



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Environmental Impact Statement

Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
Post Office Box 6898
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: December 14, 2012

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-1995-120-M20

An application has been received in this office from Donlin Gold LLC for a Department of the Army permit to develop the Donlin Gold Project, an open pit, hardrock gold mine located 10 miles north of the village of Crooked Creek, Alaska.

Major project components include excavation of an open pit that ultimately would be approximately 2.2 miles long by 1 mile wide by 1,850 feet deep; a waste treatment facility (tailings impoundment) approximately 1 mile long, and ultimately covering 2,350 acres; a waste rock facility covering approximately 2,300 acres; a mill facility processing approximately 59,000 short tons of ore per day; a natural gas-fired power plant with a total connected load of 227 MW, supplied by a 313-mile, small-diameter (14-inch), natural gas pipeline from the west side of Cook Inlet to the mine site; and transportation infrastructure including a 5,000-foot airstrip, a 30-mile-long road from the mine site to a new barge landing near Jungjuk Creek on the Kuskokwim River, and barge terminal facilities in Bethel.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required for this project. Scoping for the EIS will extend from December 14, 2012 through March 29, 2013 and be followed by preparation of a Draft EIS. Upon completion of the Draft EIS, a public notice describing the details of the proposed project will be released.

The Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be evaluating the permit application for work and/or discharges of pollutants under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. The EIS will be used as a basis for the permit decision in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Corps is the lead Federal agency for the EIS; the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources will serve as cooperating agencies in developing the EIS. The Tribal governments of Crooked Creek, Chuathbaluk, and Napaimute, and the Kuskokwim River Watershed Council, have also indicated their intention to serve as cooperating agencies.

Scoping for the EIS will extend from December 14, 2012 through March 29, 2013. The Corps invites full public participation to promote open communication on the issues to be addressed in preparation of the EIS regarding the proposed action. All Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies, and other interested persons or organizations, are urged to participate in the NEPA scoping process. Scoping meetings will be conducted to inform interested parties of the proposed project, receive public input on the development of proposed alternatives to be reviewed in the EIS, and to identify significant issues to be analyzed.

The Corps plans to hold scoping meetings in Crooked Creek, Aniak, Bethel, and Anchorage in mid-January 2013. Scoping meetings in Akiak, Nunapitchuk, Kipnuk, Quinhagak, Toksook Bay, Hooper Bay, Emmonak, St. Mary's, Holy Cross, and McGrath are planned for late-January through March 2013. Information about these meetings and meeting dates will be published locally, posted on the project website at www.donlingoldeis.com, and available by contacting the Corps as described below. A description of the proposed project will be posted on the project website prior to these meetings to help the public focus their scoping comments.

A Notice of Intent has been submitted to the Federal Register for publication on December 14, 2012.

Additional information about the project will be available at www.donlingoldeis.com. Please contact Don Kuhle at (907) 753-2780, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at don.p.kuhle@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers