

Donlin Gold Mine: One of the largest mines in the world



Background: Gold in the Kuskokwim

- **For millennia**, the Kuskokwim River and surrounding watershed has provided rich and renewable salmon runs, smelt spawning habitat, clean water, and other renewable land and water-based foods. People have relied on this river for generations.
- **1909:** Miners from outside the region began placer mining for gold, and small-scale mining continued for several decades.
- **1980s:** the Calista Corporation identified and explored for gold.
- **1990s:** Australian & Canadian companies continued to develop mining infrastructure in the region .
- **2007:** Incarnations of those same international companies formed Donlin Creek LLC (Changed name to Donlin Gold in 2011).
- **Dec. 2012:** Army Corps of Engineers issued Notice of Intent to prepare EIS for Donlin Gold's massive mine proposal .
- **Dec. 2012-Mar. 2013:** Scoping meetings conducted & comments accepted.
- **Nov. 2015:** Draft EIS completed.
- Nov. 2015-May 2016: DEIS Review, including comments and meetings.
- **Apr. 2018:** Final EIS completed.

NEXT STEP: Army Corps will release Record of Decision (ROD), determining whether mine will be permitted.

Not worth the risk

If built, the Donlin Gold Mine would have significant impacts on subsistence and the Kuskokwim's way of life. The EPA cited "potentially serious impacts on human health and environment," and "increased concentration of mercury and arsenic in surface water and sediments." The project would be one of the largest open pit mines in the world, and would require massive infrastructural expansion. The industrial development would release large volumes of greenhouse gases into our rapidly warming climate. The pit lake would require water treatment in perpetuity, meaning our children's children will be dealing with this mine long after its projected 27 year lifespan.

"The high potential for loss of an entire village as well as seasonal fish camps for many others in the next 10-20 years cannot justifiably be ignored..." -Orutsaramiut Traditional Native Council

"The impacts of the proposed project are very real and very serious. These...impacts are threatening to important ecological, cultural, social and other long term industry within this region." -Robert Fithian, former president, Alaska Miners Association



What can you do?

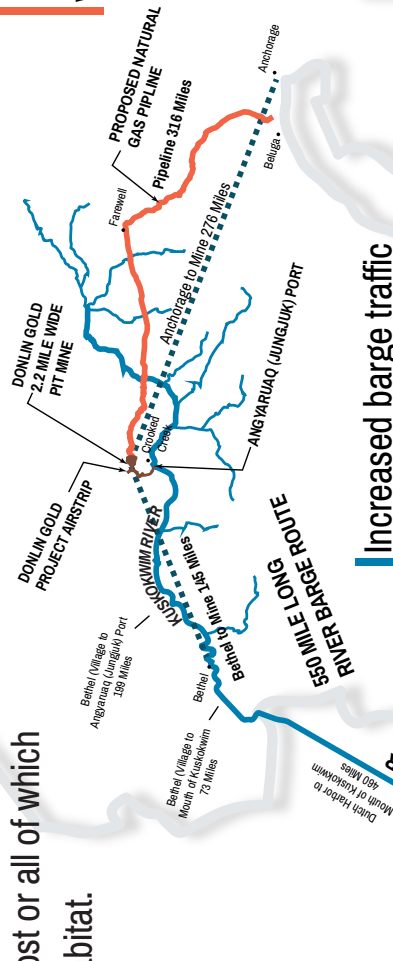
Speak out against this mine. Is this the first you've heard about it? You're not alone; even those in the region have been left in the dark as the process moves through the permitting system. This is unacceptable; write the governor & Alaska delegation and demand a rigorous public process that includes Alaskans' voices, not just corporate interests.

Not just a mine: How big is Donlin?

Donlin would destroy 2,676 acres of wetlands and nearly 30 miles of streams, most or all of which provide fish habitat.

Heightened levels of airborne mercury in the Kuskokwim—optimistic estimates of 11ng/liter—are just under EPA's "chronic" levels for aquatic life.

Proposed 316 mile-long pipeline traverses fragile wetlands.



Increased barge traffic would erode the banks of the Kuskokwim and destroy smelt habitat.

1,401.2 MILE TOTAL FOOTPRINT