

May 2, 2022

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To the Attention of the Barrick Gold Shareholders and Board of Directors:

This is the third time that ten United States Federally recognized Tribes have written to you asking your Corporation to divest of your interests in our region of Western Alaska and not move forward with development of the proposed Donlin Gold project. Gold is not an essential mineral and the mercury associated with the deposit poses too much risk to our people and our relationship that we have with our land. Please consider our position before you move forward with this destructive project.

May 4, 2021 letter addition:

In May 2020, Barrick management received a letter(see below) from ten U.S. Federally Recognized Tribal Governments from the Yukon-Kuskokwim region in Alaska expressing serious concerns about the proposed Donlin Gold Project and how it would impact the lives and culture of the Indigenous residents as well as the environment that has sustained them for millenia. The Tribes report having received no response from Barrick nor any indication the letter was shared with you the shareholders.

Today, the concerns around the proposed Donlin open pit mine continue to grow. On April 12, 2021, an Administrative Law Judge in the State of Alaska ruled that the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation deemed the project in compliance with state water quality regulations even though water quality standards would be far exceeded according to the Federal Environmental Impact Statement. While it is not surprising this massive project and its significant pollution discharges would violate water quality laws, it is significant that the State of Alaska itself agrees with Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council that the Department of Environmental Conservation erred significantly in making its determination. Accordingly, we believe this is clearly material information your shareholders have a right to know.

May 13, 2020 letter content:

On behalf of our Tribal citizens represented by our Tribes we are writing to ask that you withdraw your financial support from the Donlin Mine proposed in our Kuskokwim Region of Alaska. Our Association of Village Council Presidents recently passed, by a vast majority, a resolution of opposition to the project showing strong unity across our region in our opposition to Donlin Gold Mine. The proposed project poses too much risk to our lands and our food sources which we have an obligation to protect and develop responsibly for future generations. As proposed the Donlin project is well outside of the [responsible mining standards](#) and cuts too many corners when it comes to protecting smelt, salmon, water quality and other critical components of wellbeing here in our region. For example, although a “Dry Stack” option was kept in the draft EIS “alternatives,” it was never seriously considered, and a more common method of dewatering tailings to paste was rejected early on. Options to manage tailings with less water would reduce the risk of dam failure and a massive volume of contaminants reaching the Kuskokwim River, which is vital to the subsistence of our region's villages. Related, when estimating the risk from a tailings dam failure, a spill of only 0.1% of the tailings that a full tailings facility would hold was considered. This is an extremely inaccurate representation of the actual volume that could be released.

The Donlin project will also be the first in Alaska that went into permitting with a mine design that would require perpetual water treatment, for thousands or tens of thousands of years. Rain and snowmelt will flush through the waste rock pile forever, into the open pit; if the pit water is not treated, this contaminated water will overflow into the Kuskokwim River. The winters of 2019 and 2020 are instructive of new hydrologic trends, including rapid warming and thawing that has created unprecedented flooding. We have no reason to suspect that these conditions won't persist and impact water load on the earthen dam at Donlin. No other mine design was even considered. One way to reduce contamination could be to put a thick cover on the waste rock – mixtures of geotextile, clay, rock and dirt. Instead, Donlin opted for a thin (6-inch) cosmetic layer of dirt that would do nothing to prevent infiltration.

Additionally, barging is required to get fuel, chemical reagents, and other supplies to the mine. Barges could have a “population-sized” impact on smelt, according to the EIS. People have asked repeatedly for a commitment to stop barge traffic when smelt are spawning, but Donlin has not committed to this.

Donlin would be a gold mine and the US is a net exporter of gold (e.g., we already produce more than we need), and a large segment of gold production is used to manufacture jewelry - a luxury item). Whereas, subsistence resources are essential.

The decision to oppose Donlin was not one our region took lightly. However, after the extensive studies demonstrating the devastation this type of mine could bring, and listening to the will of the people through the deliberations and votes of our Tribal Governments, our region remains committed to protecting our vital subsistence way of life first and foremost. We are of course open to responsible resource development in our region when applicants can demonstrate through science that our waters and lands will not be threatened, the Donlin project has failed to meet this bar and thus it is our responsibility to future generations to say no to this risky project.

Please respect the will of the Kuskokwim Region and do not invest in the destruction of our culture, food security and way of life.

Listed below are the nine Federally recognized Tribes who signed on to the 2020 letter (and also the 2021 and 2022 letters) and thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Orutsararmiut Native Council, Bethel Alaska
Native Village of Eek, Eek Alaska
Kasigluk Traditional Council, Kasigluk Alaska
Chevak Traditional Council, Chevak Alaska
Native Village of Napakiak, Napakiak Alaska
Chuloonawick Native Village, Emmonak Alaska
Native Village of Tununak, Tununak Alaska
Native Village of Kongiganak, Kongiganak Alaska
Kotlik Traditional Council, Kotlik Alaska