

Smith, Neal

From: Craig, Bill
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 10:37 AM
To: Bellion, Tara; Evans, Jessica; Smith, Neal
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Donlin letter
Attachments: Earl Samuelson Donlin Comment Ltr.doc; ATT00001.txt

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

From: Gordon, Keith POA [<mailto:Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 8:42 AM
To: Craig, Bill
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Donlin letter

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

From: Earl Samuelson [<mailto:edsamuelsonsr@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 8:01 PM
To: Gordon, Keith POA <Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin letter



CALISTA CORPORATION
www.calistacorp.com

March 30, 2016

Keith Gordon, Regulatory Division
Alaska District
CEPOA-RD-Gordon
P.O. Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

Dear Mr. Gordon,

I appreciate this opportunity to submit comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Donlin Gold mining project. My name is Earl Samuelson and I was born and raised in Bethel in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region of Alaska where the mine project is located. I currently live in Napaskiak, a village on the Kuskokwim River. I have been on the Board of Directors for the Calista Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, (ANCSA) for over a year and a half.

My wife and I have five children raised in the region where I flew airplanes for the Alaska State Troopers for almost 35 years before retiring a year ago. I know the region very well including the mine site I have flown over many times and stopped a few times as well.

As I look at the Draft EIS and consider how the Donlin Gold project can benefit my region, several things come to mind. First is the opportunity for the project to bring relief to the villages that are currently suffering and living in poverty. There are no jobs in the communities and the conditions lead to a high rate of crime including physical and sexual abuse, and drug crimes that are affecting our youth.

The Donlin Gold project would be one way of putting our young people to work bringing from 1500 up to 3000 jobs to the region. There are 30,000 people in the region -- that's enough jobs for 1/10th of our young people and it would be a huge boost to our economy. The project could bring \$100 million dollars in payroll a year to our region. Those dollars would contribute to our subsistence lifestyle by allowing us to buy boats and motors to access the fish and game.

As a member of the Board of Directors for Calista Corporation, it's my obligation to find opportunities for economic development in our region. It's difficult because most of the Calista region is a Federal Refuge, which makes it nearly impossible to permit for resource development projects. However, the area where the mining project will take place is unique and is a place where development can happen. Of course, we would have to be careful, but there are many examples that have proven mining and subsistence can work together. The federal and state governments will be watching over the permitting process as they are now.

The project also has the potential to bring cheaper fuel costs to our region through the gas line that is part of the project proposal. Some villages pay as much as \$8.00 a gallon for fuel which is a burden on an area where the residents are already having difficult making ends meet.



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It is my sincere wish that the project will move forward soon bringing much-needed jobs and economic development to our region. I support Alternative B and I'm confident the project can be done safely and ensure the longevity of our region's subsistence culture.

Sincerely,

Earl Samuelson