From: <u>Michelle Toohey</u>
To: <u>donlingoldeis, POA</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please see public comment letter on Donlin Gold Draft EIS

Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 12:48:57 PM
Attachments: Rick Fox Public Comment Ltr Donlin.pdf

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Michelle Toohey 907-229-7855



May 31, 2106

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

Attn: CEPOA-RD-Gordon

Dear Mr. Gordon,

Developing Alaska's natural resources has played a huge part in my career here and I'm thankful for the opportunities this state has to offer. Currently I serve as the Senior Vice President and General Manager of Alaska Operations for the Edison Chouest Offshore Group of Companies (ECO). I am responsible for leading all ECO vessel activities in the Arctic, as well as overseeing the operation of Chouest affiliates Fairweather, LLC, Deadhorse Aviation Center, Tulugaq, LLC and VDOS, LLC (Virtual Data Operations Support).

Prior to this position and starting in 2002, I was picked to lead Shell's operations capability strategy, responsible for growing and developing the operating workforce and leadership for the Americas. I became the Alaska asset manager in 2006, taking a lead role in Shell's growing exploration and development activities in the Arctic. I was charged with bringing innovative ideology to the Arctic oil and gas industry and building relationships with the communities and villages of the North Slope and retired from that position in 2010.

I have first hand knowledge of what is required for companies to partner with local villages and communities on projects of mutual benefit. I strongly believe that the Donlin Gold Project in the state's Yukon-Kuskokwim Region is a standout example of a company that is doing it right, and am pleased to comment on the Draft EIS before you for consideration.

I'm confident given the company's years of work, money invested and commitment to surrounding communities that the project will be conducted in an environmentally responsible manner with respect for the land, fish and game, and the residents' subsistence way of living.

In a region that is one of the poorest in the state, the project will not only bring jobs and opportunity but the infrastructure included such as the natural gas pipeline, will allow the region the potential to bring in fuel less expensively.

Donlin Gold has been working hard for over twenty years to bring this project on board. In that time, the company has held many meetings with Y-K Region residents, has listened to their concerns and has made substantial changes to the project as a result. The company has spent hundreds of millions to ensure the safety and security of the region.

The project has been a long time coming allowing time for due diligence in planning for construction, production and closure. Now is the time to move forward with the Donlin Gold Mine Project for the benefit of Alaska's people. Your consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rick Fox

Senior Vice President & General Manager