

## **Donlin Gold Project EIS**

Informal meeting with Orutsarmiut Native Council (ONC) Representatives  
Bethel, ONC Offices  
Monday, January 28, 2013

### **Attendance:**

For ONC:

Jeff Ewan	Karen Roger
Roberta Chavez	Rhea Maxie
Greg Roczicka	Forest Jenkins
Rose Kalistook	Zack Brink

For the EIS Team:

Don Kuhle, Corps	Sarah Yoder, ADHSS
Jenny Blanchard, BLM	Taylor Brelsford, Moxie Alexie, URS
Tami Fordham, EPA	

This was an informal meeting, called while the scoping meeting team was weathered in.

### **Issues Raised:**

*This is a brief summary of issues and comments. A complete Scoping Report with meeting transcripts and detailed analysis of all comments will be issued in May 2013.*

- We recognize there are many opinions out there, but what about the groups that simply want to stop the project? Who makes this decision within the Corps?
- We are concerned about the adequacy of the independent analysis. Even when independent contractors are involved, will the analysis really take a hard look?
- What are the roles and duties of a cooperating agency? How does this work for the Kuskokwim River Watershed Council?
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) takes a long time to obtain. Is there time and are there plans to collect TEK for this project?
- ONC will sponsor a Y-K Delta Regional Environmental Summit on May 21-23, 2013. Could the Corps attend and provide a status report on the EIS? [Don agreed this would be a good idea and welcomed a letter of invitation.]
- In regard to TEK, Tami Fordham of EPA noted that this is a broad term, and that the analysis should not be limited to previous information. She suggested that ONC ask for TEK topics to be addressed in their scoping comments.
- Regarding barges, out-migrating salmon smolts hold near river banks in slower water. What are the disturbance effects of barge traffic, especially late in the season during low water? Fish may be waiting on less turbidity and they are sensitive to temperature.

- Jenny Blanchard from BLM noted that while the scoping comment period closes on March 29, 2013, government to government consultation can take place throughout the project.