

**From:** [Craig, Bill](#)  
**To:** [Bellion, Tara](#); [Evans, Jessica](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Donlin Gold Draft EIS Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, March 31, 2016 10:18:45 AM

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

From: donlingoldeis, POA [<mailto:POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil>]  
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2016 10:11 AM  
To: Craig, Bill  
Subject: FW: Donlin Gold Draft EIS Comment

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

From: David Myers [<mailto:dmyers@stgincorporated.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 1:18 PM  
To: donlingoldeis, POA <[POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil](mailto:POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Draft EIS Comment

I, David Myers, having managed rural infrastructure projects throughout Alaska for over 15 years and being a life-long Alaskan, understand the significant benefits and opportunities the Donlin Gold mine would bring to our state, especially to the poorest region, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. I strongly support the responsible development of this mine, particularly Donlin Gold's "Alternative 2" approach to this development.

Under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Calista Regional Corporation (Calista) selected the mineral rights at Donlin Gold, The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC) selected the surface estate, both in efforts to benefit shareholders from the development and production of the mineral resources. This economic opportunity for shareholders and descendants of Calista is precisely the purpose behind Congress' grant of entitlement of these lands to Calista and TKC.

There are many social and economic benefits of this project to the region, state, and to the nation, including:

- \* Through the ANCSA 7(i) and 7(j) revenue sharing provisions, the Donlin Gold project will provide revenue to all Alaska Native regional and village corporations and shareholders.
- \* The jobs and the economic stimulus provided by Donlin Gold would help sustain communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim (YK) region and fund traditional and subsistence activities.
- \* The potential for lower cost energy options to the region as the proposed natural gas pipeline will have excess capacity should there be an interest in accessing natural gas to address the energy needs of the YK region.

An estimated 3,000 jobs will be created during the approximate 3-year construction phase, and up to 1,200 jobs for the estimated mine life of 27.5 years. These jobs will have a significant and positive impact on the economy of the region and the state, especially in a region that experiences some of the highest unemployment rates. This will likely lead to reduced out-migration, helping to maintain rural schools and culture, including a traditional way of life.

An example to compare the positive potential benefits of a project like this is the Red Dog Mine in Northwest Alaska.

Through the exploration stages, Donlin has shown a strong commitment to local hire and for supporting

communities and cultures in the region. A project like this truly is a rare opportunity to improve the local economy where few other opportunities exist.

If developed, I believe it will be done in a way that creates opportunity for local employment and economic growth, while protecting the subsistence resources and culture of the region, and protecting the environment.

I support the rigorous permitting process that has already permitted the six large mines under the review of NEPA and the scientifically-based process which includes over 60 major state and federal permits and authorizations. Alaska's existing mines are operating to the highest standards and in harmony with our renewable resources. Donlin's project description demonstrates an understanding of environmental concerns, and features vigorous environmental management principles.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important Issue.

David Myers

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"22 CFR Part 125.4 (b) (9) applicable."