

**From:** [Craig, Bill](#)  
**To:** [Bellion, Tara](#); [Evans, Jessica](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on DEIS Donlin  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 8:50:25 AM  
**Attachments:** [SKM\\_C754e16012516470.pdf](#)

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

From: Gordon, Keith POA [<mailto:Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil>]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 6:16 AM  
To: Craig, Bill  
Subject: FW: Comments on DEIS Donlin

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

From: Monica James [<mailto:mjames@calistacorp.com>]  
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 7:02 PM  
To: Gordon, Keith POA <[Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil](mailto:Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on DEIS Donlin

Mr. Gordon,

Please find my comment letter on the DEIS Donlin Project. I plan to attend the meeting on 28 January 2016 meeting at the Egan Center.

Respectfully,

Monica James

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"22 CFR Part 125.4 (b) (9) applicable."



CALISTA CORPORATION  
www.calistacorp.com

January 28, 2016

Mr. Keith Gordon  
Regulatory Division  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 6898  
Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, AK 99506-0898

Re: Calista Comments on the Donlin Gold Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Gordon,

Calista Corporation is an Alaska Native Corporation (ANC) organized under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and is pleased to provide the following comments on the Donlin Gold Draft EIS (DEIS).

The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC) and Calista own the surface estate within the project footprint and Calista owns the mineral estate which is the focus and driver of the Donlin Gold Project. Calista is mandated under ANCSA to manage its lands for the maximum benefit of its shareholders, many of whom live in the region and in the vicinity of the project. Not only will Calista and TKC shareholders benefit from the project, but this project provides a singular opportunity to satisfy the intent of the all-important Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, to the benefit of all Alaska Native Corporations and the struggling state economy.

As an ANCSA corporation, Calista has two primary goals: generate profit for the corporation and its shareholders and provide other socioeconomic opportunity and benefits to the shareholders and their descendants. The Donlin Gold Project has, in the past, and to a much larger extent in the future, is anticipated to provide vocational training and employment opportunities that otherwise do not exist in the economically challenged Kuskokwim region and surrounding areas.

As stated in the DEIS, an estimated 1,600 to 1,900 individuals from Yukon-Kuskokwim communities would be employed during construction. During operations, an estimated 500 to 600 regional residents would be employed. Employment income could help to offset the current trend of decreasing income from commercial fishing. For each year the project is operational, an estimated 650 jobs and \$40 million in annual wages would be generated statewide, while sales within the state would increase by \$150 million per year. Beyond these benefits, the landowners will receive substantial royalty payments that will be shared with other ANCSA regional and village corporations. State and local governments would receive tax revenue that currently doesn't exist.

Improved transportation and communication infrastructure to support the mine, including port and pipeline facilities, can potentially provide better services and lower the cost of goods to local residents. Ultimately, economic development of such a large project will help fulfill the broader goal of self-determination by allowing residents and Calista shareholders to significantly participate in the world economy. Calista intends to be an active, involved participant in the development of our land and mineral resources at Donlin Creek.

Calista supports and encourages the Army Corps of Engineers to permit Alternative 2, the Applicant's Proposed Action. Calista believes that the Proposed Action is designed to minimize environmental and negative social impact and will provide long-lasting socioeconomic benefit to not only Calista Shareholders and descendants but other residents in the region and the State of Alaska as a whole.

Quyana,

CALISTA CORPORATION

Monica James,  
EVP/Chief Operating Officer