

Smith, Neal

From: Mary Martinez <mmartinez@calistacorp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 10:20 AM
To: donlingoldeis, POA
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment
Attachments: M.Martinez_Comment to Donlin Draft EIS_April 2016.docx.pdf

Please see attachment.

Thank you,

Mary

Mary Martinez
Land Planner
Calista Corporation
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“22 CFR Part 125.4 (b) (9) applicable.”

April 26, 2016

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:

I am an Alaska Native from the Calista region and I am focused on helping my children meet their full potential through education and relevant enrichment programs that expand their experiences and horizons. Earnings from employment at gold mine in the Calista region could help families like mine in the communities in the Calista region support their children in attaining higher education. Many rural communities do not have access to enrichment camps. Donlin can give students in the region such exposure and provide opportunities to youth at an early age to help them aspire to become educated and trained individuals. Students in elementary grades and high school would be able to connect their studies through tours and internships at the mine with future careers in resource development, environmental management and related fields.

Dividends Calista pays to its shareholders from profits earned by the mine could lessen the financial burden of higher education and give more students an opportunity to attend universities and training centers in fields of their choice. More students will be able to earn degrees and skills to contribute to the Calista region's economy and to the work force of Alaska. Our family directly benefited from the Donlin gold project while my husband worked in exploration of the project since the project began. The pay check he brought home supported our family of four children to provide for our living expenses and for after school activities to enhance our children's academic skills.

As for the development of a mine in the Calista region, a mining company today must conduct its operations with full disclosure of plans and must use mechanisms and methodologies in its development process that are regulated by law. A mine must adhere to stringent rules and live under the watchful eyes of agencies and submit mandatory reports to them. By submitting our comments to the Draft EIS, people of the Calista region are participating in the mine process. Directors of our regional corporation, who have studied and learned about mine techniques, have participated in negotiating terms we can accept. Along with the stipulations from environmental agencies, Calista region stakeholders will be an additional eye and voice to ensure mine operations are conducted in the most responsible way. For these reasons, I feel confident to support Alternative 2 of the Draft EIS.

Sincerely,



Mary Martinez