

Smith, Neal

From: Craig, Bill
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 1:14 PM
To: Bellion, Tara; Evans, Jessica; Smith, Neal
Subject: FW: Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment
Attachments: Donlin Gold Support.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

From: donlingoldeis, POA [<mailto:POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil>]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 12:45 PM
To: Craig, Bill
Subject: FW: Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment

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

From: Mark Erickson [<mailto:marke@massexcavation.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 9:48 AM
To: donlingoldeis, POA <POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment

Please see attached letter in support of Donlin Gold project.



April 22, 2016

US Army Corps of Engineers
Alaska District
CEPOA-RD-Gordon
P.O. Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

Attn: Mr. Keith Gordon, Project Manager

Re: Donlin Gold Project

Subject: Comments on the Draft EIS

Mr. Gordon-

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my support of the Donlin Gold project and encourage you to continue to work with them and the surrounding region to move this important project forward to development. It is very apparent that the developers have worked diligently to develop a very large project that is sensitive to the environmental impacts it will cause and responsive to the communities and region it will reside in.

Very importantly, the social and economic benefits of this project to the region, state, and to the nation include jobs and business opportunities, revenue sharing for Native corporation shareholders, reduced cost of energy and sustainment of native culture. The immense benefits that will culminate in a region that is challenged economically will contribute dramatically to stability for the peoples that leave there.

The work that has been done to ensure an environmentally responsible development is extensive and illustrates a strong commitment to preserve and protect the surrounding area. The mine design incorporates state of the art technology and best practice measures to ensure responsible control of all mining operations and long term stability after the mine is exhausted. The need for significant power has led to developing a solution to import natural gas as a much cleaner alternative than diesel fuel. The natural gas supply and power generation will extend further into the region benefiting the communities with reduced energy costs and cleaner burning fuel.

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. The sheer magnitude of the project will improve systems that will benefit the communities by greatly reducing costs for goods and services.

The project also follows through on the purpose of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) by developing the natural resources for the benefit of the Native people of the region. Donlin Gold has greatly benefited the region and its peoples during the research and exploratory phases of the project already. It will continue and expand its benefits as it goes forward to development, construction and operational phases. I strongly encourage the Corps of Engineers to continue to move this project forward prudently in cooperation with the developers and the peoples of the region.

Thank you,

Mark J. Erickson
GM, Mass Excavation, Inc.