

From: [Bellion, Tara](#)
To: [Evans, Jessica](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] say it aint" so
Date: Thursday, May 26, 2016 5:01:15 PM

We will use as comment per Keith (second email to follow)

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

From: Gordon, Keith POA [<mailto:Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil>]
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 4:40 PM
To: Isaacs, Jon; Bellion, Tara
Cc: Newman, Sheila M POA; Brewer, Jason D POA
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] say it aint' so

Jon,

Per A. Capela's request the Cities comments in this and the other letters I will forward are comments on the DEIS. As those other emails may discuss a broader range of comments I will leave it to Ann to clarify/refine any comments in those emails. AECOM may also seek clarification via Shelia or Jason but that clarification (as you know) must be documented in writing (Ann's email clarification would be sufficient documentation).

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

From: Ann Capela [<mailto:acapela@cityofbethel.net>]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2016 8:52 PM
To: Gordon, Keith POA <Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] say it aint' so

Keith

I heard today that you were leaving the Corps.

Just from the times we discussed the issues of Donlin Gold project - you were such an asset to the Corps and the local communities.

I hope your replacement has a solid grasp on these YK area communities and villages.

But before you go, can you confirm that the City of Bethel concerns regarding Emergency Management Plan of managing Donlin Gold mine transportation and storage facilities, while outsources to Lynden Transportation, is and should be evaluated as part of this DRAFT EIS?
That the emergency preparedness of this project is not limited to the end of the public comment period but will be considered as an integral agency dialogue.

I met with Donlin Gold and their parent Barrick Gold last month and brought the same issues regarding the Emergency Management of the transportation route and they passed it on to "it is outsourced" and is not part of this EIS.

The second argument Donlin Gold stated that "Lynden Cargo" and the company they lease the property for the Bethel dock facility is not their facility and not related to Donlin Gold project.

I say it is given the old "but for" Donlin Gold project - Knik yard in Bethel would not be planning a massive expansion.

While Donlin Gold states that the Coast Guard is in charge of the inland waters - and Lynden Cargo works with the Coast Guard all the time - to me - this does not negate the need for a emergency response plan as part of this EIS process. I have not seen any specific plans on how many men that are trained to spill response of cyanide, mercury and high explosives in the Bethel dock area (which you

visited) will be 24/7/365 in Bethel.

Neither Donlin Gold or Lynden Cargo or Knik properties have any plans on securing fencing for the facility, road for Bethel emergency crews to get there, etc.

Keith, the City of Bethel has no plausible way of responding to any emergency of spills of these highly dangerous toxic chemicals on the ground or in the water. The high explosives and the storage of these worry me a great deal.

I made the Donlin Gold executive aware that the City of Bethel does not have water pressure in the proposed dock yard or for vessels travelling on the river. The City has no piped water system.

I informed the Donlin Gold executives that the City is currently planning a main pipe water and sewer along the State Highway in Bethel and advised them to build a water and sewer line off of the main line to create the necessary water pressure and sewer for discharge of the vessels.

My concerns were not taken seriously by Donlin Gold representatives.

I don't see this as a priority for Donlin Gold unless the company is compelled to do so by the permitting agency.

I would request that at least my emails previously to this and this one be considered as a response to the EIS for Donlin Gold Mine proposed project.

When Donlin Gold and Barrick Gold President and CEO were here in Bethel - I asked the top executives (including their PR representative) if they wanted to be hauled in front of a Congressional inquiry of major spills or disasters of explosives and be asked "what did you know and when did you know about these dangers?" - no one wanted this type of scenario - but I don't see Donlin Gold or Barrick Gold doing anything out of the "goodness of their corporate heart" given corporations don't have hearts and spend large amounts of money that need to be justified to their investors because they corporation is compelled by law to do so.

The City of Bethel draws its potable water from the same area as the Kuskokwim River basin. I do not know how far the water table in this region spreads.

Donlin Gold and Barrick Gold executives stated to me that the company would have trained men stationed in Bethel to deal with any spills in the River or on land. They would also provide training to Bethel Emergency response team. That to me was very vague "promise" with no real teeth to this.

Since this EIS is the first line of "defense" for residents of Bethel - I, as the official "incident commander" need to make the authorizing agency to be aware of the shortcomings in the Donlin Gold Mine DRAFT EIS Plan regarding their emergency management response plan to spills in the river and on land and for the remediation of the river and the land contained within the City of Bethel City Limits.

As the City Manager and the Incident Commander of Emergency Preparedness as mandated by US Homeland Security administered by the State of Alaska - I am requesting that the Donlin Gold mine proposal be required to submit and gain approval of the local City government that is responsible for the safety of the local residents (over 6,000 people that live in Bethel) with no way out of the area except by a airplane if a catastrophic explosion or spill takes place in and around city of Bethel. Moreover, that the local governments, Village governments, along the Kuskokwim River do not have the governance capacity to deal with scale of such emergencies and that the "project" in question is compelled to prepare an Emergency Preparedness Plan with partnership of the City of Bethel.

Thank you for a wonderful job you did while at the CORPS.

Ann

Ann K. Capela, City Manager
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