the project, we do
 23 need to know if you oppose the project, we do need to know
 24 if you are somewhere in between, what we will really need
 25 to know is why. If you support the project, why. If you

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1 are opposed to the project, why. If you are somewhere in
 2 between, why.
 3 Because what we need to do is determine if, as I
 4 mentioned, we understand the baseline condition, the
 5 existing human and natural environment out here as it
 6 currently exists and if we understand, for example, for
 7 given communities on the Kuskokwim, we have noted that we
 8 believe this community uses this fish species in relation
 9 to subsistence and sharing to this level. It's this
 10 important to the community. And therefore, if Donlin's
 11 project were constructed, this is the level of impact that
 12 would happen not only to that fish population, but to
 13 subsistence and sharing.
 14 We need to know whether or not we got that right. Do
 15 we know what we are talking about or not? Did we do the
 16 analyses right? Did we come to the right conclusions?
 17 And so I'm just using fish, again, as an example and
 18 subsistence as an example. But that's what we need
 19 throughout everything we have in the document. We need
 20 folks to look at it and tell us whether or not we know
 21 what we are talking about or not.
 22 So I mentioned earlier that responses to your
 23 comments that you make today or in the future would appear
 24 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement. So what
 25 happens if I get 100 people that say I support the project

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1 or 100 people that say I oppose the project; how do we
 2 address that?
 3 If the comment is I support the project or I oppose
 4 the project, the response to that in the Environmental
 5 Impact Statement would be "comment noted" because I
 6 understand the comment. The comment says I support the
 7 project or I oppose the project. But it doesn't tell me
 8 anything about whether or not we did the analyses correct
 9 or incorrect, whether there is more we need to do, whether
 10 we got it all done the first time.
 11 So a comment that said I support the project, but
 12 your analyses of this fish species and the impact of
 13 barging to this fish species needs additional work for
 14 these reasons because I don't agree with this conclusion,
 15 well, that's what we need to know. If our analyses of
 16 wave impacts from barging to fish wheels is not accurate,
 17 we need to know that. We need to accurately analyze the
 18 potential impacts of the project before we can develop
 19 functional, intelligent conclusions because, as I
 20 mentioned, the Environmental Impact Statement is intended
 21 for the decisionmakers to decide if they would permit
 22 Donlin's proposed alternative, one of the other
 23 alternatives, or not permit the project at all. So we
 24 need you all to tell us whether or not we know what we are
 25 talking about.

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1 As far as the draft EIS goes, there is a variety of
 2 ways you can comment. You can comment either today at
 3 this meeting or in one of the future meetings you will see
 4 coming up shortly. You can comment via email, via mail,
 5 or you can fax the comments to us. And as I mentioned, at
 6 this time we are requesting those comments come in by
 7 April 30.

8 You can see the meeting today and, as you are aware,
 9 we have been visiting some of the other communities, and
 10 we have a few meetings coming up that we haven't done yet.

11 As far as additional information on what Donlin is
 12 proposing and the project overall, you can go to this
 13 website and look up the Draft Environmental Impact
 14 Statement. There is an EIS documents tab up there at the
 15 top of the screen near the right side. And that tab
 16 contains the entire Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
 17 You can look at the whole thing on-line. It gives you
 18 access to some of the newsletters that have already come
 19 out, some project information and background documents, as
 20 well as presentation summaries on the project as it's
 21 currently proposed.

22 My contact information is on the screen. And if you
 23 have any matters of tribal importance that you want to
 24 address directly to Ms. Amanda Andraschko, our tribal
 25 liaison, her contact information is also on the screen.

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1 So at this point in time, what I'd like is the folks
 2 with AECOM, the engineering and environmental firm who are
 3 developing the draft analyses and draft conclusions that
 4 turn into the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, I
 5 would like them to introduce themselves, tell you what
 6 their role is in the project and tell you which posters
 7 they are going to be near so you can connect a face with
 8 the issues you might want to talk about.

