

Donlin scoping meeting testimony
January 22, 2013 - Anchorage

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. My name is Deantha Crockett. I am the Executive Director of the Alaska Miners Association (AMA).

AMA is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,500 individual prospectors and small miners, as well as the large mines in Alaska and the service contractors that support them.

AMA supports the responsible development of Alaska's natural resources; specifically the minerals that make up my industry. AMA also supports the ability of natural resource projects to enter into the NEPA process, one that reviews all potential impacts, including positive economic benefits. As you mentioned, the purpose of scoping meetings is to share views and provide information on the project.

Our views are: should the Donlin Gold project commence permitting, undergo construction and become an operating mine, it would create an economic boon in a region of our state that is incredibly economically disadvantaged. This is a region with very high unemployment rates and very few economic opportunities.

We believe the Donlin Gold team recognizes that if a mine is developed, it must be done with an emphasis on local employment, environmental protection, and respect for subsistence values and culture. In fact, Donlin Gold has already demonstrated a strong commitment to local hire and support of neighboring communities. In addition, the project description shows its understanding of the environmental concerns, and outlines management techniques that will be applied to address such concerns. Your slide explained that 16 years of studies have been done. That's almost as long as we spend raising our children. The emphasis on data gathering and baseline studies further demonstrates Donlin's commitment to responsible development.

AMA looks forward to following this public process moving forward.
Thank you.

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