



DONLIN GOLD

NEWSLETTER
JANUARY/
FEBRUARY 2016

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

At the end of November, 2015, the Donlin Gold project reached another milestone as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began the five-month public comment period for the Donlin Gold Draft EIS. The Draft EIS outlines the proposed project, identifies alternatives to some of the project components, addresses possible impacts of the project and alternatives, and identifies potential mitigation measures to reduce impacts. Topics such as roads, barge landings, barges, airstrips, mine site features, as well as a 14-inch diameter, buried natural gas pipeline, are all addressed in the Draft EIS, which can be found on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' website at www.DonlinGoldEIS.com/EISDocuments.aspx

The public comment period offers an opportunity for stakeholders to publicly voice support, comments and concerns.

The public comment period will last until the end of April. An estimated 17 meetings are set to take place in multiple villages throughout the YK region during this time. One of the first meetings took place in Anchorage, January 28, at the Egan Center, with a large audience in support of the project. Attendees included The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC) and Calista Corporation board members and

staff, and local residents from the YK region, who all took time to voice their opinion and support of the Donlin Gold project.

"We look to the future through Calista, TKC and Donlin Gold, in providing employment opportunities where there are no jobs in the YK area," said president and CEO of TKC, Maver Carey. "We have a strong financial future and viable opportunities if Donlin Gold moves forward with producing the mine. Our region is the poorest in the entire state, and we strongly support and recommend that Donlin Gold moves forward with alternative number two."

Many in attendance also addressed Donlin Gold's approach to responsible development, the job opportunities the project would bring to the YK region that could improve the economy and how potential salaries from regional jobs would allow for a more viable subsistence way of life.

Andrea Gusty, TKC's community relations land and resource manager, provided her personal testimony on subsistence and the costs associated with living in the region. "Aniak residents are struggling to heat their homes and put food on the table. They need money to continue their traditions," she said. "You have to use a



The Donlin Gold EIS public comment meetings offer an opportunity for stakeholders to voice support of the proposed mine project.

snow machine, boat or four-wheeler, to hunt or pick berries; it's not cheap. You have to have money to continue those traditions, and you have to, of course, have a good job to make money to do that," she added.

Andrea made the additional note that Donlin Gold has worked collaboratively with the people of the YK region to better understand their traditions, culture and subsistence way of life.

Representatives from Calista also spoke at the public input meeting on the economic struggles of the YK region, and how the job opportunities potentially offered by Donlin Gold could offset the downward economic trend.

(continues on inside)

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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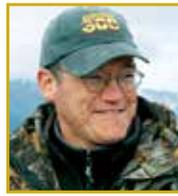
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Find us on Facebook at
[Facebook.com/DonlinGold](https://www.facebook.com/DonlinGold)

For more project information visit us online at www.DonlinGold.com

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

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For the past 20 years Donlin Gold has conducted exploration activities and environmental baseline studies in the YK region to determine how to best develop and operate a responsible mining project that is sensitive to the environment. With the goal of demonstrating our commitment to being respectful neighbors in the YK region, we have communicated with stakeholders in the region and throughout the state to gather input that has shaped the development of our project. We share with these stakeholders an interest in protecting the environment, preserving Alaska's culture and history and educating and training Alaskans. To allow us to reach our development goals, we ask that you offer your thoughts about the Donlin Gold project during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) public comment period.

With Alaska's economy under significant pressure, and the lack of oil and gas development, jobs are being cut and businesses are facing tough financial decisions. Even the Permanent Fund Dividend is threatened. While industries we once relied on for economic stability are dissipating, Donlin Gold's mining project offers tremendous potential.

The project incorporates infrastructure plans for a power generation plant, water treatment plant, access roads, camp accommodations, two ports, a natural gas pipeline and an airstrip. Donlin Gold will rely on local businesses to supply services, equipment and materials providing secondary and tertiary jobs that will further diversify Alaska's economy. Donlin Gold is expected to offer up to 3,000 jobs during construction and between 600 and 1,200 jobs during operation, representing significant employment growth for Alaska.

