

From: [Merna Wharton](#)
To: [donlingoldeis, POA](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 4:31:59 PM

My name is Merna Lomack Wharton - I am from Akiachak. I live in Fairbanks and I return to my family fish camp that is located on the Kuskokwim River across from Akiachak and it is a Restricted Native Allotment obtained by my late father and inherited by my mother which will be passed down to my sibling and children. My whole family solely relies on all fish species on the Kuskokwim River. The traffic from barges and dangerous chemical from gold mining operations will have long term effect on the livelihood of the people of the Kuskokwim. Dolin Gold mining will cause spiritual, health and social disparities on the people of the Kuskokwim. There is significant obliviousness by some leaders that disregard the voices of the minorities in some or all of the communities within the Y-K Delta – most often misrepresenting their communities for selfish endeavors. The voices of the minorities and uneducated are often ignored by their leaders in most cases when there is concern for their communities. There is significant in-equality that is present. The Salmon runs have gone down dramatically if you look at the numbers. The presence of alcohol sales in Bethel has brought strain on law enforcements and all of the villages on Kuskokwim delta well-being. These are people whose lives will be changed forever because of a single community changing their ordinances to sell alcohol and the same goes for a single village allowing the mass destruction of a land and water that is a sole source of survival for all of the people of the Kuskokwim River. Economy changes lives – Donlin Gold mining will be a biggest impact the Y-K will ever see! Don't ignore the voices of the minorities that are choked by their leaders.