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Action Alert: Donlin Gold Draft SEIS Comment deadline October 23, 2026

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Donlin Gold Mine Project. The preparation of an SEIS is required per the U.S. District Court's remand in *Orutsararmiut Native Council, et al. vs. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, et al.* in which District Court Judge Sharon Gleason ruled that the Corps had failed to analyze impacts from a potential failure of the project's 471-foot tailings containment dam. The current SEIS addresses just that specific scenario and does not open the full project review.

Commenters can emphasize that the Donlin Gold Project has already undergone an extensive federal environmental review, resulting in the 2018 Final Environmental Impact Statement and related federal authorizations. The SEIS should remain focused on the court-directed supplemental analysis of a larger hypothetical tailings release scenario and should support a timely decision on whether to reaffirm the existing federal permits.

Written comment deadline: October 23, 2026

Submit online at the [Donlin Gold Project SEIS Involvement Site](#)

Address comments to:

Donlin Gold SEIS Comments
USACE, Alaska District, Regulatory Division
P.O. Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

Points to consider in your comments:

- **Recognize the strength of the original permitting record and the scope of the SEIS.**
 - Federal agencies completed a rigorous, multi-year review before issuing the 2018 Joint Record of Decision and related Clean Water Act and right-of-way authorizations. That process included extensive technical analysis, interagency coordination, and substantial public input, creating a comprehensive permitting record that provides the foundation for the Draft SEIS.
 - The Draft SEIS is appropriately focused on the larger hypothetical tailings release scenario required by the court order. The agencies should maintain that focus and avoid expanding the SEIS to revisit

issues that were previously evaluated in the 2018 Environmental Impact Statement or are outside the scope of the court order.

- **Emphasize responsible resource development.**

- Donlin Gold represents a major long-term opportunity for employment, local and regional business activity, infrastructure investment, and broader economic development in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region and across Alaska. The project would support direct and indirect jobs, create contracting and supplier opportunities for Alaska businesses, and generate long-term benefits for communities, service providers, and the state economy. These economic opportunities are particularly important in a region where year-round employment, private investment, and durable infrastructure can have lasting positive effects.

- **Highlight tailings facility safeguards.**

- From an outside perspective, the Donlin Gold tailings storage facility appears to be supported by a substantial engineering and regulatory review process, including rigorous design standards, conservative criteria, and multiple layers of protection intended to safely manage tailings over the life of the project and beyond. The available record indicates that the facility is being evaluated for geotechnical stability, water and seepage control, monitoring, and long-term closure, with the goal of reducing risks associated with past tailings dam failures. While detailed design work will continue as the project advances, the facility has already been subject to technical review by qualified engineers and regulatory agencies, and continued oversight should help ensure that final design, construction, operation, and closure meet applicable safety standards.
- Alaska's Dam Safety Program provides an important layer of technical review, regulation, and ongoing oversight for tailings facilities, including requirements for qualified engineering review, approvals, inspections, and safe operation over time. The successful operation of tailings and mine-water management facilities at other Alaska mines shows that modern facilities can be responsibly designed, regulated, and operated in Alaska's challenging environment. This proven oversight framework should give the public confidence that tailings facility risks can be effectively managed through sound engineering and continued regulatory accountability.

- **Support retention of existing permits.**

- The Draft SEIS evaluates tailings release scenarios that are proportionally larger in size and potential effect than the scenario evaluated in the 2018 Final Environmental Impact Statement. While the analysis recognizes that a major release could have severe consequences, it does not change the underlying facility design, engineered safety measures, mitigation commitments, or regulatory oversight framework previously reviewed by the agencies. Those safeguards remain central to the agencies' prior conclusion that a catastrophic release is very unlikely. For that reason, if the supplemental analysis confirms that the existing design and mitigation framework remain adequate, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Land Management should reaffirm the 2018 Joint Record of Decision and existing authorizations.

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