

THIS PROJECT WILL HAVE SIMILAR IMPACT AS TO
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS COMING TO AMERICA

Bethel

The proposed donlin gold mine is estimated to produce 1,100,000 oz of gold a year and 640,000 oz of Mercury a year. We know where the 1,100,000 oz. of gold will go but we really dont know where the Mercury will go.

The new EPA rule allows for 84 lbs of mercury to be released to the air per one million tons of ore. That means Donlin will be legally be allowed to release into the air 1806 lb of mercury per year.

In 2010 the mercury toxic release inventory for the whole state of Alaska was 43 lbs from all mines, power plant, ect into the air... what the EPA rules will allow Donlin to release into the surrounding tundra, streams and countryside will be 42 times the whole state of Alaskas mercury emissions in 2010.

Having studied the gold mining industry for many many years and doing research particuarly on Barrick Gold and the world protests against this company and its mines has made me cautious as to any mine this company proposes to operate or be a partner of in our area. Granted that we are the United States of America and most of the mining protests against Barrick have been in 3 world areas and that we have better environmental and health protection but we still have mixing areas, you know, the solution to polution is dulution. We still have areas where there can be improvement concerning polution and responsible mining.

We are here today to suggest ways to protect our watershed, the plants and animals and also the miners.

After having gone thru almost 800 pages of documents provided on the Corp web pages Im a bit concerned.

I read where the proposed mine is concerned about mercury in their CFL lightbulb disposal but didnt read anything about monitoring mercury releases from their autoclave, processing areas, ect ect...

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Grant Fbx

Did I miss something. I didn't read anything about air monitoring, inside the facility and outside. No details as to how they will regulate their stacks and other openings to the outside air.

Nothing written about exposure of workers to arsenic, mercury dust, vapors or liquid.

I didn't read hundreds of pages of baseline studies concerning mercury in the surrounding tundra, fish and other animals

. There were lots of pages concerning water for the milling process, and cool specifics about ice on the impoundment area and problems with liner protection

I didn't read all the pages detailing ambient air monitoring of the surrounding areas for the life of the mine but I did read how many and how big the earth moving equipment would be.

I know where all the stream crossings for the pipeline will be but didn't see anything about baseline and yearly mercury testing for the employees.

I didn't see anything about mass balance analysis for mercury and the other toxic materials in the mine..

It's not what I read that bothers me it's what I did read.

I would like to see a budget from year of closure out 100 years. After the pit lake fills after closure and if it's not managed, in 100 years the state's AWQ standards possibly will be exceeded for many toxic materials and these will end up in Crooked Creek and other downstream areas.

There was no mention of bonding. I assume that will come later but a mention of the framework and implementation would be nice at this point. Bonding amounts will be important since the Calista Corp is the land owner and cleanup in the future is their responsibility if proper bonding and insurance isn't large enough in case of a pollution

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problem after closure.

Mention of Mercury Abatement Controls was fleeting and brief but cleaning supplies and mops and broom disposal was covered nicely.

A mine of this scope and given the history of mercury pollution in this area requires safeguards beyond our present day regulations and beyond the political arena. We are talking about permitting the largest gold mine on earth

We should see future plans for this mine detailing better health, safety and environmental testing and monitoring,

Two of the states ~~large~~ ^{FOR MANY MANY TIMES} scale mines have exceeded their EPA water quality standards and still continued to operate with just fines. It's better to pay fines than to stop mining or so we are lead to believe. It's prudent to have a mine stop operation if they can't pass water and air quality standards but that is not the case here in Alaska

For this mine to go forward without lawsuits, injunctions or other forms of No Alternative then I suggest that Donlin spend some of their remaining budget on the following areas.

Year round Ambient air monitoring outside the perimeter of the mine and into the country side so as to insure proper and regulated mercury air quality. Testing to be done by third party

The EPA doesn't make me feel all warm and fuzzy if we depend on their once a year and announced inspection.

We have seen what the other mines in this state have gotten away with. Remember it's easier to pay a fine than to do it right.

This proposed mine must have Baseline and yearly testing of all onsite employees for heavy metals and other health hazards related

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to this type of mining.

How about Accounting of all Mercury entering and leaving the process system,
a mass balance analysis, cradle to grave accountion and published yearly updates in a local news source

Conduct a mercury risk assessment

Conduct a health impact study and publish in a format local residents can easily review

Water quality and air standards implemented and written so that mining/processing curtails upon exceeding those standards and not started until rectafied.

The draft Enviromental Impact statement should estimate fugitive and stack emissions and provide sufficient data to account for mercury in all product and waste streams.

The DEIS should evaluate the potential health effects associated with mercury releases from this proposed mine, including all exposure pathways.

The DEIS should include baseline data on mercury concentrations in fish and game tissue, and sediment in the region and detail how they will monitor these items yearly while the mine is operation and past closure.

The Deis should include detailed information about how mercury will be transported, in what form, how often and what impacts may occur as a result of a spill during storage and transportation

The Deis should include detailed information about how they will monitor stack emissions and include alternatives that incorporate more frequent monitoring, particularly for the autoclave

There are many people today and down the road that are going to watch this, "Largest Gold mine on Earth" and how we and you will proceed with this endeavor. I've got George Clooney in Sudan on speed dial and he could be interested as to how we try to protect this watershed and its people.