

## Smith, Neal

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**From:** Howard Grey <h\_l\_grey@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 24, 2016 7:18 PM  
**To:** donlingoldeis, POA  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on Donlin Draft EIS  
**Attachments:** Image (60).jpg; Image (61).jpg

Attached for your review are my comments on the Donlin Draft EIS. The original signed document has been mailed to your office via USPS.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding my response.

Regards,

Howard J. Grey

Howard J. Grey  
1927 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



April 22, 2016

Mr. Keith Gordon  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Alaska District  
CEPOA-RD-Gordon  
PO Box 6898  
JBER, AK 99506-0898

Subject: Donlin Gold Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Gordon,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Donlin Gold proposed project. I have had an opportunity to review information developed by your agency and the applicant, Donlin Gold, and am in favor of seeing the project go forward.

The applicant has been working on the project well over two decades. During this time they have developed an extensive array of environmental, engineering and economic data, preparatory to mining. This has shown that the development of a mine is viable and can meet the strict environmental standards required by the Corps and the other state and federal regulatory agencies.

The company, Donlin Gold, has addressed key environmental issues such as the design of safe and stable mining procedures and tailings storage facilities that take into consideration predicted seismic events. The designs also anticipate the end of mine scenario providing for restoration that will return the area to a scenic condition. Throughout the permitting phase the company has spent considerable time informing the local residents of their plans and inviting comments or concerns that could be used to improve the project.

Support, supply and transportation are more often than not a major challenge in Alaska where infrastructure is lacking. Where aircraft access can sometimes be used to support exploration this form of transport is not conducive to major mine development and continued operations. The applicant after extensive studies has determined that the existing navigable Kuskokwim River coupled with a short mine road offers the best and most environmentally sensitive mode of access. Here again comments from local residents was obtained and used to address concerns of others using the river system.



Providing for heating and power fuel requirements are also a major challenge for an operation such as this. After investigating several alternatives Donlin focused on using natural gas from Cook Inlet supplies as the preferable fuel source. This will assure a dependable long term supply for the mine life. Again they looked at methods to minimize the environmental effects of the proposed pipeline needed to transport the gas.

The area surrounding the proposed mine has a number of small and generally isolated communities. Many in these communities depend on subsistence. However as times change this is becoming harder to do. Utilities, fuel and food staples are expensive due to transportation and added logistics cost. This can make it more difficult for those enjoying their lifestyle to remain at home. One of the major obstacles is a general lack of good paying, long term employment close to home. Projects such as Donlin fill this need. From the start the Company has promoted local hire and incorporated it into exploration and other pre development activities. Recipients of this program will tell you of its many benefits and that they are ready, willing and eager to participate in the next phase of development. I think if behooves all of us, including the permitting agencies, to help with this effort.

In closing I wish to again express my support for this project and hope that all parties will do their best to expedite the review and approval process. In the meantime if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard J. Grey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Howard J. Grey