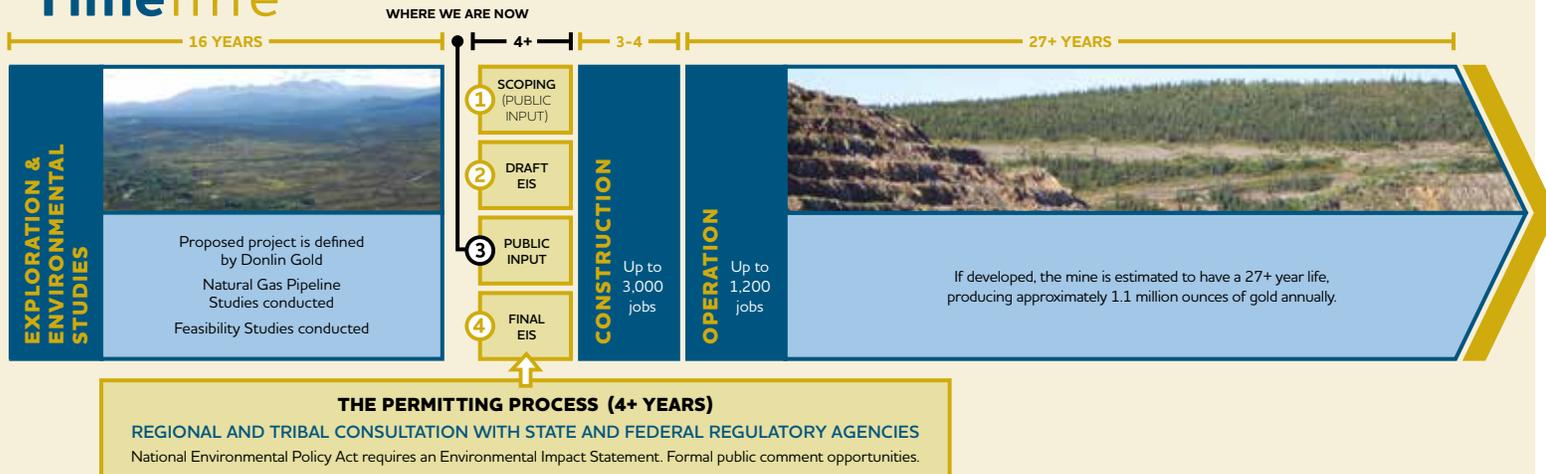
Preparing for these jobs requires training and education, which is why Donlin Gold will continue to support programs that offer local residents the opportunity to gain the necessary skills and education for employment at the mine. Donlin Gold will continue to provide support to organizations that offer job skills and training for a prepared workforce. Such training not only benefits Alaska residents during employment at Donlin Gold, but also along their future career path.

Visit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' website to view the Donlin Gold Draft EIS. The Draft EIS is a long document, however, summary information is available on the website to help you find information in the larger Draft EIS document. This includes the Draft EIS Executive Summary and the Army Corps' newsletter #4 "How to Get the Most From the Draft EIS". You can also offer your comments about the project, either in person at one of the Army Corps' upcoming meetings or via fax, email or Web.

We value the relationships we have built over the last two decades and appreciate your participation in the EIS and permitting process. Your comments are very important as it helps shape the outcome of the Donlin Gold project and will ensure the creation of jobs and a more diverse economy for Alaskans.

Stan Foo
General Manager
Donlin Gold

Timeline



DONLIN GOLD PARTNERS

The proposed Donlin Gold mine site is located 10 miles north of Crooked Creek and is situated on private land. The project's surface lands are owned by The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC), and the subsurface mineral rights by Calista Corporation. Donlin Gold has been conducting exploration and research with the best technologies and equipment for over 20 years in an effort to carry out a thoughtful and safe project on TKC and Calista shareholder land.

Calista and TKC recognize the financial potential of the project, the workforce opportunities for shareholders, as well as the commitment to an environmentally responsible project that honors a subsistence lifestyle.

