

Smith, Neal

From: Scott Vierra <scottv@northstarak.com>
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 2:10 PM
To: donlingoldeis, POA
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment
Attachments: Donlin Support DEIS 4-25-16.dotx

Please see attached letter in support of the Donlin Gold EIS.

Thank you,

Kind Regards,

Scott Vierra

NSES / NSTS

Off 907-263-0120

Cell 907-570-2669

scottv@northstarak.com

"We can change to survive crisis or we can adopt a culture of relentless change"

Sergio Marchionne



OWNERS AND OPERATORS
OF ANDERSON TERMINAL

NORTH STAR TERMINAL & STEVEDORE CO., LLC NORTH STAR EQUIPMENT SERVICES

*Contracting Stevedores Terminal Operators Materials Handling
Operated Crane Services Drilling/Driving VSM's & Pile Bare Equipment Leasing*



790 Ocean Dock Road · Anchorage, AK · 99501 · TEL (907) 272-7537 · FAX (907) 272-8927 · www.northstarak.com

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Alaska District
CEPOA-RD-Gordon
P.O. Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

April 25, 2016

Subject: Comments in support of the DEIS for the responsible development of the Donlin Creek Gold Mine.

Review Team,

North Star Terminal & Stevedore Co LLC and North Star Equipment Services has operated in Alaska since 1950. Our livelihood in great part depends on responsible resource development. We have been active in developing solutions in support of the marine cargo handling needs and construction of the infrastructure for the Donlin Gold Mine Project for over ten years. We have seen firsthand the careful attention being paid to environmentally responsible development solutions for the project. This project could generate many high paying jobs for our company and needs your support.

Considerations for your support include:

- Donlin Gold has conducted extensive studies to develop an environmentally and socially responsible gold mine project.
- The natural gas pipeline proposal is a result of conversations with the region about reducing the amount of diesel barges on the Kuskokwim River. The use of natural gas for power generation, instead of diesel, will also reduce air emissions.
- Donlin Gold will be the first large mine in Alaska to use a synthetic liner underneath its entire tailings impoundment. Additionally, dry closure of the tailings storage facility at the end of the mine's life is a "best practice" Donlin Gold is proposing to ensure an environmentally responsible mining project.
- The tailings dam will be constructed of engineered rock fill and use a downstream construction method that is the most stable of all tailings dam types, designed for water storage and to withstand earthquakes.
- Donlin Gold will employ state of the art mercury emissions controls. To ensure the mercury emissions are well below air quality standards.
- Donlin Gold will construct an active water treatment plant to ensure that water that is discharged from the site is treated to meet water quality standards.

Job Opportunities and Economic Stimulant

- Improved transportation and communications infrastructure to support the mine, including port and pipeline facilities, can provide better services and lower cost of energy, goods and services to local residents.

Anchorage

Valdez

Homer

Seward

Dutch Harbor

North Slope

- More than \$480 million has been spent on exploration of the property, engineering and environmental studies, camp support, flight services, fuel and other supplies, with most of that expended in the last 10 years
- Donlin Gold will support organizations that offer job skill training for a prepared workforce.
- 3,000 construction jobs for 4 years and between 600 and 1,200 jobs for the 27.5 estimated life of the mine, will have a significant and positive impact on the economy of the region and the state.
- In addition to direct employment and contracting opportunities associated with Donlin Gold, many indirect business opportunities are anticipated in areas such as logistics, transportation, training, education and health care.

Transparent Operations

- Donlin Gold has a proven record of discussing the project's plans with the people of the region and listening to what they have to say about the region and the proposed project, including meetings and materials in the Yup'ik language.
- Donlin Gold is committed to developing a project consistent with the values of the Yup'ik and Athabascan cultures of the region.

We strongly support the development of the Donlin Gold Mine. It will mean jobs, revenue for the State of Alaska and production of gold for the world's economy to digest.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Vierra
Business Development
scottv@northstarak.com

