

To all whom it may concern,

I would like to update and correct a mileage number from my previous email concerning the DCM pipeline route. After a second review of the map of the route and of a USGS map of the area, it is determined that **by the indications on the maps, the gravel borrow site and pipeline is proposed to run within 2 miles of our camp.** It is a mystery that not a single reference is made on these maps that we can find regarding our camp. Nor has anyone from the DCM project contacted us with specifics regarding these proposals. Again, we are not against the pipeline development but would very much like to see the route moved further westward toward Nikolai into the spruce area. It should be taken into consideration that anyone that has lived, worked, survived, subsisted, and raised families within an immediate area of the route and still does, should have been contacted and provided as much information as possible. I attended 2 meetings at Nikolai held by DCM and I asked questions. Such as how will you get a pipe across rivers, ect. The questions were well addressed but no one ever mentioned there would be a gravel pit 2 miles from our camp that it is 3.04 hectares in size. Shouldn't that information have been disclosed to us? It should be taken into consideration that we have spent many years at Silvertip.

respectfully,
John Runkle

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Subject: RE: Donlin Creek Scoping EIS Needed Comments

Date: Sun, 24 Mar 2013 11:53:03 -0800

Bobby Fithian, other interested parties; and Donlin Creek Mine

I have reviewed and read your 7 page proposal regarding the DCM pipeline routing. I support your comments and ideas. The current location for the pipeline crossing is very near our family hunting/trapping/guiding camp. Approximately 5 miles. I am concerned about the gravel pits you mentioned that would be developed. I would like to see more information about them. Especially the exact location and size of the proposed below Silvertip. 1 hectare is equal to 2.471 acres. If the site you describe below Philop and doras camp is 3.8 hectares that would be 9.38 acres. That is a pretty sizable site. I don't recall hearing any of this before during any of the meetings DCM held here at Nikolai.

My father in law Philip Esai and I hold a joint BLM-FLPMA lease issued in 1987 for our guiding camp, "**Silvertip**". It is the first lease ever issued in the Alaska Range. We also have held for the same time period, a recreational land use permit issued by the BLM. Philip was established and guiding there since 1971. Philip has actually been hunting there since age 12 along with his uncle and grandfather. He is the first licensed Native Alaskan guide in Alaska, #108. I began guiding there with Philip in 1980. My license is #651. We are both concerned about the **long term impact** upon our families way of life. Philip has no other means of making a living. He and his wife Dora have guided, subsistence gathered and hunted at this location together every year since 1971. It remains to be their sole source of their income. Additionally, many of the elders from Nikolai are provided with meat and berries each year from this very location due to the efforts of our family. Over the years a number of Nikolai residents have earned money at Silvertip by guiding, packing and cooking for the camp.

Moving the pipeline route at least 2-1/2 miles further west towards Nikolai could benefit the game populations that frequent the tundra flats by reducing any potential problems that could result from other people coming in that could follow the pipeline route in order to hunt. **There**

has never been anyone else hunting there in the past. That is an important statement.

The current proposed route puts the pipeline crossing at about 5 miles downstream from our main campsite which consists of 8 buildings. We have put our lives work into our camp and traditional and customary lifestyle. Our concerns include the possible increase in the number of people coming into the area on the pipeline route during hunting, guiding and trapping seasons that **historically have never been there before.** In the early 80's it was common to see only 1 airplane about every 10 days flying along the range. Now there are many more airplanes, many more guides and many more hunters. It is very worrisome wondering what the real impact upon the area will be after a major pipeline runs through the heart of our guiding, trapping and hunting area. As a young man in New Mexico and Texas, I worked as a welder helper on several 6" gas pipeline projects. It is not just a little job. I have seen first hand what has to done. Hopefully the impact upon the area is limited. I believe it can be if it runs through the spruce further away from the tundra flats.

Our family traditionally gathers several types of berries every year in that area. These issues may seem small to a pipeline builder but these issues are very important to our way of life. My wife Marty and I have 1 daughter, 2 sons and currently have 3 grand children. They too will **continue our traditional, customary and commercial lifestyle along the Alaska Range at Silvertip Camp.** The proposed route from the Windy to the Big River appears to run directly through the rolling hills and through the middle of moose habitat. If the route were to be located closer to Nikolai it would run more through the spruce and probably have less affect on the current populations of moose. Also it would open a corridor that likely would produce willow foraging habitat for the moose in the long term. Thus benefiting the moose and other game animals, rather than disturbing them in their already established home areas.

Philip and I have been in the business of conducting professionally guided hunting trips for many years directly alongside and the lower tundra and forested areas between Alaska Range and Nikolai. We have both raised our families at Silvertip Camp, located 3 miles to the south west of the Windy Fork of the Kuskokwim and 16 miles southwest of Farewell . It is quite unsettling to imagine the real impact that could result from the construction of the DCM pipeline. The number of hunters in the fall time at Farewell already coming from outside the general local area is in my opinion, already overwhelming. Their numbers are increasing every year according to the local game warden from McGrath as well as the F&G biologist at McGrath. What will prevent the hunters from following the pipeline route? Already in place and established by the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game is a hunting regulation for Unit 19C mandating that a resident or non resident can harvest only moose over 50" or having 4 or more brow tines on at least one side or a spike/fork. This regulation was put in place due to low numbers of moose and the increase in the number of hunters. Having a pipeline even 7-1/2 miles from our base camp will be too close for comfort if a bunch of hunters start to come in during the hunting season. There is not enough game in the area to sustain unusual impacts of that sort. Our financial futures could be jepodized.

My family members and I support the development of the DCM and the job prospects for the community of Nikolai and McGrath residents. As well as a gas pipeline. I would like to think that at some point in the future the community of Nikolai could find funding to allow for a connection to the pipeline to provide lower cost heating fuel for our village. Though I've heard it stated that that would never happen. My family and I look forward to spending many, many, more years at our camp. Long after the approximately 35 year life of the mine. I might not be around but my grandchildren's children will be there.

As a 34 year long Nikolai resident, subsistence, commercial, and customary user for trapping, guiding, gathering and subsistence hunting along the proposed route, I have realistic concerns about the impact upon the future. After careful review of the proposed pipeline and power route map which includes the informational boxes, I see that there will initially be a 200 foot wide path for the construction route and a "maintained every ten years", 50 foot right of way. That sounds like pretty easy access to the area for anyone with

an Argo or 4 wheeler or snowmobile. Therefore, you can understand our concerns about the route being 5 miles away from our base camp established some 42 years ago.

What type of equipment will be used to build the pipeline? I have been an operator of all sorts of heavy equipment for the past 40 years. Including D8 dozers, large 5 yard excavators, all-terrain dump trucks, pipe laying machines, welders and much more. I am aware of some the impacts they can have upon the earth in tundra and open permafrost areas. Passing through a wooded spruce area in this portion of the route makes better environmental sense. Although crossing open tundra is easier, will it have any longer lasting negative affects? Only time could tell.

I ask that the thoughts and feelings, suggestions and insights from me and my family will be considered before making any final decision. We are not against the DCM development but don't want to see any long lasting negative results coming from such a development. It causes concern to have a project of this magnitude passing this close to our camp.

Respectfully and thoughtfully submitted by,

John Runkle,

Registered Guide #651

Subsistence, Traditional, and Commercial Lifestyle User of Silvertip Camp