

Donlin Gold Project EIS

Chuathbaluk Annual Tribal Membership Meeting

July 16, 2015

Tribal Office

Chuathbaluk, Alaska

Project Team Attendees:

Donne Fleagle, AECOM

Mercedes Thomas, AECOM

Community Members:

Mrs. Nelson

Annie Fredericks

Golga Sakar

Tracy Simeon

William Nesbitt III

Kathy Sakar

Evelyn Sakar

Teresa Hunter

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Overview:

Under the guidance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Donne Fleagle, Senior Specialist for Rural Community Engagement, gave the Donlin Gold Project EIS presentation on Thursday, July 16, 2015, in Chuathbaluk, Alaska at the Tribal Office. She was assisted by Intern Mercedes Thomas.

The Corps' presentation included a summary of the project components; an overview of the EIS process; a synthesis of the scoping comments; the process for developing alternatives; the TEK workshops, results of the fish studies conducted during summer 2014, and contact information for the Corps.

Issues Raised:

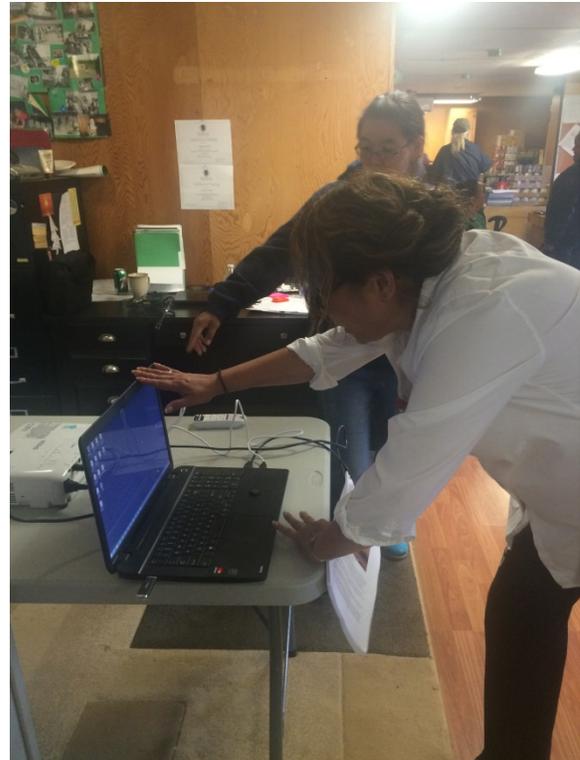
Question: What type of contaminants will be in the pit lake?

Response: I will consult my supervisor and get back with you.

Answer: Following closure of active mining, the mine pit will be allowed to fill with water from many sources, filling over approximately 50 years to become a lake. Key examples of water directed to the pit lake include tailings storage facility water, water seeping through the waste rock facility, and surface water runoff. After about 50 years, the pit is modeled to be full.

Pit lake water chemistry is complex because the lake will be large (approximately 2.2 miles by 1 mile) and very deep (approximately 1,500 feet at the deepest point). Generally the bottom layers of the pit lake include the higher concentrations of metals and suspended solids. This tendency of deep lakes to create layers is called stratification.

For the surface water layer (the top 33 feet of the lake) at year 53 through year 99 following closure, water quality models indicate that 9 metals would exceed concentrations that exceed



the most stringent water quality standards. These include Aluminum, Antimony, Arsenic, Cadmium, Lead, Manganese, Molybdenum, Selenium and Mercury. A Water Treatment Facility will treat some of the surface water layer to strict water quality standards and discharge the treated water into Crooked Creek.

Question: What will occur if the pit lake overflows and the water is released into the land and water nearby?

Response: I will consult my supervisor and get back with you.

Answer: It will take 50 years of surface water run off to reach the design height. There is a sufficient buffer between the design height and the top of the pit lake. At 50 years the water treatment process begins and clean water will be discharged back into Crooked Creek. It is highly unlikely according to the design that it would ever overflow and have water released into the land and water nearby.

Question: How many barge trips will there be in a year?

Response: During operations, there would be 122 round-trips per year in a 110 day window.

Comments: It was a very good presentation. You spoke at a level where no one had any difficulty hearing. You were concise. You explained it in a way that we understood it. You made it interesting.

Comments: I am in favor of the mine because of the jobs that our young men need. They need to have pride in themselves and take an interest in life. I am opposed also because it is going to be so big.



Comments: I am opposed because it is going to bring new people into the area and they'll compete with us for our subsistence food. Also it will cause divorces and bring alcohol and drugs into the village.