

Donlin Gold Project EIS

Hooper Bay Scoping Meeting

Tribal Council Bingo Hall

Tuesday, February 26, 2013, 1:00 pm

Attendance:

Over 10 residents attended the scoping meeting held in Toksook Bay. Don Kuhle of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers made a presentation about the Donlin Gold Project EIS. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, a cooperating agency, participated in this meeting. No phone line was available for teleconference access to this meeting.

Issues Raised:

This is a brief summary of issues and comments. A complete Scoping Report with meeting transcripts and detailed analysis of all comments will be issued in May 2013.

- I have concerns for my brothers and sisters on the Kuskokwim River. What are the most dangerous affects will the mine have in the area? What is the most dangerous residue, and how long does it last?
- If fish, moose or migratory geese consume contaminated plants near or at the mine site, will it affect human consumption of these animals?
- Will the people from our region be able to work at the mine site during construction and operation of the mine? Will a criminal record prevent someone from working? Will Donlin hire people from out of State?
- How will Donlin keep the underground water from being contaminated? They need to protect water quality.
- What are the safety measures designed into the pipeline? Does this include automatic shutoff valves?
- We have experience with contamination at the Cape Romanzof [military site]. This makes us worry about spills and effects on subsistence activities.
- They also need to protect air quality. The dust from the road and mine site will eventually fall elsewhere in the region.
- If the pit will store contaminated what, when we have a lot of snow during winter months, how will water from the snow melt be controlled?
- How often will the area be tested for contamination?
- How reliable are the hazardous chemical containers?
- Has the tailings liner been tested? How reliable is it?
- Will contaminates go into the air and travel to cause harm in distant places?
- We are concerned about global warming and acid rain. Will the project contribute to global warming?

- The project pipeline can be an opportunity for Kuskokwim River and coastal villages to use natural gas. It would be good if we had more energy available here.
- After 27 years will there be metals, and minerals waste left behind?
- What is the difference between the Donlin Gold and Pebble mine projects?
- This mine will be located at a tributary of the Kuskokwim River and drains into the Kuskokwim River. Any contaminants will go down river and affect down river villages and the salmon we depend on.
- The EIS process [note: comment refers to scoping] takes place in 4 months, and only 15 villages out of 56 have a chance to participate. The three cooperating tribes are from the middle Kuskokwim River, but the downriver villages won't be cooperating. They are worried about the fish.
- We are concerned about acid mine drainage and mercury.
- We heard about a mine example in which an Indian Tribe in Montana talked about what happened to a mine near their community. All their fish is gone. The owners of the mine took the gold and are gone.
- Let me echo the comments about emissions, condensation, and evaporation. The EIS should look at other mines to analyze whether the contamination traveled beyond the mine site.