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To:	Mr. Don Kuhle, Regulatory Div	. From:	Mayor Boris L. Epchook
Fax:	907-562-1297	Pages:	03
Phone:		Date:	March 27, 2013
Re:	EIS Donlin Creek	CC:	
Urgent	x For Review Plea	ase Comment	Please Reply Please Recycle
Comments	S1		
Mr. D. Kuhl	e,		
	e my comments on the EIS fo asideration of issuing a Permi		lin Creek Gold Mine, due March 29, the Mine.
The state of the second of the state of the	or the opportunity to voice mance of a permit. Again, Than		nion during the decision to issue or
Boris L. Epo	chook, Mayor		
City of Kwet	thluk		

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Mr. Don Kuhle, Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 6898
Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska 99506-0898

March 26, 2013

Comments Environmental Impact Statement, Donlin Gold Donlin Creek Mine

Where to begin, during the initial feasibility study for the proposed mining activities at the Donlin Creek Gold Mine, employment opportunities for residents in Western Alaska were at a minimum and still remain significantly low as in many parts of the State of Alaska.

In the initial Exploratory Drilling process residents, in the poverty stricken region, of Western Alaska were given an opportunity for employment with Donlin Gold and the Donlin Creek Gold Mine, whereas generating revenues for the residents and their communities in general.

In various community discussions and dialogue with representatives of Donlin Gold and the Donlin Creek Gold Mine, residents of the Yukon and Kuskokwim Delta were presented information on various activities regarding environmental impacts, mining procedures, and other matters related to responsible mining activities of the Donlin Gold and the Donlin Creek Gold Mine and the benefits that would result in a fully permitted operational Donlin Gold Mine for the Western Alaska region and the State of Alaska.

The majority of concerns heard were the environmental impacts to the watershed, the mines immediate environment, Impacts to salmon stocks and resident fish species, impacts to various wild game species, and the quality of air to the immediate areas of the mine as well as the region.

Donlin Gold has developed a viable plan for the operations of the Dolin Creek Gold Mine in addressing environmental impact, contamination of the watershed, as well as the surrounding land within the region.

I come from a region in Western Alaska where unemployment is higher than rest of the State of Alaska, employment opportunities are limited, rural economic activities balancing higher costs of living, where residents are forced to choose whether to pay current needs over having heat during harsh winters, and paying for electricity...things taken for granted in the rest of the State of Alaska and the continuous United States.

There are various proposals within the scope of operations for the Donlin Gold Mine that would benefit Western Alaska and the State of Alaska, through competent resource development, reduction to energy costs, as well as heating costs through a proposed gas pipeline, and distribution of royalties to regional and village corporations.

In considering the issuance of a permit for the operations of Donlin Creek, the following should be considered and included in the EIS; the social and economic benefits of the Donlin Creek project to the Western Alaska region, the State of Alaska, and the nation in general.

Mr. Don Kuhle, Regulatory Division Re: EIS Donlin Creek March 26, 2013 Page 2

The Donlin Creek Project has a potential to lower the costs of energy options through reasonable development of and construction of a gas pipeline as well as tie in electricity grids through a regional energy producing facility, therefore lowering the burden of costs for fuel and electricity for regional villages.

The Donlin Creek Project has a potential of increasing job opportunities, for the Western Alaska workforce, which faces higher than normal unemployment rates, for about 27.5 years, and therefore reducing the outmigration of residents to urban areas of the State and help maintain sufficient funding for rural schools within the State of Alaska.

The Community of Kwethluk Alaska, like most rural communities, is reliant on subsistence based activities in the absence of an economic base, and with dwindling Federal and State resources, would not be able to sustain operations and other services as required of a municipality under the State of Alaska.

Therefore, I am in support of the Donlin Creek Gold Mine Project and request the above factors be included in the EIS in considering issuing Dolin Creek Gold Mine the permit to proceed. Thank you for taking the time to allow comments from the region.

Respectively, City of Kwethluk

Boris L. Epchook, Mayor

Cc: File