



Brice Environmental Services Corporation

Fairbanks Office  
301 Cushman Street, Suite 100  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
907.456.1955 PH  
www.briceenvironmental.com

Anchorage Office  
3800 CenterPoint Drive, Suite 520  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
907.275.2820 PH  
www.briceenvironmental.com

Construction • Environmental • Transportation

SBA Certified ANC 8(a)



April 11, 2016

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

Ref: Comments regarding the Donlin Mine Draft EIS

Dear Mr. Gordon,

I am writing to express my strong support for Alternative 2 in the Draft EIS for the Donlin Gold Mine Project. I have lived in Fairbanks, Alaska, for 40 years and have spent my entire career in the environmental field working in the oil, mining, and private sectors. As President of Brice Environmental Services Corporation, a proud subsidiary of the Calista Corporation, I have been directly involved with numerous projects throughout Alaska, and in particular projects in the Yukon Kuskokwim region. I have seen firsthand that good jobs provide opportunities that both sustain communities and fund traditional subsistence activities.

For a region that is both the poorest in Alaska and the most expensive to live the benefits that Donlin Gold offers with this multi-year, environmentally responsible project are tremendous. With 3,000 construction jobs for 4 years to construct the mine and between 600 and 1,200 jobs for the 27.5 estimated life of the mine, significant positive impacts on the economy of the region as well as the State of Alaska will be realized. In addition to direct employment and contracting opportunities associated with Donlin Gold, many indirect business opportunities are anticipated in areas such as logistics, transportation, training, education and health care.

Since the mid-1990s Donlin Gold has conducted extensive studies to develop an environmentally and socially responsible gold mine project. More than \$480 million has been spent on exploration of the property, engineering and environmental studies, camp support, flight services, fuel and other supplies. Their focus on developing an environmentally safe project is outstanding with:

- A design that will reduce the overall footprint of the mine and allow for safe management of water over the mine life and post closure.
- A proposal to use natural gas for power generation to reduce both barge traffic on the Kuskokwim River and to reduce air emissions.

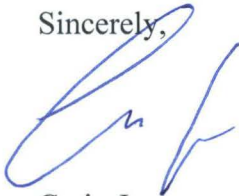
- Constructing the first large mine in Alaska that employs a synthetic liner underneath its entire tailings impoundment as well as dry closure of the tailings storage facility at the end of the mine's life.
- Constructing a tailings dam of engineered rock fill and a downstream construction method that is the most stable of all tailings dam types, designed for water storage and to withstand earthquakes.
- State of the art mercury emissions controls to ensure that mercury emissions are well below air quality standards.
- Constructing an active water treatment plant to ensure that water that is discharged from the site is treated to meet water quality standards.

The land and resources for Donlin belong to the shareholders of TKC and Calista. It is TKC's and Calista's right and duty to support development of their natural resources for the benefit of the people of the region. Calista selected the mineral rights at Donlin Gold, and TKC selected the surface estate during the Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), so their shareholders would benefit from the development and production of the mine. The economic opportunity for shareholders and descendants is precisely the purpose behind Congress' grant of entitlement of these lands to Calista and TKC.

For the past 20 years Donlin Gold has proven their commitment to developing this project that is consistent with the values of the Yup'ik and Athabascan cultures of the region, maximizes local resources, and prioritizes environmental safety first and foremost.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit the above comments regarding this exciting opportunity for both the Lower Yukon-Kuskokwim Region and our State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Craig Jones', written over a white background.

Craig Jones  
President

[Craigj@briceenvironmental.com](mailto:Craigj@briceenvironmental.com)  
907-459-3022 (Direct)  
907-978-3022 (Cell)

**PRIORITY®**  
★ MAIL ★



VISIT US AT [USPS.COM](http://USPS.COM)®  
ORDER FREE SUPPLIES ONLINE

FROM: Brice Environmental  
301 Cushman Street Suite 300  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

TO: Mr. Keith Gordon  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
PO BOX 6898  
TBER, AK 99506-0898

Label 228, July 2013

FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL USE

This packaging is the property of the U.S. Postal Service® and is provided solely for use in sending Priority Mail® shipments. Misuse may be a violation of federal law. This packaging is not for resale. EPI4F © U.S. Postal Service, July 2013; All rights reserved.