Both Native corporations have beneficial agreements with Donlin Gold. Through these agreements, Calista and TKC shareholders, descendants and their spouses have hiring preferences, and subsidiaries have bidders preference in the proposed mine region. TKC would also have preference to different elements of the project including construction and operation of an upriver port, subsistence oversight and site reclamation. It is estimated that the average salaries at Donlin Gold will be approximately \$100,000 per-year for a total payroll of about \$100 million annually and an additional \$60 million in indirect salaries. All Alaska Native people will also benefit from 7(i) and 7(j) revenue sharing provisions of ANCSA.

Local hire is a key value of Donlin Gold. Historically, up to 90 percent of the onsite workforce has been shareholders, descendants or spouses. The project will offer an alcohol-free,



CALISTA CORPORATION
www.calistacorp.com

safe workplace and career longevity. It is estimated that once in operation, Donlin Gold will have a minimum of 27 years in operation and provide up to 3,000 jobs during construction and between 600 to 1,200 jobs during its mine life.

Donlin Gold encourages shareholders to prepare for future employment by receiving the proper education and training before construction begins. The company assists in funding Calista and TKC scholarship and internship programs to provide opportunities for training and education.

Donlin Gold is pleased to have both Native corporations in support of the project and to be able to provide regional stakeholders with potential job opportunities. Such a sizable project requires continued collaboration and communication with all stakeholders, and Donlin Gold is grateful to those who have worked with us during our first 20 years in the region.

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. 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. ■



Many influential leaders voiced their support at the Anchorage DEIS meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

(continued from front cover)

While many have voiced support of the project at the meetings, concerns about the project and potential impacts to the environment and subsistence have also been shared. While these comments were directed toward the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Draft EIS, Donlin Gold also took note of their concerns. Donlin Gold has met with and listened to people in the region for years, and has made changes to the project based on voiced concern.

Donlin Gold will continue to listen, meet with communities and look for solutions to address concerns throughout the permitting process and as the project moves into construction and operations.

Donlin Gold thanks all who participated in the U.S. Army Corps public meetings to date. Donlin Gold encourages you to review the Draft EIS, take part in the upcoming meetings and communicate what this project means to you and your family. Sharing your experience as a local YK resident with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will provide valuable insight as Donlin Gold moves forward with responsible development of the mine project.

Meeting locations, dates and times can be found at www.DonlinGoldEIS.com/GetInvolved.aspx ■

YOU HAVE A SAY IN THE FUTURE OF THE DONLIN GOLD MINING PROJECT. YOUR OPINION MATTERS.

Comments can be submitted at a public meeting, through our website, by fax or by email.

Meeting:

DonlinGoldEIS.com/GetInvolved.aspx

Website:

DonlinGoldEIS.com/Comment.aspx

Fax: (907) 753-5567

Mail: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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The 5th Annual Donlin Gold Basketball Classic

One of the many traditions that bind the YK region together is athleticism. Sport competitions unite communities as they cheer for loved ones and exercise good sportsmanship. Extracurricular activities also help children learn teamwork, accountability and dedication first-hand.

The Donlin Gold Basketball Classic was established as an opportunity for the community to come together and for children to build character while showcasing their skills on the court. This marked the fifth year of the three-day tournament, which began January 28 at 2 p.m at Bethel Regional High School's Warrior Dome.

The tournament was full of energy with cheerleaders ensuring fans were cheering for the teams in the packed dome. Among those in the crowd were Donlin Gold's Vernon Chimegalrea and Colleen Laroux, who were onsite to offer



support to the participating teams and distribute goodies to the crowds.

Not only is Donlin Gold the title sponsor for this community event, but it's also a sponsor of KYUK's coverage of the games.

Donlin Gold's sponsorship of the basketball tournament covers the cost of travel and board for many struggling schools and for students who would otherwise not be able to attend.

Donlin Gold is happy to participate in an event that brings the YK region's community together and would like to congratulate all the athletes from Nome, Sitka, Kenai, Newhalen and Bethel who competed in the tournament. We offer special congratulations to the Bethel Warriors, who won first place in the girls' competition, and the Sitka Wolves, who won first place in the boys' competition. ■

Re-Pete First Place Win in the Kuskokwim 300



On the evening of January 15, 2016, Kuskokwim 300 (K300) participants pawed across the start line with distinguished Iditarod mushers, including John Baker, Jeff King, Richie Diehl, Mike Williams, Jr., and Bethel local and defending champion, Pete Kaiser, all competing in the 300-mile race from Bethel to Aniak and back.

