About the project

Located in Western Alaska, in the Yukon Kuskokwim region, Donlin Gold is one of the largest known, undeveloped gold deposits in the world, with approximately 39 million ounces of gold in the measured and indicated resource categories, inclusive of proven and probable reserves.

Based on exploration results, the Donlin Gold project will be an environmentally sound, open-pit gold mine that would process approximately 59,000 short tons of ore per day for an estimated 27 years.

The project site is located in the hills approximately 10 miles north of Crooked Creek Village on surface land leased from Calista and The Kuskokwim Corporations. Calista also owns the subsurface land and mineral rights in the proposed mine area.

Infrastructure plans call for a power-generation plant, water-treatment plant, access roads, housing, two ports, a natural-gas pipeline and an airstrip. Construction would take three to four years.

Donlin Gold estimates that the proposed mine could produce an average of 1.1 million ounces of gold annually during operation. This production level would make Donlin Gold one of the world’s largest gold mines.

Power and transportation

The Donlin Gold mine would require an average load of 157 megawatts and to provide that amount of power, a 14-inch, 312-mile-long buried pipeline is being considered to transport natural gas from the Cook Inlet region to the mine site.

Approximately two barges per day would take camp supplies and small amounts of diesel fuel from Bethel to a port site approximately eight miles downriver from Crooked Creek. The diesel and supplies would then be transported on a 30-mile access road to the mine site.