

From: [Craig, Bill](#)
To: [Bellion, Tara](#); [Evans, Jessica](#)
Cc: sheila.m.newman@usace.army.mil
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Extension Request of the commenting period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Donlin gold mine project
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 8:48:15 AM
Attachments: [2016-4-11_Donlin_Gold_Project_request_for_extension_to_Army_Corps.docx](#)

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

From: Gordon, Keith POA [<mailto:Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 6:46 AM
To: Craig, Bill
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Extension Request of the commenting period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Donlin gold mine project

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

From: Elisabeth Dabney [<mailto:dabney@northern.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 10:59 AM
To: Gordon, Keith POA <Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Julia Mickley <mickley@northern.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Extension Request of the commenting period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Donlin gold mine project

April 11, 2016

Submitted via E-mail and post mail

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District

Keith Gordon, Project Manager

CEPOA-RD-Gordan

PO Box 6898

JBBER, AK 99506-0898

Dear Mr. Gordon,

On behalf of the Northern Alaska Environmental Center board of directors and 900+ members, I am requesting an extension of the commenting period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Donlin gold mine project. I make this request given the following information and thank you for your time in reviewing our concerns.

In-region support of extension.

The potentially impacted communities along the Kuskokwim River and watershed have contacted us and we support their concerns and request for an extension for the commenting period of the DEIS for the Donlin gold mine project. We believe the accessibility to the DEIS, education about the document, and how to prepare and submit comments are all significantly valid concerns. Further, requests for additional in-region hearings by in-region communities is a testament to the concerns residents have and demonstrates a desire to fully take part in the commenting process in an educated and substantive manner. Finally, some in-region communities have limited computer and Internet accessibility and are only now receiving their hardcopy versions of the DEIS and beginning the process of reviewing the document.

Iditarod National Historic Trail.

This year's Iditarod Trail Committee issued a new rule prohibiting mushers from making public statements deemed "injurious to" the race, including comments "disparaging to any of the sponsors." As not only a National Historic Trail and having national importance, we strongly believe that Alaska's elite mushing community should be given the opportunity to take part in the commenting process both publically and personally. According to this year's rule, racers must wait 45 days after the last musher crosses the finish line. The last musher crossed the finish line this year on March 19. Therefore, mushers would not be able to comment at minimum until May 4, 2016.

The length and depth of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Donlin gold mine project is 5,000+ pages in length. It will require hundreds of hours to not only read, but prepare substantive comments addressing stakeholder concerns. Additionally, an extended timeframe would allow for public education on the document and dissemination of fact sheets and information to garner the most substantive and thorough comments from all interested and potentially impacted stakeholders.

Therefore, we are requesting an extension of at minimum an additional 6 months after the existing April 30, 2016 deadline to review and submit comments for the DEIS of the Donlin gold mine project. Again, thank you for your time in reviewing our concerns and considering our request.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth B. Dabney

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Elisabeth Dabney

Executive Director
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
830 College Rd, Fairbanks AK 99701-1535 Main (907) 452-5021

Direct (907) 452-5094
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Executive Director