

From: William Sheriff
To: [FS-comments-intermtn-payette](#)
Subject: Midas Gold Stibnite project Input Letter
Date: Thursday, June 29, 2017 11:34:57 AM
Attachments: [2017-06-28 Stibnite letter.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Lannom,

Please find attached my comments regarding Midas Gold's Stibnite project in Idaho. I trust you will find my comments helpful in your review of the project. Should you wish to further discuss any of the aspects of my support I would be happy to discuss with you by either phone or email at your convenience.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Sincerely,
Bill



William Sheriff
Executive Chairman
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Payette National Forest
ATTN: Forest Supervisor Keith Lannom
Stibnite Gold EIS
500 N. Mission St.
McCall, ID 83638

Via electronic mail: comments-intermtn-payette@fs.fed.us

I am writing today regarding the Stibnite Gold Project Plan of Reclamation and Operations. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.

After 37 years in the minerals industry, and given my background as a degreed and practicing mining geologist, I find this project unique. It is rare to find an economically feasible project that will produce critical natural resources, create economic benefits and employment, and yet will also provide environmental benefits.

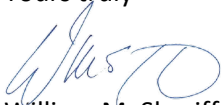
The strategic importance of this project must be emphasized. Without a current domestic source of antimony and only about 15% of current demand from recycled sources, the United States is left vulnerable. The United States Department of Defense 2015 Report on Stockpile Requirements recommended antimony be stockpiled in case of national emergency to supply the military, industrial and civilian needs. It lists key defense applications for antimony including military lead-acid batteries, small arms ammunition and flame-resistant textiles and plastics.

As a US citizen and former long-term resident of Idaho (6 years living in Coeur d'Alene until 2016), I am very interested in the health and sustainability of public lands in Idaho. The proposal submitted by Midas Gold contains many measures to ensure stewardship and improve an area already heavily impacted by mining over the last century. Locating proposed facilities and roads on areas already disturbed to the maximum extent possible, keeping transportation infrastructure away from major aquatic life bearing waterways and providing a solution to the sedimentation source at Blowout Creek are all significant indicators that the project has given priority and thorough planning to the environment and any potential environmental concerns. Midas Gold's approach to getting migratory fish, especially salmon, upstream for the first time since the 1930s is a tremendous positive for the project and the species.

I also note that the proposed tailings storage facility incorporates many significant design features to enhance safety. Constructing the rockfill embankment using the downstream method using waste rock is considerably more stable in comparison with upstream methods using soil or tailings materials. Thickening the tailings before placement in the facility speeds the consolidating process and adds density to the stored material. The proposed double liner (LLDPE geomembrane and geosynthetic clay liner) proposed is now considered the gold-standard in the industry and goes beyond what is required. The addition of the 70 million tons of development rock as a buttress to the tailings storage embankment using a bottom-up placement methodology provides considerable additional enhancement to the already robust design of the tailings storage facility.

Overall, I am highly impressed with the design and the balanced approach taken by Midas. I urge you to move forward with the review of the plan as expeditiously as possible with the objective of approving the plan as proposed.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'WMS', is positioned above the printed name.

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