

From: [donlingoldeis, POA](#)
To: [Craig, Bill](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 6:59:01 AM

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

From: Melissa Raphael [mailto:melissa_raphael@lksd.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 10:17 AM
To: donlingoldeis, POA <POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment

My name is Melissa Raphael, I'm from the kuskokwim area where fishing and hunting is important from one of our traditional ways. We were taught to respect the land and teach the next generation of how we do things and why. I'm against the Donlin Gold mine digging because losing what we already have isn't worth taking away just for gold.

The process for digging gold spends a lot of money just to get more. Building camps and getting the tools to get it started takes a lot of time and money. The mine developer already has spent \$480 million on exploration and studies. The digging can and will most likely ruin the land. It can create massive amounts of toxic waste and cause global mercury pollution. Other than that, plants are being removed. Ruining the land will cause us to lose our traditional ways slowly. If the land gets ruined, animals die and we won't be able to go hunting. If fish die during the process of gold mine digging, then there would be no fishing for us either. We wouldn't be able to go berry picking if the land gets ruined. We count on these traditional ways, It's what we do and we love to do them. But slowly losing all them just for gold isn't worth it.

The Donlin Gold mine digging can make the sources we use to something bad. After the process of doing the work of it can cause leakages in the water, or the air becomes polluted from the waste they leave on the land, or from their factories that they built to start processing it. And to get to where they want to mine, they remove plants to get started on the camp and then they die.

The company of Donlin Gold mine digging spends a lot of money just to try and get more. It's like they aren't satisfied with what they already have, which is our land. Our land is our gold, but they can't see that.