



# DONLIN GOLD

NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER/  
OCTOBER 2015

## TWENTY YEARS OF EXPLORATION AND COLLABORATION

To develop a responsible and environmentally sound mine using the latest technology, Donlin Gold has spent 20 years designing the project, collecting environmental baseline data and conducting a variety of studies. After years of exploration and hundreds of public meetings to facilitate a thoughtful project, 2012 marked a milestone for Donlin Gold when the wetlands permit application, commonly referred to as a Section 404 permit, was submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for environmental review.

It has now been three years since Donlin Gold submitted its first major permit application to USACE. Since that time, many other permit applications have been submitted to additional agencies. We are now in the midst of obtaining multiple agencies' permit approvals to construct and operate the proposed mine and natural gas pipeline. With submittal of the permit application to the USACE in 2012, along with other federal, state and tribal cooperating agencies, work began on an environmental impact statement (EIS) to assess the potential environmental and socioeconomic



impacts of the proposed project. This step is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) prior to permitting.

Once the EIS is finalized, the Record of Decision issued, and all the necessary permits obtained, a decision will be considered by Donlin Gold's parent companies (Barrick Gold Corporation and NOVAGOLD Resources) on whether to move forward with construction.

The NEPA review process involved a scoping stage that asked the public to help identify concerns and issues and provide local insights related to the proposed project. Public input meetings kicked off in January 2013 in 13 communities throughout the YK region and Anchorage. Verbal and written

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# Face to Face *with Stan Foo*

Public input is a very important part of our planning process, and we would like to hear from you.

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For more project information visit us online at [www.DonlinGold.com](http://www.DonlinGold.com)

To voice concerns or complaints about the project contact us at [complaint@DonlinGold.com](mailto:complaint@DonlinGold.com) or (855) 279-0382

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It may come as a surprise to some readers, but 2015 marks the 20th anniversary for the lease with Calista and surface agreement with TKC for the exploration and mining activities on the Donlin Gold project. There is a long history of mining activities that precedes the Donlin Gold project in the area. Many recall the region's mining history, with gold first discovered near Snow Gulch in 1909, followed by a rush of small-scale mining for three decades. Calista geologists identified mineral potential in 1975 and conducted limited prospecting and exploration activities from 1984 to 1987, followed by the first substantial exploration drilling activities carried out by WestGold in 1988 and 1989. Finally in 1995, Placer Dome U.S. (which became part of Barrick in 2006) initiated the exploration drilling and mine development and environmental programs. The programs have continued since initiation, and employed many in the region along the way.

Although Donlin Gold is not yet an operating mine, I feel like we have become part of the fabric of the region in a positive way- and we are dedicated to having a positive presence and responding to concerns. Through the past 20 years, we have demonstrated our commitments to safety on and off the job site, responsible development, hiring qualified local residents, investing in education and healthy communities, and being a respectful and good neighbor. Years of scientific and cultural surveys, socioeconomic studies, and meeting with stakeholders to hear local insights, concerns, and issues have helped us design the environmentally responsible project that is now going through the rigorous state and federal permitting processes.

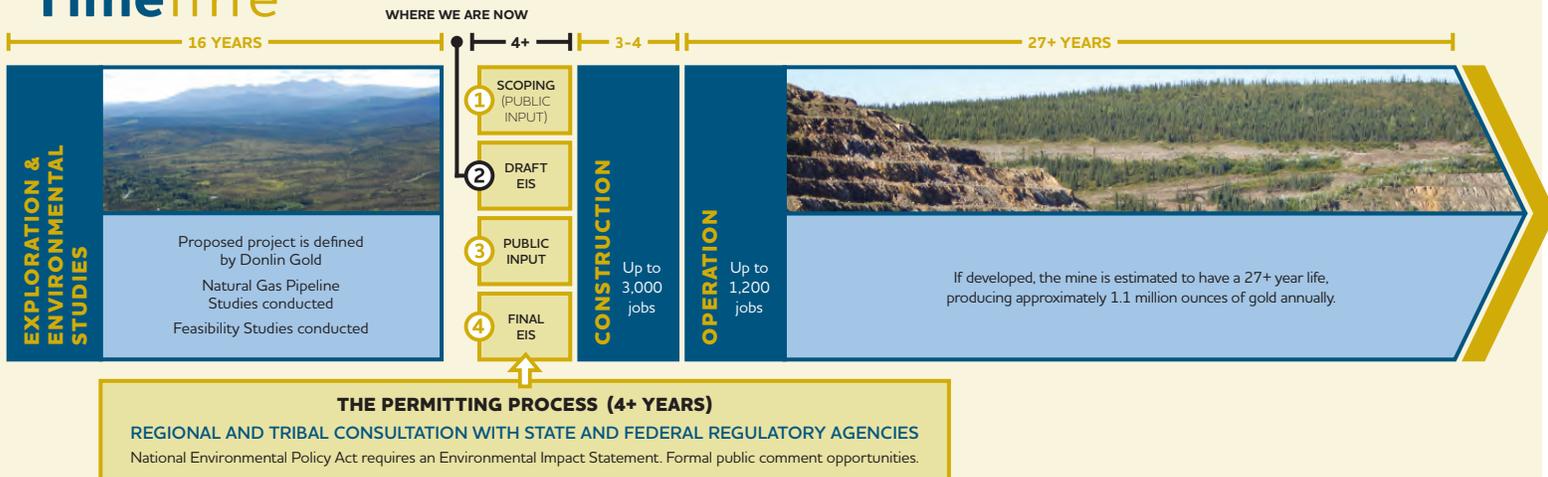
Many YK region residents have been involved with the project, directly or indirectly, in one way or another, either through employment, providing services or by visiting the site to learn more about it. We have developed positive working relationships with many organizations, especially with Calista and TKC who are our strong partners in the region. We are grateful for the ongoing support Calista and TKC provide to create positive benefits for the region as well as their shareholders and descendants of shareholders, and are pleased Donlin Gold can contribute in a positive way.