9 **MS. AMY ROSENTHAL:** Thank you. Thank you
 10 all for coming today, taking time out of your day to be
 11 here and learn about this project.

12 My name is Amy Rosenthal, and I'm part of the AECOM
 13 team that worked on the Draft Environmental Impact
 14 Statement. I am the lead for the social environment
 15 resources. So during the poster session that's coming up,
 16 I'll be over back in the corner. I can answer questions
 17 about socioeconomics or subsistence or other issues
 18 related to the social environment.

19 The first member of our team that I'd like to
 20 introduce is Nancy Darigo, who is back in the back corner
 21 over there raising her hand. Nancy is the lead for the
 22 physical environment resources, and she will be up here in
 23 the front discussing posters related to spill risks, air
 24 and water emissions, hazardous chemicals, water flow. She
 25 will be over here [indicating].

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1 Up in the front here is Mr. Dave Every. He's the
 2 lead for the biological resources, and he will be back in
 3 the back answering questions about fisheries, and he can
 4 also answer questions related to barge traffic.

5 Another member of our team is Jessica Evans. Jessica
 6 is our public involvement lead, and she will be up here in
 7 the front answering questions about the three different
 8 components of the project: The mine site, the
 9 transportation facilities, and the pipeline.

10 Many of you met Donne Fleagle when you came in.
 11 Donne is also part of our public affairs team, and she
 12 will be available to answer questions during the poster
 13 session, as well.

14 And we also have Ms. Lillian Michael here who is
 15 translating. If any of you need any headsets during the
 16 question-and-answer period or during the testimony, we
 17 have them available.

18 So thank you.

19 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay. So when we come
 20 back after the poster session -- we normally take about
 21 30 to 45 minutes for that. We will take however much time
 22 you need. It can be shorter. It can be longer. We will
 23 just play it by ear. When you come back, we will ask that
 24 you, if you don't mind, come up to the front of the room
 25 and use one of these microphones, if you don't mind, to

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1 make your comments so Ms. Mary Vavrik can capture it for
 2 our record so we accurately have your comment to address
 3 and so Ms. Lillian Michael is sure she can hear your
 4 comment and translate it.

5 Please be careful. I'll put this screen down, but we
 6 can get you this information if you would like it. Please
 7 be careful not to step on these posters. If you step on
 8 them, they are as slippery as the ice outside. But this
 9 is the place we needed to put them so you can get access
 10 to them.

11 So all right. Please take a look at the posters and
 12 ask us any questions you have. Thank you.

13 (Off the record.)

14 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay, folks. It looks
 15 like most everybody who wanted to look at posters has
 16 looked at them, so we will go forward with the comment
 17 portion of today's meeting. So basically we will just
 18 open it up to whoever would like to make a comment. And
 19 as I mentioned, Lillian will be translating your comments
 20 and Mary will be capturing them for the record so we can
 21 respond to them in the Final Environmental Impact
 22 Statement.

23 **MR. DAVID BUNYAN:** I have a question or a
 24 comment, both. David Bunyan from the village here in
 25 Hooper Bay. Okay. Question: How old do we have to be

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1 now that -- it is going to be a 27-year-old project.
 2 [indiscernible] The lifeline of the 27 years, how old do
 3 we have to be to, you know, work?
 4 Then also the fishing up here, we used to have
 5 herring fishing for Hooper Bay up at Cape Romanzof. We
 6 haven't had that for some years now, and for some that
 7 used to be what we call our bowl, you know, money, some
 8 kind of income, seasonal income. And in the future for
 9 this Donlin, you know, the mine, for some it would be like
 10 a bowl, like income of sorts. And you never know what
 11 others might come up around our area, because right now
 12 you should know the YK Delta is more populous than any
 13 part of the state.
 14 And for them, when they become of age, maybe there's
 15 nothing going on, no -- then you will have to be what you
 16 call, you know, certified to be, you know, operator or
 17 crane to be operator, like maybe a CDL. There was talk
 18 about that.
 19 So, you know, other than to -- also, too, when Donlin
 20 Gold was like, you know, making noise back some years ago,
 21 there is always going to be pros and cons or comments or
 22 you hear some kind of language of pro and con side. And
 23 like one time I heard over the radio, radio show out of
 24 Bethel maybe then, like you have people calling in from,
 25 you know, down in the states calling on the radio talk

