

# Donlin Gold Project EIS

## Mail-in Comment Form

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You can submit comments using the form on the website ([www.DonlinGoldEIS.com](http://www.DonlinGoldEIS.com)), in person at a public scoping meeting, or in writing (at a meeting or by mail). If you'd like to mail your comments, please feel free to use this form. Write your comments, questions, and suggestions below, then fold this page in thirds so that the mailing address shows. Remember to affix first-class postage before putting it in the mail.

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The following questions may help:

*If the project goes forward, how might it affect you and your community?*

JAN 31 2013

*What is most important to you to know about the proposed project?*

*What are your concerns about this project?*

*Are there particular animals, fish, or places that you use that might be affected by the project?*

One of our most pressing concerns in Kwethluk is riverbank erosion. This problem has been ongoing and the pictures themselves show how serious this is getting. About a mile from the town is an upriver shortcut that goes out to the Kuskokuak Slough (the Slough has become the main channel of the Kuskokwim River). The mouth of this shortcut is being eaten away by the waters of the Kuskokuak and there is a real possibility that, in time, the shortcut, along with the Kwethluk River, will become the main channel of the Kuskokuak and if that happens, the rate of erosion along the village will be greatly multiplied. Several houses had to be relocated from the riverbank last fall for protection against damage and loss.

If construction begins at Donlin Creek, three barges a day, sometimes more (because there are other barge traffic to different villages to deliver needed supplies), will most likely affect the rate of riverbank erosion.

Barge traffic will also affect whatever commercial fishing periods held throughout the lower and upper river sections. But the greatest affect will be to the life of the residents, the subsistence activities. It cannot be guaranteed that all barge activities will be one hundred percent accident-free. Last fall, one of the barges from Bethel sank just upriver from the mouth of the Kwethluk River. There was attempts made to salvage whatever was lost (a front end loader was one of them) but not much success was made. This winter, our watering point, an ice hole across from the mouth of the Kwethluk River, is off-limits because traces of oil and gas have been detected and possibly have made several residents sick from drinking the water drawn from there.

So, these are our concerns. If there was a way so that there would be no increase in barge traffic, we would welcome that. Thank you for listening to us.

Martin Nicolas Kwethluk, Ak