All of us on the project team appreciate seeing familiar faces and catching up with our friends and colleagues we know from the region. We truly appreciate the continued opportunities to learn more about the people of the YK region- including the culture, traditions and your concerns and desires, as you continue to learn about the project.

As we continue to move through permitting for the proposed mine, we are about to hit another milestone with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which is scheduled to be published by early December. I encourage everyone to ask questions, provide your comments and be an active part of the public process. Be sure to check the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Donlin Gold EIS project website at [www.DonlinGoldEIS.com](http://www.DonlinGoldEIS.com) for information and to see when they will be holding public meetings to hear your comments on the Draft EIS. As always, you can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter to find out the latest updates on the project.

Stan Foo  
General Manager  
Donlin Gold

## Timeline





# CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE YK REGION

The Donlin Gold Community Relations team at the AFN booth to meet the attendees and answer questions. Pictured left to right: Vernon Chimegalrea, Sue Gamache, Wayne Morgan, Colleen Laroux, Kurt Parkan and Tisha Wooley.

Donlin Gold values the relationships that have been built with YK residents over the past two decades. We are committed to continuing to build relationships by sharing information and hearing the views and concerns of residents about the proposed project. One of the ways in which Donlin Gold communicates with YK residents, is hosting and participating in events that offer opportunities for stakeholders to communicate with Donlin Gold staff.

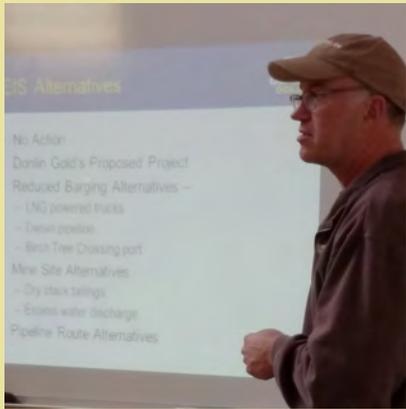
One of the most renowned events in Alaska is the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) annual convention. As in years past, Donlin Gold had a booth at AFN, with staff members, Vernon Chimegalrea, Colleen Laroux, Sue Gamache, Wayne Morgan and Tisha Wooley, available to meet and talk with attendees. Those who were interested in hearing more about the mining project or who had any questions had the opportunity to stop by and talk with a Donlin Gold staff member. We were also at the First Alaskans Youth and

Elders Conference immediately prior to the event. This year, Bethel musher Pete Kaiser was at the Donlin Gold booth, sharing stories about the Iditarod and his Kuskokwim 300 championship.

Probably the most useful way Donlin Gold has found to engage with residents in the YK is through village visits. These visits, as well as meetings with local and regional organizations, give Donlin Gold the opportunity to update residents about the project and answer questions. This year alone Donlin Gold has visited 23 villages, with more scheduled through the end of the year. In an effort to increase understanding of the proposed project and respect for our stakeholders, Donlin Gold presents information at village visits in Yup'ik when requested by residents. Donlin Gold has also developed project description booklets and videos in both English and Yup'ik, which can be found on our website and at village visits. (continues on back cover)



Kuskokwim 300 Champion, Pete Kaiser, was at the Donlin Gold booth at the AFN Conference to greet and mingle with attendees.



Kurt Parkan discussing the EIS alternatives in review by the US Army Corps of Engineers.



Colleen Laroux was at the Donlin Gold booth to discuss the project with the stakeholders from the region.



Attendees at the Tuluksak meeting listened to Donlin Gold information and updates while enjoying refreshments provided by Donlin Gold.



Bruno Kasayuli was at the Donlin Gold booth at AFN. Bruno worked as Ramp Operator at the Donlin Camp. His picture is on the Donlin Gold jobs book cover.



Donlin Gold has had a busy year so far with over 23 village visits held as of mid September, and several more scheduled in the remaining months of 2015. While village visits vary slightly in each community, the overall timing, topics and layout are all similar.

