

Smith, Neal

From: Craig, Bill
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2016 1:56 PM
To: Bellion, Tara; Evans, Jessica; Smith, Neal
Subject: FW: Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment
Attachments: image001.png; Signed DonlinGold comments.pdf

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

From: donlingoldeis, POA [<mailto:POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil>]
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2016 1:17 PM
To: Craig, Bill
Subject: FW: Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment

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

From: Wilfred Ryan [<mailto:wryan@ryanalaska.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2016 10:52 AM
To: donlingoldeis, POA <POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Chimegalrea, Vernon <vchimegalrea@DonlinGold.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment

US Army Corp of Engineers:

Attached please find my comments submitted to you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilfred P. Ryan

Wilfred P. Ryan

President

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April 14, 2016

US Army Corp. of Engineers
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To whom it may concern:

Donlin Gold proposes to develop a gold mine project, located north of the village of Crooked Creek, Alaska. Ryan Air, Inc., an Alaskan based commuter air carrier founded in 1953 with over one hundred employees, supports the proposed gold mine project because it appears to be environmentally responsible, a job and economic stimulant and benefits The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC), Calista and all Alaskan Natives.

Although we cannot forecast the environmental impact that spans three decades of production and subsequent years of inactivity, it appears that Donlin Gold is prepared to protect the environment and river systems. Donlin Gold proposes to utilize up-to-date mining products, such as a synthetic liner under tailings, stabilized downstream construction dam materials and reduced mercury emissions which ultimately cares for the ecological surroundings of a sensitive stream that leads into a major river system, the Kuskokwim River. Land and water pollution remains inherent to mining activity, especially over years of dormancy, but the planned use of a state-of-the-art water treatment plant and well-constructed dams and settling ponds appears that it would mitigate potential risk.


Donlin Gold forecasts that 3,000 jobs will be created during construction and between 600 and 1,200 jobs will be created during production, all jobs located in one of the most economically depressed regions in the State. Jobs support a subsistence way-of-life, critical to the preservation of the Native value and culture. When comparing the Lower Yukon-Kuskokwim area to the North Slope and the Northwest Arctic regions where oil and zinc are extracted, the quality of life between the three regions are noticeably varied. Where jobs exist, individuals are able to purchase goods and products that expands their reach into subsistence rich areas, providing food for their families and promoting self-reliance while improving the quality of their lives. The income derived from mining or resource extraction jobs indirectly promotes and preserves a culture that is currently compromised.

The land and resources belong to the shareholders of TKC and Calista. Developing the Donlin Gold mine project provides economic opportunity not only for their shareholders, but through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) every native corporation shareholder realizes revenue sharing opportunity through the ANCSA 7 (i) and (j) provisions. In addition, service providers and transportation organizations will benefit from increased opportunity created with construction and production. The gold mine project directly and positively impacts more than 60,000 natives throughout Alaska and abroad and benefits local service organizations.

Donlin Gold promotes transparency, sharing plans with stakeholders and conducting regional meetings to listen to public concerns. They are responsible and sensitive to the value and culture of all Native people, evidenced with their local hire practices.

History has depicted mining with insensitivity to local populations and tribes; however, Donlin Gold understands the potential environmental risks and attempts to mitigate that risk. Donlin Gold understands the dire economic situation that exists in the proposed mining area and plans to utilize a qualified local workforce. Lastly, Donlin Gold understands that the revenue derived from mining not only improves their financial performance but through revenue sharing provisions of ANCSA 7 (i) and (j), all Alaskan natives benefit.

Respectfully submitted,


Wilfred P. Ryan
President