

Donlin Gold Project EIS

Saint Mary's Scoping Meeting
City Complex Bingo Hall
Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 6:00 pm

Attendance:

Over 20 people attended the scoping meeting for the Donlin Gold Project EIS held at Saint Mary's, Alaska on March 13, 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 ADNR and ADHSS.

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 about barge traffic and the effects on erosion and fish in the Kuskokwim River? What about changes in water levels?
- We have questions regarding the natural gas pipeline. Will it be used only during the life of the Donlin Gold mine?
- Is there an emergency response plan for an oil spill or a disaster of some sort?
- Are there plans for monitoring the environment during mine operations?
- What about unexpected impacts on fish from all that barging.
- The history of mining is not very good. When they pollute the land/water or have other violations, all they get is a slap on the hand. When they are in violation they should be shut down.
- This is just a comment. We are glad that you people came here. Years ago the mining companies came and did what they wanted to do and then left. This EIS will be a very comprehensive study. Thank you for coming.
- This is an opportunity for the future of our young people to be able to work in our region instead of going out. You are giving us an opportunity to have our input.
- What happens to the mercury in the rock when it is exposed to air and water?
- Regarding the pipeline from Cook Inlet to Donlin: building a road from Bethel to Donlin would be closer and have less of an impact on the Kuskokwim River.
- On the Yukon our main concern is contaminants going into the atmosphere and coming down in our area with the rain and snow.
- What will happen if the natural gas pipeline breaks? What are the risks if there is an earthquake? At meetings we always hear the good things, but later on there is a flaw.
- What about the berries and other food we gather? If contaminants fall on these and are eaten by our people, there could be problems.

- We have concerns about workers safety. How long after working in the mine could the workers get sick from cancer? What measures are there to protect the workers from mercury and other toxic products at the mine site?
- For our young people, the project would provide opportunity for jobs in the region. As older people, we care for the land and we must pass that on to the young people so that they can be aware. A lot of us will not be here to see the end of the mining operation, but it is our children who will be affected by the mine. The key is constant monitoring and input from the region.
- The Donlin Gold Mine will be a good economic opportunity for this region. It is especially important to provide training for the young people so they can benefit from the employment opportunities.