

**From:** [Bellion, Tara](#)  
**To:** [Evans, Jessica](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 9:55:19 AM

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

From: donlingoldeis, POA [<mailto:POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil>]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:30 AM  
To: Craig, Bill  
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment

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

From: Richard Hughes [<mailto:rahughes@gci.net>]  
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2016 2:47 PM  
To: donlingoldeis, POA <[POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil](mailto:POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is go on record as supporting the responsible development of the Donlin Gold mine. This project is a significant economic opportunity in all economic times in Alaska, accentuated by a serious current downturn in economic conditions in Alaska. Good paying job opportunities will be created in a region where jobs are very limited. ANCSA 7(i) provisions will provide dividends to all Alaska shareholders. Good engineering of the facility to minimize impact through innovative applications/developments will minimize negative impacts to the extent possible. And Donlin Gold is committed to transparency in their operation.

The economic opportunity created by this project is very significant. Annual payroll is forecast to be in the order of \$100 million annually. Infrastructure plans will benefit villages in the region and include power generation, water treatment, access roads, housing, river ports, a gas pipeline to the area, an airstrip, local business opportunities, etc. This project will grow Alaska's economy. It will be the biggest economic development project in the YK region and provide economic stability for the area. More than \$480 million has been spent during exploration of the project.

The project will create employment opportunities for the region. The Donlin Gold project will create 3,000 jobs during construction and between 600 and 1,200 during operations. Business opportunities will be created in providing logistics, transportation, training, education, health care, and so forth. New high paying jobs will be created and provide and allow residents to remain in the YK region to preserve their subsistence way of life. Skills obtained at Donlin will prepare the workforce for future occupations in other similar ventures.

ANCSA 7(i) revenue sharing will assure that all Alaska Native shareholders benefit from the venture. Donlin Gold is committed to Alaska hire with priority to TKC and Calista shareholders and residents of the YK region. Local hire history by the project indicates over 90% are locals.

Good environmental monitoring and engineering will assure a responsibly developed and operated project. Environmental studies have been in progress since 1990. Barge traffic reduction has been accomplished through construction of a 14-inch gas pipeline for power generation. A synthetic liner will be used under the tailings storage facility. The company has studied ways of avoiding disturbances to fishing activities on the Kuskokwim River. The project has been designed to reduce the overall footprint of the mine and allow for safe management of water over the mine life and post closure. Engineered rock will be used to build the tailings storage facility. A discharge water treatment facility will assure that effluent meets water quality standards.

Transparency will be a condition of the operations. Informational materials will be translated to Yupik upon request to inform the residents about the proposed mine. Donlin Gold will host village meetings throughout the YK region with updated information on the project.

Yours truly,

Richard A. Hughes, PE

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