

## **Donlin Gold Project EIS**

Nunapitchuk Scoping Meeting  
Nunapitchuk Bingo Hall  
Wednesday, January 30, 2013, 1:00 pm

### **Attendance:**

Over 20 people attended the scoping meeting for the Donlin Gold Project EIS held at Nunapitchuk, Alaska on January 30, 2013. Don Kuhle with the Army Corps of Engineers, the lead federal agency, presented an overview of the proposed Donlin Gold Mine EIS Project. Cooperating agencies in attendance were BLM, EPA, ADNR, and ADHSS. We also had people from Atmautluak and Kasigluk in attendance.

### **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.*

- What going to happen if the Donlin Gold mine goes forward? How will it affect our children and grandchildren who will still live off of this land.
- With all of the fuel barge hauling and the road to the mine, what if there is a fuel spill?
- The people working there will be making money, but it won't last forever.
- Even one barge is annoying for fisherman, both commercial and subsistence. The barge will not stop for anything so it will be the fisherman who will have to pull in their nets.
- Regarding Donlin Gold Mine employment, not everyone in the village will be working.
- Why is the USF&WS not represented in this meeting? Will USF&WS be getting a copy of the comments/concerns?
- We live off the river and the land, everything that grows in the summer months. The mine will affect everything we use from the land and water.
- The Kuskokwim River is too narrow [for the barge traffic]. All the fish in the river are our food. We fish on the high tide, but in shallow water the barge would go aground, so it might also travel in high tide. We have to pull in our nets with that much traffic.
- We do rely on hunting and fishing, but mine will affect our way of life.
- Will the pipeline be buried? If on top of the ground it might affect wildlife, but if it is underground, it might be okay. How big is the pipeline?
- We are concerned about the pipeline crossing the Kuskokwim River during spring ice breakup. How deep will the pipeline be buried under the river?
- What about hazardous material being barged up the Kuskokwim River to the port below Crooked Creek? If there is an accidental spill will Donlin Gold pay for the cleanup? If there are health impacts, would Donlin pay for the treatments?
- Increased barge traffic on the Kuskokwim River will affect my land and my father's land located downriver from Lower Kalskag, with increased erosion.

- How many barges will be on the river in any given day?
- Regarding reclamation, will Donlin reclaim the mine site when the mine is no longer in operation? We think there should be strict regulations on reclamation.
- We have comments and concerns on the emissions of dust from the mine, road, mercury emissions, and anything that goes up into the atmosphere from the mine site will fall in the Nunapitchuk area because prevailing east and northeast winds from the mine site comes directly over Nunapitchuk area.
- In case of accidental oil spill on the Kuskokwim River the water people use, ducks use, all wildlife use will be contaminated.
- We understand that Donlin Gold was to do good. However there is still uncertainty about what will happen when it closes.