

From: [MIKE HEATWOLE](#)
To: comments@DonlinGoldEIS.com
Subject: Donlin Project
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Don Kuhle, Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 6898
Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, AK 99506-0898

Via: comments@DonlinGoldEIS.com

Mr. Kuhle,

I write today to ensure that the Corps of Engineers appropriately considers the potential positive economic impacts of development of the Donlin Gold prospect. The proposed mine is one of the more economically challenged parts of Alaska and could make a significant contribution to the local, regional, and state economy. As it resides on Alaska Native corporation lands, it will also provide royalty and employment opportunities directly to the shareholders within this part of Alaska.

As the Corps evaluates the Donlin project it will be important to understand the track record already established by Alaska's mines including the Red Dog Mine, Ft. Knox Mine, Green Creek Mine, and the Kensington Mine. They have all been thoroughly evaluated through the rigorous permitting process and have solid environmental and economic track records. It will also be important when sorting through the public comments expressing concerns about mining in general to ensure that appropriate historical context is considered. Many mines cited by opponents of mining are mines whose operations began before the advent of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, or the Clean Water Act to name a few. Further, it took many years to establish the regulatory framework through which these laws would be implemented. The United States has achieved a good track record of environmental stewardship and it should be understood and acknowledged as all resource projects are evaluated.

The Donlin project holds great promise to provide much needed employment, economic activity, and infrastructure development in Western Alaska.

Mike Heatwole

5200 Huffman Road

Anchorage, AK 99516