



10-May-2016

Keith Gordon, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Alaska District CEPOA-RD-Gordon
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Re: Donlin Gold Public Comments – Support for Alternative 2

Dear Mr. Gordon:

SolstenXP Inc. is an Alaskan company with approximately 150 employees that provides consulting, logistical, operational, engineering and environmental support to Alaskan natural resource projects. SolstenXP supports the Donlin Gold Proposed Alternative (Alternative #2) as an environmentally and socially responsible project that can stimulate Alaska's economy for decades to come.

As the evaluation of the Donlin Gold Draft EIS proceeds, we respectfully request that USACE consider the following comments in support of the Donlin Gold Proposed Alternative.

Economic Benefits for the Yukon Kuskowkim (YK) Delta and the State

Economic times are difficult throughout Alaska as the state deals with a \$4 billion deficit and a 75 percent decline in the State's income. Rural Alaska in particular is heavily impacted by the reduction of state dollars. The Donlin Gold project could produce gold for 27.5 years, augmenting the State's revenues while providing well-paying jobs in a region where few other opportunities exist. 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 could help sustain communities in the YK Delta region as well as provide employment for many Alaskans around the state. Additionally, the royalties paid to Calista Native Corporation would also be shared with other Alaska Native corporations, pursuant to the 7(i) and 7(j) provisions of ANCSA, bringing much needed financial support to Native Alaskan communities across the state.

Social Responsibility

Donlin Gold has worked in good faith with the local communities and interest groups for many years. They have made extensive efforts to travel to numerous villages and to present information in both English and the local Native language. In response to local concerns about impacts to fisheries on the Yukon River, Donlin Gold incorporated a natural gas pipeline into their project design to minimize fuel barge traffic on the river. By designing excess capacity into the gas pipeline, Donlin Gold also created potential for local communities to access natural gas to address their future energy needs in the YK region. Working closely with residents and the Iditarod Trail Committee, Donlin Gold further optimized the pipeline design by aligning it to minimize impacts to local subsistence use areas and the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

Environmental Responsibility

Donlin Gold's project description demonstrates an understanding of environmental concerns and compliance with the State's stringent environmental regulations. It features vigorous environmental management principles including a fully lined tailings impoundment.

Thank you for considering our comments in support of the Donlin Gold Project during this public comment period.

Sincerely,

SOLSTENXP INC.



Jesse Mohrbacher
President & CEO