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Names

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Entity Type:

Last Name: Fithian
Organization:

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Country:
Mailing List: True

Submission Information:

Submission ID: 94
Date Submitted: 3/30/2013
Submission Format: Web Comment Form
File name:

Date Received: 3/30/2013
Venue:

Submission Text:

I have several concerns with the development and construction of the 313 mile natural gas pipeline that will supply the proposed Donlin Creek mine. My family has been involved with the natural resource industries in Alaska for over thirty years, and I have no prejudice against mining or any other resource development as long as it is accomplished with the best interests of Alaska's people, historical culture and renewable resources in mind. The following are concerns that I have about the Donlin Creek natural gas line. 1. The proposed route of the natural gas pipeline on the western foothills of the Alaska Range includes regions that are a critical habitat and travel corridor for multiple species of Alaska's wild game. The Plains bison herd that was introduced near Farewell is one of only a few free ranging Plains bison herds in the country. I believe that the proposed path of the natural gas pipeline down the South Fork of the Kuskokwim River will adversely affect this herd. Over the past nine years I have spent a lot of time operating aircraft in this region and have observed multiple small herds with young calves along the South Fork in the spring. I believe that the increased human impact on the South Fork will unfavorably disturb this calving activity. 2. Construction and maintenance of the pipeline will disrupt and adversely affect the livelihoods and lifestyles of people living and operating in the pipeline corridor. Villagers, homesteaders, professional hunting and fishing guides, resident hunters and recreational users will have their opportunities and experiences impacted in a negative way. 3. I'm concerned that the supply of natural gas to the Donlin Creek mine could raise the cost of energy around Alaska. The Cook-Inlet region produces almost all of the State's natural gas supply. The production of this natural gas supply has been in decline in recent years and if it is also used to supply the Donlin Creek project I believe it could have a negative impact on the State's own natural gas requirements and cost of energy for the general public. In closing I would like to say that I support resource development in Alaska when done in a responsible way that respects other user groups. The proposed Donlin Creek pipeline in it's current form does not accomplish this.

Comments:

Comment # 1 Comment ID: **365** [Delete](#)

The proposed route of the natural gas pipeline on the western foothills of the Alaska Range includes regions that are a critical habitat and travel corridor for multiple species of Alaska's

Category: WILD -- Wildlife Impacts:

☒ Substantive ☐ Non-Substantive

Comment # 2 Comment ID: **366** [Delete](#)

Construction and maintenance of the pipeline will disrupt and adversely affect the livelihoods and lifestyles of people living and operating in the pipeline corridor. Villagers, homesteaders,

Category: SER -- Socioeconomic Impacts:

☒ Substantive ☐ Non-Substantive

Comment # 3 Comment ID: **367** [Delete](#)

I'm concerned that the supply of natural gas to the Donlin Creek mine could raise the cost of energy around Alaska. The Cook-Inlet region produces almost all of the State's natural gas

Category: GAS -- Natural Gas Supply:

☒ Substantive ☐ Non-Substantive

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For technical assistance please contact Rachel Wagner at Rachel.Wagner@URS.com.