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1 show, or I've seen literature, you know, like saying that
 2 the -- you know, any kind of mine -- there is never a
 3 clean mine. But then nowadays with the technology and,
 4 you know, other things to keep what they call cyanide or
 5 mercury or stuff watered down.
 6 Like when he was here two weeks ago, Chimegalrea was
 7 here two weeks ago, he kind of like had a little portion
 8 of it, how to cut down the cyanide or whatever you use to
 9 separate the gold.
 10 But other than that, for the next 27 years, once you
 11 get started, you know, for him, you know, like he's nine
 12 years old; by then maybe he will be of age to maybe be
 13 interested, be like, you know, bread and butter for some,
 14 you know, once it's started [indiscernible].
 15 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Thank you very much.
 16 For some jobs there are certainly training requirements
 17 like CDLs, et cetera. Do we know if there is expected to
 18 be any employment for folks under 18 years of age?
 19 **MR. RICHARD WILLIAMS:** We will follow
 20 whatever the rules and regulations are. Today most mining
 21 operations are 18 years old. If that changes between now
 22 and when it starts, obviously we will follow the current
 23 law.
 24 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay. So right now for
 25 most mine operations you have to be at least 18 and then

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1 meet whatever other requirements there are for employment.
 2 **MR. DAVID BUNYAN:** Also to -- like for
 3 some -- like we don't have the luxury of having the money
 4 to go elsewhere to go train for a CDL, the program. I
 5 heard there is like a six-week project or study thing.
 6 Like I mentioned to the lady up there that some don't have
 7 the luxury of having maybe a scholarship or having money
 8 to go to maybe the thing at Bethel or elsewhere or a place
 9 to stay. Now that we have here locally our building
 10 center from University of Alaska and maybe -- you know,
 11 I'm sure, like, it will be like some folks, or even the
 12 ladies, you know, who say that -- but -- NIT where they
 13 train, they are always saying the ladies do more than the
 14 guys do. They do a better job than the guys do for some.
 15 And for them, maybe -- like I mentioned, when
 16 Chimegalrea was here maybe first of the month or early in
 17 the month about coming out here to do it out here, you
 18 know, using our learning center, our youth here, you know,
 19 like I mentioned, for some that don't have the luxury of
 20 having money or a place to stay if they do go that way,
 21 nowadays with airfare to even go to Bethel is almost like
 22 \$300 one way.
 23 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay. Thank you. Is
 24 there anybody else who would like to comment?
 25 **MS. MONICA JAMES:** My name is Monica

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1 James. My mom is originally from Alakanuk, and I grew up
 2 in Bethel. I left Alakanuk when I was four and moved to
 3 Bethel. I am the Chief Operating Officer for Calista
 4 Corporation, so I work for each of you as a shareholder.
 5 And I'm going to read my statement for the record.
 6 Calista Corporation is an Alaska Native Corporation,
 7 ANC, organized under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement
 8 Act, ANCSA, and is pleased to provide the following
 9 comments on the Donlin Gold draft EIS.
 10 TKC owns the surface estate, while Calista owns the
 11 mineral estate, which is the focus and the driver for the
 12 Donlin Gold Project. Calista is mandated under ANCSA to
 13 manage its lands for the maximum benefit of its
 14 shareholders, each of you, each of us, many of whom live
 15 in the region and in the vicinity of the project.
 16 Not only will Calista and TCK shareholders benefit
 17 from this project, but this project will provide a
 18 singular opportunity to satisfy the intent of the
 19 all-important Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to
 20 benefit all the Alaska Native Corporations and our
 21 struggling state economy.
 22 As an ANCSA corporation, Calista has two primary
 23 goals: generating profit for the corporation and its
 24 shareholders to provide other socioeconomic opportunities
 25 and benefit to the shareholders and their descendents.

