

From: [donlingoldeis_POA](#)
To: [Craig_Bill](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Mining Opinion
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 6:55:15 AM

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

From: Kenlynn Slats [mailto:kenlynn_slats@lksd.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 9:59 AM
To: donlingoldeis, POA <POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Mining Opinion

Kenlynn Slats

PO 2006

Bethel, Ak 99559

Kenlynn_Slats@lksd.org <mailto:Kenlynn_Slats@lksd.org>

907-545-4099

February 17, 2016

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Blockedwww.poa.usace.army.mil <Blockedhttp://www.poa.usace.army.mil>

Keith Gordon, Project Manager

Keith.O.Gordon@usace.army.mil <<mailto:Keith.O.Gordon@usace.army.mil>>

907-753-5710

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello, my name is Kenlynn Slats and I am a resident of Bethel, Alaska. My father is from Chevak and my mother is from Kongiganak. Gold mining had been around for many years, but have you ever wondered how it effects our surroundings? The gold companies use harmful chemicals such as cyanide during the process of mining. Is it worth it to destroy our land just for wealth? In my opinion, I am opposing against the Donlin Gold mining project. There are potential risks for the gold mining that could ruin the land, the water, and our health.

Since they use cyanide solutions to extract gold from other minerals, there's a chance that the cyanide would leak into the environment. If this happens, our water would be contaminated because of this poison. According to the Fraser Institute, fish would die off, which interferes with our subsistence lifestyle that's been in our culture for centuries. Another one is that there would a problem with the

economy because of the money that's being put in this project.

The Donlin Gold Company is going to do open-pit mining by Crooked Creek. One of their plans is to make a 315 mile gas pipeline using diesel fuel that stretches from the mining site to Anchorage. This pipeline terrifies me because what if the pipe gets damaged and it starts to drain diesel on the tundra. Union of Concerned Scientists says that the effects of diesel can contaminate the water, which disturbs the aquatic life. If Donlin Gold places the pipeline on the surface of the tundra or below it will erode the land. The UCS said that the surface waters would decrease in size.

Mercury is toxic to the body and our environment so why is it going to be barged on the Kuskokwim River? The amount of mercury that's going to be barged on the Kuskokwim is about 17 tons. It would be a tragedy if the mercury leaked into the river. Being exposed to mercury such as inhaling or ingesting it is fatal for us and wildlife animals. World Health Organizer says, "Top ten chemicals or groups of chemicals of major public health concern."

On January 24, 2016, earthquake of 7.1 magnitude struck Anchorage, Alaska. The result of the earthquake damaged property and horrified many people. I don't think that the Donlin Gold should mine because a catastrophe could happen near the site. Lisa Demer wrote an article about the Donlin Gold mining and mentioned that they are going to pump out the waste after the mining. If an earthquake disturbs the tailings, I believe that there's an increased risk of hazardous chemicals spilling onto the land.

"Only when the last tree has died and the last river poisoned, and the last fish been caught, will we realize we cannot eat money," said by the Cree Indian Proverb. Money sounds good for now but you can't take back what they are going to do to the land after the destruction. It's your choice to side with Donlin Gold or to be against it with me. So what's your opinion about the mining now?

Sincerely,

Kenlynn Slats