

**From:** [Bellion, Tara](#)  
**To:** [Evans, Jessica](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comments for Donlin Gold Project DEIS  
**Date:** Friday, May 27, 2016 11:22:28 AM  
**Attachments:** [Donlin DEIS.pdf](#)

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

From: Gordon, Keith POA [<mailto:Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil>]  
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2016 11:11 AM  
To: Isaacs, Jon; Bellion, Tara  
Subject: FW: Comments for Donlin Gold Project DEIS

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

From: Mike Heatwole [<mailto:mikeheatwole@pebblepartnership.com>]  
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2016 11:08 AM  
To: Gordon, Keith POA <[Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil](mailto:Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments for Donlin Gold Project DEIS

Submitting comments on behalf of the Pebble Partnership.

Mike

Mike Heatwole

VP Public Affairs, Pebble Partnership

(907) 339-2600

It all begins with mining!



Keith Gordon, Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
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P.O. Box 6898  
JBER, AK 99506-0898  
Via email - [POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil](mailto:POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil)

Dear Mr. Gordon:

We write today in support of allowing the proposed Donlin Gold project to move forward and specifically in support of Alternative 2 outlined in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Responsible development of a gold mine in this region will provide jobs, economic activity, contributions to the landowner, and revenue for the state of Alaska. Increased mining activity in Alaska will help diversify the state's economy and provide much needed employment in the Yukon Kuskokwim region.

An estimated 3,000 jobs will be created during the approximate four-year construction phase, and between 600 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.

The Donlin team has committed to training and hiring locals to staff their mining operation. To date, they have "walked their talk" by staffing their exploration work with people from the region. Alaska's mining industry offers some of the highest year-round wage opportunities and the Donlin project will provide this opportunity for the Yukon Kuskokwim region. As noted in the DEIS, lack of development will have a negative social and economic impact on the Yukon Kuskokwim region, particularly as Alaska's economy continues to retract. A responsibly developed project in this part of Alaska could bring decades of good paying jobs to this economically depressed region.

To date, the project has had the opportunity to present a comprehensive plan for responsibly developing a mine and to have the plan thoroughly reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. This objective, scientifically based NEPA process resulted in the DEIS now out for public review and comment. All projects should have the opportunity to be evaluated via the NEPA process.

Alaska and the U.S. have a rigorous permitting and review process for mining projects. Proponents entering this process must meet high environmental standards. Upon reviewing the DEIS, we believe the Donlin project can meet these standards and successfully co-exist with clean water, healthy fish and wildlife resources and the traditional ways of life within this region. We support the advancement of this important project.

Respectfully,

Mike Heatwole  
Vice President, Public Affairs