

From: [Michael N Jespersen](#)
To: comments@DonlinGoldEIS.com
Subject: Donlin Gold
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 6:06:46 PM

Dear US Army Corps of Engineers,

Regarding the “scoping process for the Donlin Gold project EIS in Western Alaska I believe you should pay serious attention and give added wait to the potential socio - economic impacts this project could have.

For nearly 5 years I lived in Bethel Alaska, a town not to far (comparatively speaking) from the proposed Donlin Gold project. I was fortunate in that I had a job when I moved there. I worked for the largest retail store in the region. That job allowed my family and I not only to live but to thrive while there.

Many of the people I knew didn't have jobs or if they did only part time low paying ones. Several families I personally knew in the region had a child commit suicide. Most of those “children” were in their teens or 20's. While no one can ever know all the reasons someone chooses to end their life those I knew had several things in common.

- 1- little chance of improving their living conditions
- 2- lack of opportunity for education or a good job
- 3- Pressure to have things people in the rest of the country take for granted such as gaming systems, computers, large TV's etc.
- 4- Poor living conditions, meaning their homes were often not heated above 50 degrees. This was due to the cost of heat and poor construction of homes, lack of money.
- 5- Excessive use of alcohol and or drugs. When you see no hope it's easy to drink or get high.
- 6- No job
- 7- Not enough money to purchase snow machines, boats, boat motors, nets, guns, or ammunition that would allow them to do “subsistence fishing and hunting” All of these “modern” tools are needed to live the way their families did for centuries.
- 8- Not enough money to continue living in rural Alaska.

If allowed to proceed the Donlin Gold project will provide jobs, hope and a future for people in “Western Alaska”. People will not be forced to move out of their ancestral villages to cities such as Anchorage and Fairbanks. Thus they can maintain their all important cultural identity. Thus saving lives, families and villages.

Please heavily wait the importance of good jobs in all your studies regarding Donlin Gold. Doing so will allow my friends to live where and how they want to while still having the money necessary in today's world.

Respectfully,
Michael Jespersen
Anchorage Alaska
Jespersen@clearwire.net
907.317.4313