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DONLIN GOLD PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
810(a) PUBLIC HEARING

HOLY CROSS, ALASKA

Taken April 6, 2016
Commencing at 3:25 p.m.

Volume I - Pages 1 - 11, inclusive

Taken at
Holy Cross City Hall
Holy Cross, Alaska

Reported by:
Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

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1 course, then there would be increased traffic as far as
 2 subsistence goes. And that's my concern is, you know, if
 3 that -- if there is going to be a road coming over. Is
 4 that what you guys were talking about at all?
 5 **MR. ALAN BITTNER:** The road is not part of
 6 the proposal anymore between the Yukon River and the mine
 7 site.
 8 **MS. CONNIE WALKER:** Okay. Thanks. But
 9 anyway, but -- yeah, so then -- I'm not sure what else
 10 kind of -- what else kind of activity you guys will be
 11 doing on the Yukon but, you know, as far as fishing goes,
 12 I know we have very, very depleted fishing for
 13 subsistence-wise as it is. We are lucky to be able to get
 14 any, you know, for freezing and that. So you know, that
 15 would be my main concern is that would be -- we would be
 16 further impacted as far as getting fish, you know, for in
 17 the summertime.
 18 And the moose move around a lot, so I don't know what
 19 the -- you know, as far as the moose eating and stuff like
 20 that, how would they be, you know, affected by whatever is
 21 grown, and if they ingest that, we eat that, you know. So
 22 I guess that's just my concern about subsistence.
 23 Thank you.
 24 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** As Alan noted, while
 25 the Yukon River alternatives have been eliminated, we are

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1 at the draft stage. It's a draft analysis. It's draft
 2 conclusions. If you don't feel we should have eliminated
 3 alternatives that would have had a road coming down from
 4 the Yukon to supply cargo and fuel to the project from the
 5 Yukon, you can certainly comment on the Draft
 6 Environmental Impact Statement to note that or anything
 7 else regarding alternatives or anything else.
 8 **MS. CONNIE WALKER:** Thank you.
 9 **MR. ALAN BITTNER:** Thanks. Anybody else
 10 that wants to provide testimony related to subsistence?
 11 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** Is there anyone on the
 12 phone that has any testimony for the 810 ANILCA
 13 subsistence hearing?
 14 **MS. JOYCE NORMAN:** My name is Joyce
 15 Norman, and I was born here but wasn't raised, but I do a
 16 lot of my subsistence moose hunting and fowl water
 17 gathering over here. I haven't been able to do much
 18 fishing because it's been taken away from us due to other
 19 circumstances.
 20 I would like to make a comment on the emissions that
 21 this plant or whatever it is that's going to be over
 22 there. How will that affect the rest of the environment
 23 around the area? Because I know living on the peninsula
 24 now, there are gas plants down there. And the stuff that
 25 they emit in the area is absolutely disgusting, you know.

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1 And I know there is a lot of people who have been sick
 2 from it, cancers and whatever. So what kind of cloud will
 3 this plant -- you know, this project emit into the air?
 4 Because the wind will carry it. It will fall here and
 5 there. So it's going to affect the whole area, not just
 6 the Kuskokwim side.
 7 Thank you.
 8 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** The project as
 9 proposed, obviously when you consume diesel, there is NOx
 10 emissions, other constituents that come off of it.
 11 Because there is mercury in the rock around here, there
 12 would be some mercury that would be released. There is
 13 already mercury in the environment, air, ground, water,
 14 et cetera. There is cyanide and other chemicals used in
 15 the process. So yes, there would be negative emissions
 16 coming off the project. However, those emissions are
 17 required to meet federal and State standards, but they are
 18 still emissions. So you are correct. It would have some
 19 impact.
 20 So if there is any comments you would like to make
 21 later on that in relation to the draft EIS, you are
 22 welcome to do that.
 23 **MR. ALAN BITTNER:** Anyone else for the
 24 subsistence hearing? Okay. Thank you. And so with that,
 25 the ANILCA 810 hearing on the proposed Donlin Gold Mine

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1 here in the village of Holy Cross is now closed. Thank
 2 you.
 3 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** We thank you all very
 4 much for your hospitality for everything you have done for
 5 us to facilitate our coming into the community and
 6 disrupting you for the majority of the day. As I said, if
 7 you have any other comments or if you want to provide any
 8 additional testimony to BLM, you can provide that to
 9 either of us through the 30th of April. And if you need
 10 any additional information, certainly contact me or any
 11 other -- Mr. Bittner or anybody else that we had mentioned
 12 via any of the options we provided. And we can give you
 13 some additional information if there is anything you need.
 14 Thank you very much for your assistance.
 15 Donne, would you like to say something?
 16 **MS. DONNE FLEAGLE:** Sure. I'd like to
 17 thank the City of Holy Cross for all of your help. This
 18 is the second time that we have tried to have a meeting
 19 here. We have been successful. And each time you have
 20 bent over backwards and helped us. I'd like to thank the
 21 Walkers, who I know very well. Used to go to school with
 22 David. So it's really easy to pick up a phone and say,
 23 David, and David knows who to get ahold of and how to get
 24 us the help that we need. And Connie, certainly, one of
 25 her best friends is the mayor, and that really helps. And

1 the tribal council has always responded to our calls.
2 We would like to thank all of you for coming. It's
3 very nice to see you again. The last time I was here was,
4 like, 32 years ago, and you didn't have buildings up there
5 by the airport. Most of the village was down here by the
6 river. And it's a pleasure to be back, and it's a
7 pleasure to see all the new kids.

8 And so we want to thank you very much. If you are
9 ever in Anchorage, our offices are located across from the
10 Dena'ina Center in the ConocoPhillips building. And it's
11 AECOM. We are on the fifth floor. Stop in. See us. We
12 will give you a free cup of coffee.

13 **MR. KEITH GORDON:** And please, before you
14 go, we really would not like to fly out the pop, the
15 tangerines, the chocolate chip cookies. If you could help
16 us, we would appreciate it if we didn't have to haul all
17 of that out.

18 Thank you very much.
19 (Proceedings adjourned at 3:36 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 7th day of April 2016.

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

My Commission Expires: November 5, 2016