

Smith, Neal

From: Steve Borell <sborell@alaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 7:01 PM
To: donlingoldeis, POA
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin DEIS comment letter
Attachments: Corps - Donlin Gold DEIS comment letter 4-26-16.pdf

Mr. Keith Gordon, Project Manager
Alaska District CEPOA-RD-Gordon
P.O. Box 6898
JBER, AK, 99506-0898

Attached please find my comment letter on the Donlin DEIS.

Sincerely,

Steve Borell

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6420 Rockridge Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516
907-230-7580

April 26, 2016

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

POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil

RE: Donlin Gold DEIS

Dear Mr Gordon,

I support Alternative 2 for the Donlin Gold DEIS. There are however two areas where the DEIS is deficient, specifically where it addresses the impacts on the affected communities.

The DEIS does not effectively address the benefits to the local communities, and to all of Alaska communities where the workers will reside. Each employee at Donlin will go through initial training which will include safety and first aid. The safety training will cover basic worker safety such as personal protective equipment, workplace inspections, proper use of tools, proper use of ladders, proper lifting procedures, how to block mobile equipment when not in use, etc. Each job will also have specific training related to that specific job.

Every employee will also receive basic First Aid training. This will include not just the production employees but every person working at the minesite, port, road, airfield, etc. Several dozen employees will go further and receive several months of training to become EMT certified. For each shift there will be several EMTs on the minesite at all times.

The result of this training is that the communities where the employees live will greatly benefit. When the workers are at home they will have these safety and first aid skills to help their families and neighbors. They will be safer and they will help educate everyone around them how to work and play safer and when accidents does occur, they will have the first aid skills immediately available.

The above benefits have already been observed during the exploration phase at Donlin. A safety culture has already developed among what thus far have been temporary employees. This safety culture will only improve as the mine begins operating.

The second deficiency in the DEIS relates to the future opportunities that will be open to persons that are working at Donlin. Working at Donlin will open new opportunities and new horizons for many people who for all their lives have been without hope. The experience they gain at Donlin will allow these employees to take those skills anywhere in the world that has mining or other jobs needing those skills. This benefit has been observed for the people that have worked at Red Dog.

I urge that the above points be incorporated into the FEIS and that the FEIS and Record of Decision be completed at the earliest possible time that will ensure a legally defensible document.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Borell, P.E.
Principal