

## Smith, Neal

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**From:** Craig, Bill  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2016 12:56 PM  
**To:** Bellion, Tara; Evans, Jessica; Smith, Neal  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Written Comments  
**Attachments:** Donlin1.pdf; Donlin2.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

-----Original Message-----

From: Gordon, Keith POA [<mailto:Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil>]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 12:53 PM  
To: Craig, Bill  
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Written Comments

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Beans [<mailto:rlbeans@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 12:50 PM  
To: Gordon, Keith POA <[Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil](mailto:Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Comments

Mr. Gordon,

Attached to this email is my written comments in support of the Donlin mine project proposed to be constructed in the upper Kuskokwim river area. I will send hard copies to you in the mail at my earliest convenience.

If you have any questions or need for me to resend this email, please contact me. Thank you for allowing me to comment in support of the project.

Robert Beans

Robert L. Beans  
P.O. Box 2645  
Palmer, AK 99645  
Home phone: 907.746.2733  
Mobile: 907.355.5088  
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April 24, 2016

Re: Written Comments

Mr. Keith Gordon, Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District  
COPOA-RD-Gordon, P.O. Box 6898  
JBER, AK 99506-0898

Dear Mr. Gordon:

My name is Robert Beans, born and raised at Mountain Village, AK, in the region formerly known as the Wade Hampton Census Area now called the Kusilvak Census Area. I am a lifelong Alaska Native (Sugpiaq/Yupiaq) currently serving as a Board member on the Calista Corporation, the regional Corporation whose service area spans the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and where the proposed Donlin Gold mine is situated.

In March of this year, I spoke in favor of the mine during a hearing held at Tooksook Bay, AK I am following up with written comments, still in favor of the project.

Previous to me learning mining is now done in an environmentally sound fashion, I was opposed to the project largely based on my views of how mining operated without federal and state oversight. Conducting my own review of the existing mines in Alaska, I found that they operate environmentally sound with little or no danger to fish and wildlife. I have since changed my views on mining in Alaska. On a subsequent tour of the Barrick gold mine in Elko, NV I saw first hand how environmentally sound the minerals are extracted and the reclamation of the land to near pristine condition.


I am in favor of the Donlin mine project because of the following:

1. The jobs it will create for the shareholders of Calista Corporation. As many well know, the Kusilvak Census area is the poorest in the State and perhaps in the nation. The average household income is \$10,000. Village based gainful employment is very limited and social ills are at a high.
2. Calista Corporation, as all ANCSA Native Corporations, is obligated to share its wealth with other regional corporations which have a trickle down effect to the village corporations. This helps the corporations in realizing the mandated obligation to promote the socio-economic lives of their shareholders, regionally and at local village levels.

3. In the proposed Donlin project, there is a plan to construct a natural gas pipeline from Cook Inlet to the mine sight for the purpose of providing the necessary and adequate energy for the entire project. The proposal estimates that, after use for the Donlin project, there would be excess natural gas from the 14" pipeline that could possibly be used for alternative electric energy by partnering with a competent electric utility. This is a peripheral benefit for the Yukon Kuskokwim region. Once an energy efficient power plant and the subsequent tie lines erected, there would be no need for diesel power, only limited to storage of the diesel fuel for emergency stand-by power. Subsequently, lower electric cost will be realized by the residents of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. High energy costs are a hindrance for village based economic development and small businesses. On the other hand, with the lower costs brought on by a large natural gas power plant and the tie lines, these village based economies and small businesses would thrive and be sustainable.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above contact information provided.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Beans