

Introduced by: Council Member Fansler
Date: February 9, 2016
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-1

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution # 16-05

A RESOLUTION FORMALLY REQUESTING AT LEAST A SIX (6) MONTH EXTENSION OF THE OFFICIAL COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEER'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY ON THE DONLIN GOLD PROJECT

WHEREAS, Donlin Gold LLC has applied for permits to develop an open pit, hardrock mine about 10 miles north of the community of Crooked Creek, in southwest Alaska;

WHEREAS, Donlin Gold's proposed mine is located approximately 277 miles west of Anchorage and 145 miles northeast of Bethel;

WHEREAS, in addition to the mine site, the project has two other major components: transportation infrastructure and pipeline infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the transportation infrastructure includes barges that will dock in the City of Bethel and transportation barges will utilize the waterways of the Kuskokwim River for transportation of supplies, equipment and materials for the project that will impact the citizens of Bethel;

WHEREAS, the construction of and planned lifetime of the mine lasts for the next 30 plus years;

WHEREAS, monitoring of the tailings and the area around the mine will be required for perpetuity;

WHEREAS, the project will undoubtedly affect the citizens of Bethel and the surrounding villages and areas along the Kuskokwim river for decades and possibly centuries to come;

WHEREAS, the Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Impact Study (EIS) was released on November 27, 2015;

WHEREAS, the EIS itself totals over 5,300 pages;

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WHEREAS, in addition to the sheer volume of the EIS, the report itself includes numerous technical and engineering terms that require additional research and investigation by the average reader;

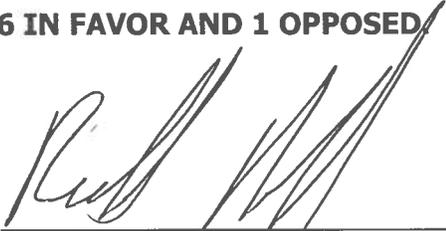
WHEREAS, currently the comment period for the EIS is essentially five months and is slated to end on April 30, 2016;

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the proposed project and its impacts on subsistence activities, the environment, economic development, job creation and other such concerns make it extremely important that the comment period be open for as long as necessary to allow a thorough understanding and thoughtful comment time period that is not rushed;

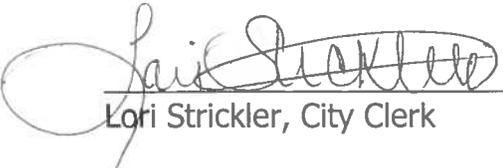
WHEREAS, it is essential that all citizens, tribal entities, governmental bodies, and agencies have an adequate amount of time to read, review, digest and form thoughtful comments regarding the EIS report on this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Bethel City Council does hereby formally request an extension of at least six (6) months and at least one more public comment meeting in Bethel, with for the public to offer comment on the Army Corps of Engineers' Donlin Gold Environmental Impact Study.

ENACTED THIS 9 DAY OF FEBRUARY, BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 1 OPPOSED


Richard Robb, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk