



YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

“Working Together to Achieve Excellent Health”

Resolution No. 16-04-04

A Resolution of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation Full Board of Directors in Opposition to the Donlin Gold Mine Project

WHEREAS: The Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation is a tribal organization administering self-governance programs, services, functions and activities under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act; and

WHEREAS: The Mission of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation is “Working Together to Achieve Excellent Health”; and

WHEREAS: The Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation provides health services to people in an area of Southwest Alaska comparable in size to the State of Oregon; and

WHEREAS: Many people living within the service area of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation experience poverty and unemployment rates among the highest in the United States, according to the Labor Department’s Alaska’s Economic Trends October 2013 report; and

WHEREAS: The proposed Donlin Gold mine is expected to employ 3,000 persons during construction and up to 1,400 persons during operation with a large multimillion dollar annual payroll; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Directors recognize that although the mine will add jobs to the region, many locally hired persons that worked for the mine have relocated from their home village to more metropolitan cities with their earnings and Donlin provides transportation from residence to work for each job rotation; and

WHEREAS: The earnings of many present and former employees of the mine have gone to larger cities; and

WHEREAS: The relocation of the families of the mine workers has caused a drain of human resources in small villages in the region and that drain is expected to increase as the workforce of the mine increases; and

WHEREAS: The majority of people living within the service area of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation depend upon the Kuskokwim River for their food supply and in many villages, their water supply as well; and

WHEREAS: The proposed Donlin Gold mine is located approximately 150 miles northeast of Bethel, Alaska, about 10 miles from the Kuskokwim River, a large salmon producing river; and



YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

“Working Together to Achieve Excellent Health”

WHEREAS: The reported method of gold retrieval for this mine will involve blasting and crushing rock, then mixing the pulverized rock with cyanide and other chemicals; and

WHEREAS: The rock in the mine area contains mercury which will be released into the air through the mining process and the mercury will fall onto the streams and land and will contaminate fish, animals and ultimately people; and

WHEREAS: Studies are being done, but none can predict the effects of mercury, cyanide and other disruptions in the Yukon-Kuskokwim ecosystem in 100 years, when our grandchildren are living here; and

WHEREAS: The proposed project is expected to have the following components:

- a. A 315 mile, 14 inch natural gas pipeline coming across the Alaska Range;
- b. A new Barge Terminal facility in Bethel;
- c. A new 5-acre port on the Kuskokwim River near Angyaruaq or Jungjuk Creek;
- d. A new 30-mile road from the upriver port to the mine site;
- e. A 5,000 foot airstrip
- f. A 40,000,000 gallon diesel fuel tank farm;
- g. A Tailings pond for waste chemicals;
- h. A 2-mile long and 1-mile wide open pit; and
- i. A use of 10,000 acres of land;
- j. Increased Barge traffic on the River hauling fuel, chemicals (including cyanide), supplies, and equipment on the Kuskokwim River daily during the ice-free months.

WHEREAS: There have been examples of environmental disasters resulting from similar type large industrial sized mines that experienced unexpected failures of their safety measures; and

WHEREAS: A failure of the safety measures planned for the Donlin Gold Mine could cause catastrophic damage to the ecosystem of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and would obliterate the subsistence way of life for the people served by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation; and

WHEREAS: Such failure would devastate the fisheries on the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries, thus negatively impacting the health of the people of the region.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation Full Board of Directors hereby opposes the development and operation of the Donlin Creek Gold Mine due to the extreme hazards and excessive risks it would pose to the health and welfare of the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region.



YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

"Working Together to Achieve Excellent Health"

CERTIFICATION

Adopted at a duly convened meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation at which a quorum was present on April 22, 2016 by a vote of 19 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 absent.

Attested:

Esai Twitchell, Chairman
YKHC Board of Directors

Patrick Tall, Secretary
YKHC Board of Directors

