

I have been closely following Perpetua Resources' plans for several years, even personally touring the site with Perpetua staff 3 years ago. The Stibnite Gold Project presents an opportunity to restore an abandoned mine site that has been polluting the surrounding environment and provide our nation with the critical minerals we need. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on their SDEIS.

One of the reasons the Stibnite project is important to me is it will strengthen our national security through the production of antimony. Right now, the U.S. solely relies on foreign countries for this mineral. Geopolitical tensions have made it more important than ever to secure a domestic supply chain for these critical minerals. The project at Stibnite could produce over 100 million pounds of antimony, as well as other valuable resources, and become our only domestically mined source in the entire country. Antimony is used to make electronics and batteries and is also a critical mineral for national defense and the energy industry. There are a lot of uncertainties in the world right now and as a U.S. citizen I want our country leaders to do everything it can to protect us from the uncertainty of changing markets and trade wars. I also feel confident in Perpetua Resource's 2021 Modified Mine Plan. In the SDEIS, the company has managed to eliminate the need for long-term water treatment, improve water quality and shrink the size of the project footprint by 13 percent. It's evident to me they want to work with the governing agencies to reclaim the area and mine it in a responsible manner.

For the above reasons and many more, please move forward with the 2021 Modified Mine Plan for the Stibnite Gold Project as it is important to all Idahoans and the United States as a whole. After more than 12 years of scientific analysis by the company and six years of regulatory review of the project, there should be ample evidence for the U.S. Forest Service and other governing agencies to allow Perpetua Resources to move forward with their scheduled mining plan. Doing so would unlock the project's many benefits.

Jon Hendrickson