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1 The Donlin Gold project has in the past and to a much
 2 larger extent in the future is anticipated to provide
 3 training and employment opportunities that otherwise do
 4 not exist in the economically challenged Kuskokwim region
 5 and surrounding areas.
 6 As stated in the draft EIS, an anticipated 1,600 to
 7 1,900 individuals from the Yukon-Kuskokwim communities
 8 would be employed during construction. During operations,
 9 an estimated 550 to 600 regional residents would be
 10 employed. Employment income would help offset the current
 11 trend of the decreasing incomes from commercial fishing.
 12 For each year the project is operational, it's estimated
 13 650 jobs and 40 million in annual wages would be generated
 14 statewide, while sales within the state would increase 150
 15 million per year.
 16 Based on these benefits, the landowners will receive
 17 substantial royalty payments that will be shared with
 18 other ANCSA regional corporations and our village
 19 corporations. State and local governments would receive
 20 tax revenues that currently don't exist.
 21 Improved transportation and communication
 22 infrastructure to support the mine, including port and
 23 pipeline facilities, can potentially provide better
 24 services and lower the cost of goods to local residents.
 25 Ultimately, economic development of such a large project

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1 will help fulfill the broader goal of self-determination
 2 by allowing residents and Calista shareholders to
 3 significantly participate in the world economy. Calista
 4 intends to be an active, involved participant in the
 5 development of our land and mineral resources at Donlin
 6 Creek.
 7 Calista supports and encourages the Army Corps of
 8 Engineers to permit Alternative 2, the applicant's
 9 proposed action. Calista believes the proposed action is
 10 designed to minimize environmental and negative social
 11 impact and will provide long-lasting socioeconomic
 12 benefits to not only Calista shareholders and descendents,
 13 but other residents in the region and the state of Alaska
 14 as a whole.
 15 Quyuana.
 16 **MR. MIKE AKERELREA:** There were three
 17 training centers that were mentioned many years ago. What
 18 is happening to them?
 19 **MS. MONICA JAMES:** I don't know
 20 specifically the training centers that you are -- I mean,
 21 we have got Yuut in Bethel. Up by Fairbanks and Greely
 22 we've got the MAPS program. So there are things we are
 23 doing in cooperation with Donlin Gold, with Department of
 24 Labor. We are looking at training and putting some of our
 25 descendents to get this experience. So specifically,

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1 Mike, I apologize. I don't know which three you are --
 2 **MR. MIKE AKERELREA:** I think three
 3 villages that were mentioned were Bethel, St. Mary's and
 4 Aniak.
 5 **MS. MONICA JAMES:** Okay. Can I get back
 6 to you? Because I don't specifically know the answer to
 7 that.
 8 **MR. VERNON CHIMEGALREA:** And I think those
 9 are still in the planning stages, and those are plans.
 10 Just like everything else is up in the air with all the
 11 alternatives, there has been training centers mentioned,
 12 but not until things become a -- or it's a go for anything
 13 can things be put into place.
 14 **MS. MONICA JAMES:** And Vernon has a good
 15 point. We work with the Department of Labor. And they
 16 won't give us any money or help us unless we have a go.
 17 So they say, oh, you don't have a gold mine in operation,
 18 we can't train you. So it's hard. So we have to get --
 19 **MR. VERNON CHIMEGALREA:** You have to have
 20 the permits in hand before you can move forward, just like
 21 the -- the campsites, it's all temporary housing because
 22 you can't build anything without the required permitting.
 23 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay. Is there anybody
 24 else that would like to comment?
 25 **MR. RICHARD SLATS:** I'm Richard Slats.