This marks the ninth year that Donlin Gold has supported the K300. It has been a great opportunity for Donlin Gold to sponsor Pete, who was born and raised in Bethel. Last year, Pete came in first place at the K300, an impressive feat as it was not only his first year winning the race, but also the first time a Western Alaskan took home the 1st place prize in 29 years.

The K300 is a prominent race that attracts mushers from around the world, making it an exciting and competitive event. One of the most remarkable parts of the race is the community support, with volunteers from the YK region kindly offering their time, homes and food to provide a comfortable stay for mushers.

“We could not execute the K300 on the scale we do without the generous donation of time, resources and funds from families, volunteers and sponsors,” said Kuskokwim 300 Race Manager, Zach Fansler.

The race provides a feeling of camaraderie as villages unite to celebrate the YK region’s history of mushing, and watch mushers and their teams showcase their tenacious spirit, strength and determination.

The mushers reported that race conditions were more challenging than last year’s K300 due to 300 miles of ice, lack of snow and extreme winds, making it difficult for the dogs to have stable footing. Although conditions were not ideal, Pete noted that he was more confident with the experience he gained in last year’s K300 race.

“I had a much better understanding of my team’s capabilities this year, after they showed me what they could do last year,” said Pete.

Pete’s experience and determination paid off in the end, as he placed first at 11 a.m. on Sunday, January 17, earning him two, consecutive K300 wins.

Pete attributes his back-to-back wins to support from the region he proudly represents. “I am proud of this accomplishment not only for me, but also for my family, friends, sponsors, Bethel and the entire YK region. It is a true testament to the kindness of this region. I wouldn’t be able to do what I do without my support system,” said Pete.

While fighting to keep the title of K300 Champion, Pete also continued to champion suicide awareness and spread the message “suicide is never the answer” on the trail. Pete supports Drew’s Foundation, and has been a role model for youth in the region by promoting this message for four years, participating in Public Service Announcements, school assemblies and more.

The issue of suicide is not only a key issue, prevalent throughout the region, but also a message that hits close to home with Pete.

“I was friends with the late Drew O’Brien whose father started Drew’s Foundation after Drew committed suicide. Too many people I knew and grew up with are gone from suicide. It is a serious problem, and I am glad to be able to spread the word a little further. There is a lot of work to be done,” said Pete.

Donlin Gold will continue to sponsor Pete while he champions his message along the Iditarod trail to Nome.

Donlin Gold would like to congratulate all K300 participants and Pete for taking home another win. We are happy to sponsor a race that unifies the region while commemorating its history, and supporting YK region local, Pete, and his important message. ■



Pete Kaiser takes his second K300 win as he crosses the finish line in Bethel.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER : **DEIS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.**



Shareholders and board members from TKC and Calista came to speak at the DEIS meeting in Anchorage on January 28.

Winter Safety

Donlin Gold wants to see everyone start 2016 off on the right foot, taking proper safety precautions. With weather changing in Alaska and a rainy, icy winter in some areas, it is important to be prepared for slick conditions.

Here are a few safety precautions for icy weather:

- Wear footwear with studs or grips to avoid slipping.
- Monitor the weather for updates and warnings.
- Keep hands out of pockets in case you need to brace yourself on impact.
- Bring jumper cables, a shovel, blankets, flares and a bag of kitty litter or sand for traction when traveling.
- Wear sunglasses during daylight to better see possible hazards.
- Bend knees slightly and walk flat-footed on ice to shift weight evenly and carefully.
- No matter the mode of transportation, slow your speed on ice and use precaution.

To stay informed and prepared for rapidly changing Alaska weather, you can visit FAA's Weather Cameras at avcams.faa.gov and stay up to date on current conditions at your location. Donlin Gold will always strive for safety and live by the motto, "every person going home safe and healthy everyday."

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