

From: [karen clautice](#)
To: [donlingoldeis, POA](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold EIS comment
Date: Monday, May 30, 2016 7:29:28 PM

I am writing in support of Alternative 2, Donlin Gold's proposed project with a short personal account.

This area has a long history of mining and these lands were specifically selected under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) for their mineral development potential. Donlin Gold is proposing to develop this land in partnership with The Kuskokwim Corporation (surface estate owner) and the Calista Corporation (subsurface estate owner). Royalties paid to the Calista Corporation will in part be redistributed to other regional and village corporations as provided by ANCSA, thus benefiting many in the State during a downturning Alaska economy.

A few years back I was a geologist on a drilling project at Donlin. The driller was from a company in Anchorage and the rest of the drilling crew was locally hired. I was impressed with management's commitment to train employees technically over and above the tasks expected and to provide leadership opportunities. The driller I worked with trained the young men on our crew so well that they were able to apply what he taught them, add it to their extensive knowledge gained from working on their snow machines and recognize a serious mechanical problem with our drill before he did. In conversations over breaks, it was obvious the young men enjoyed living, working and learning on teams with their friends and many cousins and were extremely proud to be able to provide for their families and children back home. There were good opportunities for women as well as men in all facets of the exploration camp from the kitchen/cafeteria to exploration offices, transportation, health and safety, supply, and work crews. The employees I spoke with seemed happy with their work schedule that included breaks at home (longer than I've witnessed anywhere else) provided by a management willing to work with local needs and customs.

I believe the development of the Donlin mine would be an economic, educational, and training benefit many times greater than I witnessed while it was an exploration camp. Its development with associated infrastructure would help one of the poorest areas of our State long beyond the expected 27.5 year life of the mine.

Sincerely,

Karen H Clautice, P.O. Box 83628, Fairbanks, AK 99708