One of the more recent Donlin Gold village visits was held in Tuluksak on August 13. As with all village visits, promotional posters were hung throughout the community to inform residents of the upcoming event as well as the time and location. The meeting took place at 1 p.m. and lasted

Two questions that are often asked at our village visit meetings include: **“What kind of mine is Donlin Gold planning to build?”** and **“Will the region be able to access gas from the natural gas pipeline?”**

Donlin Gold’s community relations team members are happy to answer questions asked by attendees at all meetings. When these questions were asked in Tuluksuk, Vernon explained that Donlin Gold is proposing an open-pit mine with refractory gold, which means gold is embedded in and extracted from rock. He also explained that the proposed natural gas pipeline will be considered “open access”,

## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM A VILLAGE VISIT

about two hours- a common time and length for village visit meetings to take place. The meeting was held in the community’s bingo hall. Most meetings take place in a community building, and often in the village bingo hall.

Donlin Gold’s community relations team members, Vernon Chimegalrea and Colleen Laroux, kicked off the event with a presentation featuring a project update, followed by the project summary video. The presentation was conducted in Yup’ik at the request of the residents. Vernon then discussed the potential jobs Donlin Gold could offer if permits are granted and construction begins, as well as the education and training necessary to prepare for work in the mining industry. After the presentation and video, attendees were encouraged to share comments, concerns and questions they had.

meaning it will be possible for other entities to have access to the pipeline as well.

Donlin Gold is thankful to have the opportunity to travel to villages in the YK region and is grateful for the warm welcomes we receive. We are committed to sharing the details of the Donlin Gold project and job opportunities with our stakeholders. Quayana to all those who take the time to attend the meetings. ■



Community relations team member, Vernon Chimegalrea.

# INTERN SUCCESS STORIES



Graduates from the Alaska Mining & Petroleum Training Service program.



Chase Stewman with his certificate of completion for the Alaska Mining and Petroleum Training Service program.

Donlin Gold is an advocate for formal education and encourages youth to participate in programs, internships and opportunities that enhance their knowledge and equip them with skills for the workplace. To encourage youth education in the YK region, Donlin Gold assists and participates in many education opportunities, including sponsorship of interns.

This summer, Donlin Gold sponsored two Calista Corporation shareholder descendants: Arlettie Macar, from Red Devil, and Chase Stewman, from Crooked Creek.

Arlettie and Chase had the opportunity to take part in training at the Mining Petroleum Training Service (MAPTS) programs, where they focused on the resource industries of Alaska. The knowledge and experience gained through

MAPTS prepared them for their internship at STG, Inc., a Calista subsidiary that builds infrastructure to reduce energy costs, support rural and urban Alaska systems and deliver 21st century technology to Alaskans. During their internship at STG, the interns' time was funded by Donlin Gold.

Arlettie proved herself to be a valuable addition to the STG team and was hired as a full-time project assistant on STG's project management team after her internship ended. Arlettie is responsible for a variety of tasks in her new position with STG, from administrative duties to managing projects.

Chase's story also demonstrates the valuable experience gained during internships. Upon completion of his MATPS training, Chase was hired as a mechanic assistant intern at STG. After gaining

hands-on experience during his time as an intern, Chase moved on to pursue other career opportunities with a new arsenal of skills and knowledge under his belt.

"It is inspiring to watch youth pursue an education in their field of interest and go on to obtain careers where they can apply their acquired skills and knowledge. We are pleased to have the opportunity to sponsor successful and determined youth such as Arlettie and Chase, and we congratulate them on their accomplishments," said Donlin Gold General Manager, Stan Foo.

Donlin Gold's funding of STG interns has been a tremendously successful investment, as each intern has proven to be a great asset to the development industry and with projects in rural Alaska. ■



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## IN THIS NEWSLETTER : **CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE YK REGION.**



Jeanie Gusty and her son, Kazer, met with Bethel musher, Pete Kaiser, at Donlin Gold's booth at AFN.

### TWENTY YEARS OF EXPLORATION AND COLLABORATION

(continued from front cover)

comments were considered by the USACE and the cooperating agencies during the EIS review process.

2014 marked a year of notable progress as Donlin Gold submitted the pipeline right-of-way lease application to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. In the permit application, the proposed natural gas pipeline is described, including information about the 14-inch diameter, buried pipeline that would transport natural gas starting north of the Beluga Power Plant and extend 312 miles to the proposed Donlin Gold mine site.

Comments from residents of the YK region have assisted Donlin Gold in designing an environmentally responsible project that is now being proposed. For example, concerns about barge traffic on the Kuskokwim River contributed to a decision to construct a natural gas pipeline as an alternative to transporting diesel to fuel power generators at the project site. We appreciate the time and effort stakeholders have dedicated over the years to stay updated on project information and share their thoughts and concerns. ■

### CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS

(continued from inside)

We will continue to engage stakeholders, communicate project updates and offer stakeholders multiple opportunities to learn more about the proposed project.

To find out more information about Donlin Gold, our communications activities and project information, visit [www.donlingold.com](http://www.donlingold.com). Here you can also arrange to have a project update presentation given to your village or organizations.

Quyana to all who visit Donlin Gold booths, attend village meetings and take the time to engage with us. ■

**DONLIN GOLD IS COMMITTED TO CREATING A SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE MINING PROJECT THAT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES IN THE YUKON KUSKOKWIM REGION TO LIVE IN HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES**