

Comments are in regards to Subsistence impacts

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My comments to the EIS on Donlin Gold February 1, 16

The late Governor Jay Hammond would ask three questions when considering supporting or funding large scale projects.

Is it environmentally sound?
Can it pay for itself?
Do the majority of the people want it?

If he couldn't say yes to all three he was inclined to voice opposition.

Using that same approach, just based on the first question I agree.

One of Hammond's last interviews was in the Tundra Drums January 10, 2008. He was questioned on what impact of the Pebble Open Pit mine on subsistence. His comment is true for Donlin Gold.

He said. "I think the presence of a enormous mine with a thousand people cluttering about, is going to change the subsistence life experience and alter it in such a manner as to be something that we will lose forever. I tend to agree.

The impact this open pit mine will change our lives forever. Imagine 3 barge trains going up the river everyday in the summer. That is in addition to already existing traffic. Imagine the massive movement of soil , destruction of habit near salmon spawning streams and the Kuskokwim River. If it goes through all this becomes our reality.

Chapter 4 of the EIS document is one of the most important Chapters to read in this massive report. It is titled Impacts

4.1 Geology

Potential impacts to geology and geomorphology are associated primarily with physical changes to the mine area as a result of exploration, construction, mining, and reclamation activities, and changes to the pipeline corridor as a result of clearing, trenching, backfilling, and reclamation activities. Potential impacts to the geology and geologic resources at the Donlin Gold, LLC (Donlin Gold) mine site include impacts from direct mining activities, impacts from ground movement

during pit development and/or ongoing mining processes, impacts from erosion as a result of mining activities, and impacts from fugitive dust.

4.2 Water Resources

Water resources—surface water and groundwater, and the quality of both—are inextricably linked. Changes in groundwater volumes or levels as a result of the proposed Donlin Gold project's activities would potentially impact surface water flows and water quality; these changes in surface water volumes or flow patterns may impact groundwater levels. Impacts to water resources were cumulatively assessed with two models, including a site-wide water balance model and a numerical groundwater model (BGC Engineering, Inc. 2013).

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The Open Pit itself is 2.2 miles long and 1 mile wide and is 1800 feet deep, That is just the pit. The project is massive. We are talking 25 square miles of destruction of habitat to get to the gold.

Short term benefits are jobs, 3,000 jobs for 3 years sounds good but is that worth it. 1700 jobs for 21 years. Is worth it. *The value of our fish. what is it. just for Kenes its 72 million*
It is the long term impact to the quality of our lives on the Kuskokwim River that concern me. I wish I could be sure about all the safety mechanisms being put in place as stated in this report. I admit most of it is over my head. This is what I do know, We already have a very fragile ecosystem that our fish, our birds and other life depend on. I might not understand your full report but I know our way of life and the resources we depend on will be affected. That was scares me.

While I commend Donlin Gold's efforts and their support of lots of events and activities in our region in addition to the efforts to provide information, I continue to go on record saying I oppose this mine. It's too big, There are just too many negatives. The tailing dam breach of Mount Polley Mine in British Columbia is a reality. I don't want it to be our reality on the Kuskokwim but it's a possibility and Kuskokwim Region People will live with that fear for generations to come.

I submit these comments along with comments from a article in Alaska Dispatch from August 23, 2014. Thank you.