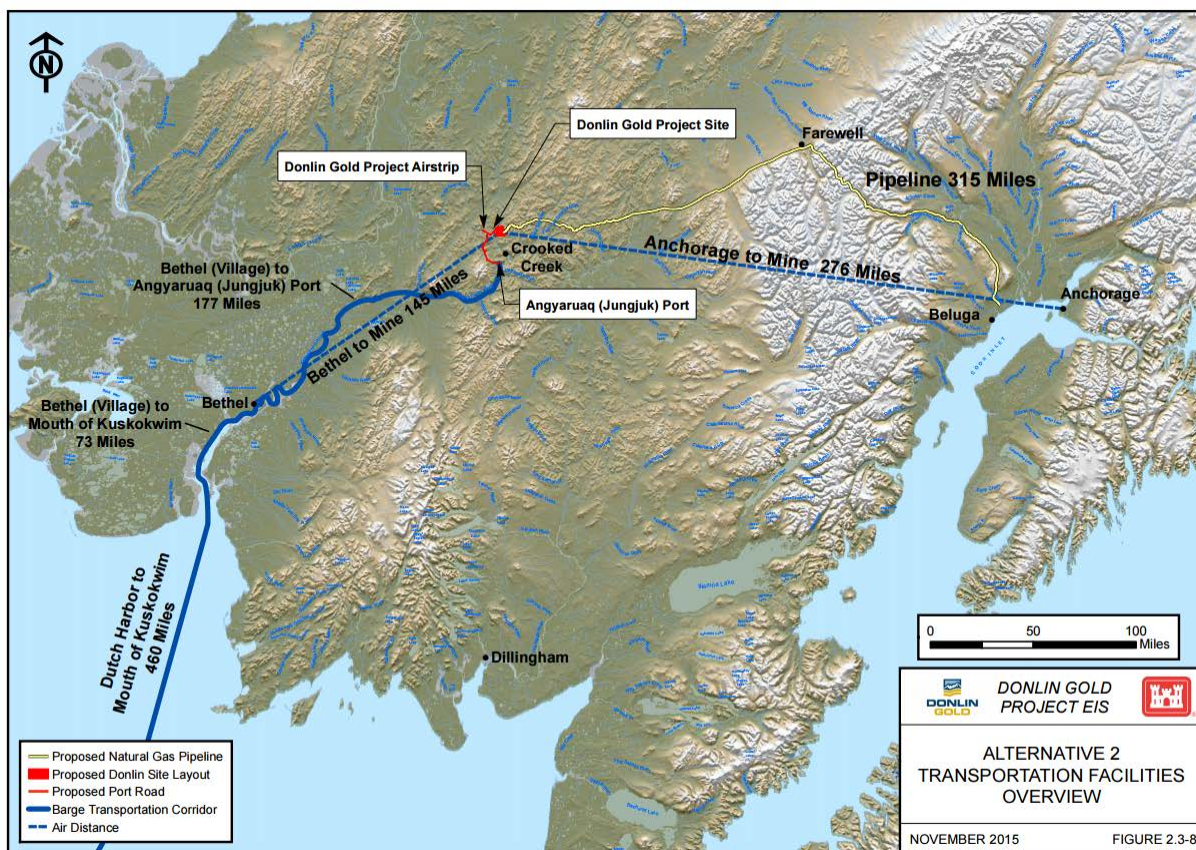


Help prevent harm to the communities affected by the proposed Donlin Gold Mine

Weigh in for fair and equitable public participation!

The public comment deadline for the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Donlin Gold Mine Project is quickly coming up - April 30, just **a few days away!** So far, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has refused requests from affected communities (such as Native Village of Napaimute and the City of Bethel) and public interest organizations (including Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, and Earthjustice) for a six-month extension in order to fully analyze and assess the impacts of the proposed mine.



The Donlin Gold Mine would be a massive open pit, hard-rock gold mine ten miles north of the village of Crooked Creek - one of the largest undeveloped gold resources in the world. If developed, it would have extensive and permanent effects on the environment and communities along the Kuskokwim River. In its current form, it involves:

- Significant releases of mercury into the Kuskokwim River watershed, contamination of streams and rivers, as well as destruction of wetlands;
- A threat to subsistence food sources, commercial salmon fisheries, wildlife, and public health;
- A 2-square-mile pit that would eventually fill with water and require water treatment in perpetuity;

- A 2,240-acre waste rock pile and 2,351-acre tailings impoundment;
- 122 barge trips on the Kuskokwim River every summer during the mine's operations;
- A 315-mile-long natural gas pipeline requiring nine new air strips and numerous roads during construction.

Furthermore, the proposed natural gas pipeline would lie in the vicinity of the iconic Iditarod National Historic Trail for about 60 miles, crossing the trail 13 times. A new rule introduced by the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race organizers limits mushers' ability to express their viewpoints on the Donlin Gold Project, which was a primary sponsor of the 2016 race. Under the current deadline, **mushers would not be able to submit comments or speak out without fear of disqualification or other reprisals.**

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is more than 7,000 pages long. People of the region need time to read and respond to the complex issues that directly affect their lives and culture.

Your support is urgently needed. Please sign and share this petition and join our voices in requesting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide a full and fair opportunity for public involvement.

This petition will be delivered to Keith Gordon, Project Manager at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Petition:

The current April 30th deadline for public comment on the proposed Donlin Gold Project is overly restrictive and exclusive. I stand in solidarity with the groups and local communities who have requested a six-month extension to allow for more time to comment on the DEIS.

This is warranted due to the magnitude of the proposed project, the length of the DEIS, serious concerns of people living in the Kuskokwim River region, and limitations on mushers' ability to comment. Due to the scale of this project and the length and complexity of the DEIS, meaningful public involvement in the NEPA process will take more time than other projects. Please extend the deadline until October 31, 2016.