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1 I'm with the Chevak Native Village. I apologize before I
 2 say anything. And I need to watch what I say because I
 3 flew in here with Donlin Gold. They might not let me back
 4 on the plane.
 5 **MR. VERNON CHIMEGALREA:** Everybody, it's a
 6 permitting process. And just like they said, these folks
 7 are here to take comments from either pro or con. And
 8 it's -- the comment period is made available for both
 9 sides, and there is no need to be wary about what you say
 10 because this is the process that you have to go through.
 11 So, you know --
 12 **MS. LILLIAN MICHAEL:** And it's
 13 Calista's --
 14 **MR. RICHARD SLATS:** I'm glad you said
 15 that. I wasn't going to say anything. Chevak Native
 16 Village -- I was here three years ago when you guys --
 17 people came out here and did this before we had anything
 18 to look at, before -- you know, in front of us about the
 19 impact statement. And then we are not for or against. We
 20 haven't even met and sat down with the council as a group.
 21 And we appreciate the jobs that are being provided to our
 22 youth in this area, in that area. And I wanted to
 23 appreciate, you know, like they are giving those guys a
 24 chance for work and to do stuff with their lives. And I
 25 appreciate those tribes that are involved with this

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1 process, partners.
 2 But I'm here today to raise a couple of concerns
 3 because this is a proposed open pit mine and, essentially,
 4 you know, the way I see open pit mines is like they are
 5 strip mines. Strip mines, they take down the whole
 6 mountain. And there are chemicals involved that will be
 7 exposed, namely mercury and some of those things.
 8 And there is going to be cyanide that -- they were
 9 concerned about how that will be brought in, barged in on
 10 the Kuskokwim in the past and what's been said about
 11 those. But those chemicals will wash down from the creek
 12 and down to the mighty Kuskokwim, washed down with the
 13 snow melting.
 14 And these days we have torrential rain. We get
 15 downpours, really big downpours with the climate changing.
 16 And there is no -- you know, like once that -- once those
 17 chemicals are exposed and then they are going to -- once
 18 they get washed down to the creeks and to the rivers, our
 19 living -- the fish on that river -- people up and down
 20 that river rely on fish for their sustenance.
 21 And not only that, once it gets out of the river, the
 22 shore habitat will be affected. These days we get -- if
 23 the -- if the chemicals go down, and then they will --
 24 they will -- these rivers will get exposed with those
 25 chemicals.

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1 And then these days we get -- with all of the
 2 glaciers melting, polar ice caps melting, our seas are
 3 rising. And then if the river gets affected with those
 4 things, the river, the coast -- coast water rises whenever
 5 we get big storms. And these are just scenarios, but they
 6 will become -- they will become disasters if these things
 7 might be -- possible disasters. And if they do happen,
 8 they -- there is a chance they will be irreversible.
 9 That's all it takes is just one -- one time, and then we
 10 can't put everything back to normal.
 11 And so I see that there are five or six alternatives,
 12 but what I don't see are the risks that are involved for
 13 each of those alternatives, you know. That's what I was
 14 looking at today. And myself and the rest of the council
 15 did not have time to sit down and look over the
 16 Environmental Impact Statement as yet, but these are some
 17 of the things that come right off the top of my head.
 18 Thank you.
 19 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** All right. Thank you
 20 very much. Is there anybody else that would like to
 21 comment?
 22 **MR. ANTHONY ULAK:** Hello. My name is
 23 Anthony Ulak from Scammon Bay. I came down this morning
 24 after 10:00. I got a call from my maurluq that there was
 25 a Donlin meeting here but -- you know, I just came from a

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1 meeting not too long ago in Anchorage about the Fish &
 2 Wildlife Service. The main item that they talked about or
 3 that I brought up was the by-catches down at the Donut
 4 Hole. It's got to start from somebody, and I told them
 5 that it started from me.
 6 And you know, back then when Donlin Gold started,
 7 maybe sometime in my time, I sort of had a concern because
 8 I went to several EPA meetings in Anchorage for Region 10.
 9 And along the line back in 2007 or '8, after our EPA
 10 session was completed, on my way home I met, I think it
 11 was, Sattler. Was she in charge of something in that
 12 program?
 13 But anyways, I had also done a power plant diesel
 14 generator -- I got certified for that. And at that time I
 15 approached her. And I don't know what sort of power line
 16 they are using at that site, but I had an interest in a
 17 job at Donlin, but I never got a response from her.
 18 And up to now I think, you know, I support what
 19 Donlin is doing. There is pros and cons about it, you
 20 know. There is good stuff and there are some concerns
 21 that people bring up. But as long as the environmental
 22 portion of our land, sea and air are supported and are
 23 well understood by the staff, whoever is in charge and
 24 whatnot -- you know, there is people up there that can do
 25 it, you know, that can do the job, being well aware of

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1 what EPA holds for us.
 2 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay. Thank you, sir.
 3 Mary Sattler out of Bethel was a representative for Donlin
 4 for a period of time. So if you made comments to her, we
 5 may have them. It's something we can follow up on later
 6 if you would like a response to any comments or questions
 7 you had for her.
 8 Is there anybody else who would like to comment?
 9 Okay. As I mentioned, the comment period on the Draft
 10 Environmental Impact Statement is open until April 30.
 11 And so you can submit us comments via email. You can fax
 12 them to us. You can go to the website and provide them
 13 that way. You can take one of these forms and send them
 14 in to us. And so you don't have to comment today. You
 15 can comment any time in the near future.
 16 So if there is nothing else, we will go ahead and
 17 close this portion of the meeting. And we thank you all
 18 for the opportunity to come into the community. And we
 19 thank you for your comments. And we will be glad to hear
 20 anything else you have in the near future.
 21 Did you have something else?
 22 **MR. MIKE AKERELREA:** Yes. It's just
 23 not -- for employment it's not just truck driving over
 24 there at Donlin. There is much more job opportunities
 25 that you can have. It's not just CDL. I think Monica

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1 could mention most of the stuff that is over there.
 2 **MS. MONICA JAMES:** Vernon can help me, or
 3 David -- Richard. I'm sorry. You have got geologists.
 4 You've got scientists. You've got accountants. You've
 5 got -- you want to rattle off some of the positions,
 6 Richard?
 7 **MR. RICHARD WILLIAMS:** Yeah, the mill
 8 operators.
 9 **MS. MONICA JAMES:** Mill operators.
 10 **MR. RICHARD WILLIAMS:** In the mine, you
 11 have the trucks; you have the shovels; you have the
 12 drills; you have blasting technicians which, again, is a
 13 certified position; core control engineers, mine
 14 engineers. And in the process -- or even in maintenance.
 15 You have asset management people; you have mechanics,
 16 electricians.
 17 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Are there also jobs in
 18 the administrative sector, payroll, hiring, et cetera?
 19 **MR. RICHARD WILLIAMS:** Yep, accounting,
 20 HR. We have got the whole spectrum. Here you have got a
 21 camp, so you've got to maintain the camp, so there is
 22 administrative associated with that, plus skills for that.
 23 Carpenters. I mean, it's a whole gamut of job
 24 requirements within that project.
 25 **MS. MONICA JAMES:** So the key there is

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1 that our young people need to stay in school. They need
 2 to be drug free. They need to be able to get a job. And
 3 they have got to get some experience in order to be
 4 prepared for that job. And that's where we talk about the
 5 training centers and working with Yuut and the State and
 6 Department of Labor and looking at our young kids. And
 7 I'm excited -- I think you mentioned scholarships. We
 8 work on scholarships and internships within Calista and
 9 working with Donlin and all of our different companies and
 10 our partners in Bethel, in Anchorage, in Fairbanks because
 11 we have a lot of kids going to school in Fairbanks.
 12 Is that good, Michael?
 13 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Where can folks in the
 14 communities go to find a list of the types of jobs that
 15 might be available and the kind of background they might
 16 need to be able to apply for some of those jobs?
 17 **MR. RICHARD WILLIAMS:** Yeah. Vernon, I
 18 think if you --
 19 **MR. VERNON CHIMEGALREA:** If you go to
 20 donlingold.com, there is a human resources section. You
 21 just go on there, and it leads -- it's user friendly, and
 22 it will lead you to that. And there is a talent bank site
 23 on there. So it's pretty self-explanatory if you went to
 24 that website.
 25 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** So as we discussed,

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1 there is a whole host of potential impacts from the
 2 project, some positive, some negative, to the human
 3 environment, to the natural environment; some that would
 4 last for a short period of time and some that might exist
 5 forever, basically. So we need your comments on the Draft
 6 Environmental Impact Statement and the project overall.
 7 So again, we -- unless anybody else has any other
 8 comments they would like to make, we appreciate your time.
 9 And if there is any comments you have before the end of
 10 the comment period, please let us know.
 11 **MR. BOBBY HOFFMAN:** I just had one other
 12 thing to say. We were told by the gold people there will
 13 be 13- to 15,000 jobs available for all the shareholders.
 14 **MS. MONICA JAMES:** Hundred. 1,300.
 15 **MR. BOBBY HOFFMAN:** Excuse me. 1,300 to
 16 1,500 available jobs for the shareholders. The training
 17 money -- I heard a question about training money. Calista
 18 might not be able to help you with training money, only
 19 education money like in the past. But who to contact is
 20 AVCP to see if they have funds available for the villages
 21 who they take care of. So call Myron and ask him if he
 22 has a department in there for training money.
 23 **MR. VERNON CHIMEGALREA:** I think there is
 24 Calista funds, as well, because there is monies that we
 25 contribute to the heritage foundations that is made

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1 available for training and for scholarships for college
 2 that are there, as well.
 3 **MR. BOBBY HOFFMAN:** That's good to hear.
 4 You can call Calista, too. Call Monica. She will set you
 5 up with the human resources.
 6 **MS. KAREN HUNT:** Hello. My name is Karen
 7 Hunt, Scammon Bay. I was just wondering about, if someone
 8 gets hired, who is going to pay for the travel? Is it on
 9 their own or through Donlin Gold or --
 10 **MR. VERNON CHIMEGALREA:** Can I?
 11 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Yeah, go ahead, if you
 12 want to address that.
 13 **MR. VERNON CHIMEGALREA:** The question, I
 14 guess, was if an interested individual is going to
 15 training, it's open just like any other education. I
 16 mean, like when I -- me or any other shareholder is going
 17 to training or college, it's usually done -- if you make
 18 the initiative, you apply for the funds that are made
 19 available and you go to any other -- any training centers
 20 like at AVTEC, at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, or
 21 whatever school that you want to choose or who specializes
 22 in that training, that field that you want to go into.
 23 Just like myself, for example, when I went -- wanted
 24 to go into a certain undergraduate degree, I applied for
 25 funds from scholarships that are available, AVCP, ONC and

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1 that, and go on to school.
 2 But that aside, that's what most people do. I know
 3 our human resources department is doing workforce
 4 development and going to students throughout the region
 5 and talking to them about the different careers that are
 6 available to the region's shareholders. And so in
 7 addition to that, I know they have been talking about the
 8 training centers that somebody had brought up, and those
 9 could also be an alternative should something happen after
 10 this whole permitting process is done and over with, but
 11 we don't know at this point.
 12 **MS. KAREN HUNT:** And is this on a yearly
 13 contract or --
 14 **MR. VERNON CHIMEGALREA:** No. It's like if
 15 anybody wants to go to school -- for instance, when Monica
 16 was going to school, if we take the initiative to go to
 17 school -- just like any student throughout the country,
 18 you have to take the initiative to go to school. But it
 19 will tell you about the careers that are open. But when I
 20 was going to school, I applied for scholarships, grants,
 21 student loans. And that's something I would avoid because
 22 I applied for student loans and I had -- I had -- it took
 23 years to pay back.
 24 But, you know, those are the things that somebody who
 25 is going to go and get a degree, certify or training,

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1 that's the steps that you would go through. I know AVCP
 2 has an employment and training department. They have
 3 people there that talk to students about careers. At the
 4 high school level, you have a career counselor. I know my
 5 career counselor helped me kind of like know about what
 6 path that I wanted to go for. When you get to a college,
 7 you have a career counselor that helps you understand your
 8 catalog of what undergraduate degrees that you have to go
 9 through and your major requirements. But those are things
 10 that most people would go through.
 11 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER:** I think she
 12 asked if you got hired at Donlin Gold, who would take care
 13 of that --
 14 **MS. KAREN HUNT:** Yeah, I'm asking --
 15 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER:** -- not the
 16 training.
 17 **MS. KAREN HUNT:** I'm asking like if I got
 18 hired today, would I sign a contract just for one year?
 19 **MR. VERNON CHIMEGALREA:** I think it's just
 20 like any other -- if you wanted to make it a career there,
 21 it's a 27-plus-year mine life; you could even retire from
 22 there.
 23 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay, but in relation
 24 to travel to and from work, there has been -- there were
 25 questions -- there's some information in some of the

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1 documentation about folks from the Lower 48 that might
 2 have to travel, but also folks in the state. Is there --
 3 is there some expectation that Donlin would be
 4 facilitating travel for employees to some degree, or is
 5 that an unknown?
 6 **MR. RICHARD WILLIAMS:** It's an unknown.
 7 Policy is not set. But let me just use an example. Our
 8 last project in the Dominican Republic, we looked around
 9 and saw where all the employees were coming from, and then
 10 we had certain points where we would have buses pick you
 11 up. So you had to get to that bus stop, but once you got
 12 to the bus stop, we'd take you there. So in the situation
 13 here where you are flying -- and we did this in British
 14 Columbia. We have a place that you get to and then we fly
 15 you to the site.
 16 Those details aren't worked out, but that's how we --
 17 we see where most of the population is coming from and
 18 then we make a decision on how we get people where.
 19 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay.
 20 **MS. MONICA JAMES:** If I could make just
 21 one more comment. My job at Calista, I have to look at
 22 things really holistically. And right now I know this is
 23 a lot of information. And I took information, too, that
 24 I'm going to study.
 25 But when we look at the state, right now our state

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1 budget is going to be cut. My aunt is 78 years old. She
 2 lives in Alakanuk. She was telling me her -- what she
 3 gets for food stamps was \$90. They cut it to 48. Her
 4 other State subsidy was 125. They cut it down. They are
 5 cutting.
 6 I would imagine if I sat with each of you or some of
 7 your Elders, your benefits are being cut because our state
 8 has a challenge with the oil/gas right now. They did a
 9 budget at \$115 per barrel, and right now it's -- 115 was
 10 the budget, and it's selling for maybe 30, sometimes 24,
 11 26.
 12 So when we look at this project holistically, this
 13 offers our people an opportunity to kind of help us get
 14 out of down here where we all are and help each other to
 15 build this. So I just -- I'm concerned with the state as
 16 a whole. I believe Governor Walker is going to have to
 17 cut our Permanent Fund dividends a little bit. Last year
 18 we got a big 2,000, but holistically he's got to do
 19 something because it's challenging when -- the previous
 20 governor -- this is how the budget was set. He inherited
 21 it, and he has to go forward. So holistically, this
 22 really provides an opportunity for our region.
 23 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Okay. Is there anybody
 24 else who would like to make a comment? Okay. We thank
 25 you very much for your participation. Have a good

1 afternoon.
 2 (Proceedings adjourned at 3:20 p.m.)
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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
 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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