

## **Donlin Gold Project EIS**

Informal meeting with AVCP Representatives  
Bethel, AVCP Offices  
Monday, January 28, 2013

### **Attendance:**

For AVCP:

Steve Street

Don Wedll

For EIS Team:

Don Kuhle, Corps

Jenny Blanchard, BLM

Tami Fordham, EPA

Sarah Yoder, ADHSS

Taylor Brelsford, Moxie Alexie, URS

This was an informal meeting, called while the scoping meeting team was weathered in.

### **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.*

- AVCP Natural Resources has to prioritize the fisheries issues, so the NEPA and Cultural Resources staff are monitoring the Donlin EIS project.
- EPA previously conducted meetings in the region regarding mining, and with turnover in regional organizations' personnel over the past two years; it would be useful to hold these meetings again.
- The characterization of potential for acid rock drainage is based on too small a sample.
- The EIS must truly perform an independent analysis of the technical studies prepared by Donlin Gold, including a close look at the potential for acid rock draining from waste rock.
- It is critical to continue to build understanding in the region of the project. It would be useful to have flyers that include a problem statement (like acid rock drainage) and then provide additional information on proposed management actions to reduce the risk.
- In the big picture (or long-term perspective) of culture change, who gets to decide on this project, and what if the views of the Elders are just left behind?
- This project is of a scale that is very hard to assess. There will be some "ooh, didn't think of that..." episodes in preparing this EIS. For example, moisture regimes are changing due to climate change.
- What is the standard for the hydrology analysis? Should it be the 100-year event or the 1,000-year event?

- What is the need for fuel oil transported up the Kuskokwim River, and is the transportation plan realistic. What is the speed of the barges and the effects of barge wakes on river bank erosion?
- Does barge movement increase turbidity in a way that increases temperature?
- Shoreline erosion is a serious problem, particularly with climate change. The barge traffic could add to erosion that is currently damaging historic sites along the river.
- You should make use of the Calista Elders Council and their new regional data base for Traditional Cultural Properties.