To: Donlin Creek Mine
Re: EIS of the proposed gas pipeline
From: John Runkle, resident of Nikolai Alaska
Dated: 03/25/2013

Dear Sirs;

I would like to offer additional comments on the proposed routing of the pipeline. I have some reservations about the pipeline being laid so close to the Alaska Range. Specifically near the Windy Fork, the Khuychanik Creek, the Middle Fork, and the Big River Fork. Never before in history has mankind made such a foot print upon these lands as this pipeline route could have. Granted, some equipment did travel through some of the area back in the 60's. The ground impact can still be seen today in the tundra areas. Two of my main concerns about this are the environmental impact upon the earth by the sunlight exposed tundra and the potential for human impact on the land and animals after the route has been opened. What is to stop or control the influx of people traveling the route between the South Fork and the Windy Fork and Big River? Especially with large runways on both ends? A 200 foot wide track through the area and a 50 foot wide right of way that will be kept open and brushed every 10 years for the purpose of maintenance allows for pretty easy access to these lands. I don't believe the wild game populations of moose, caribou, black bear, grizzly or dall sheep are substantial enough to sustain sudden and increased harvests. It is with those concerns in mind that I would support a route being laid out further to the west towards Nikolai. The life of the mine itself is projected to be 35-50

years. Life in the Alaska Range before mankind came along has gone on for thousands of years and hopefully will continue to do so. It is not possible to completely foresee the future effects of this project , but it is possible to safeguard the area by moving the route down into the protected and cooler, shady spruce away from the immediate vicinity of the foothills and the mountains of the Alaska Range.

Respectfully submitted by,

John Runkle

Registered Guide #651

Subsistence hunter and trapper