

## **Donlin Gold Project EIS**

Alaska Native Village CEO Association, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Presentation regarding the Donlin Gold Project and the Environment Impact Statement

April 2, 2014, 9:45am

### **Donlin Gold Presenters:**

Kurt Parkan, Donlin Gold LLC External Affairs Manager

Vernon Chimegalrea, Donlin Gold LLC Community Relations

### **EIS Project Team Attendees:**

Don Kuhle, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Taylor Brelsford, URS Project Manager

Donne Fleagle, URS Rural Liaison

Kim Varner Wetzel, URS Public Involvement Lead

### **Overview:**

A presentation about the proposed Donlin Gold Project, the EIS and permitting process, and workforce development was given on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 in Anchorage, Alaska at the Dena'ina Center. The presentations were organized on short notice, but the room was filled with almost 60 audience members.

Kurt introduced the panel, played an [11 minute project overview video](#) (also available in Yup'ik), and described the project components. Donlin Gold LLC revised some of its project design in response to public comments. For example, the original plan was to bring all fuel to the site via barges, but that was viewed as undesirable so they pursued the natural gas pipeline. The pipeline would be underground throughout the 315 mile length except at two sites due to earthquake faults. The pipeline would be a common carrier so communities could bring a plan and their own financing if they want to tap into the gas.

Don presented an update on the Donlin Gold Project EIS, including the geographic extent of scoping, scoping results, alternatives under analysis, and an overview of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and permitting process that falls within the National Environmental Policy Act.

Vernon spoke about the community outreach programs sponsored by Donlin Gold LLC. A few highlights of their program include approximately 30 meetings in the region per year, the development of a mining terminology glossary (as well as other materials translated into Yup'ik), the reprint of the Winter Survival Guidebook, support to existing safety programs, and the distributed of safety equipment like personal flotation devices.

Kurt's closing remarks were about workforce development. He recognized Wassillie Kameroff of Kalskag in the audience, one of their longest-standing employees. At one point, Donlin LLC had up to 90 percent shareholders working at the camps.

**Issues Raised:**

Question: You have no opposition [to the project] whatsoever? (joking)

*Response: We have certainly heard about people's concerns. There is a lot of understanding of the project that needs to occur. A lot of concerns have been raised to the Corps.*

Question: Was the tailings storage a natural lake already?

*Response: No, but it is a natural drainage area. Over time it will fill up. Tailings are like river silt, very finely ground. The water would be pumped out and reused over and over.*

Q: The waste rock pile - how would you manage the dust? When it rains, does the water go to the tailings storage facility?

*Response: The pile is just rocks. Any water that falls onto the mine site, stays within the site. No water that is in contact with the mine is discharged without treatment. A lot of water is needed for the milling process, so all the contact pond water is (re)used in the milling process.*

Q: What about natural drainages?

*Response: These would also capture waters onsite for use in the mining process. It is a zero-discharge mine design.*