

I am writing to express my full support of Perpetua Resources and the Stibnite Gold Project. Perpetua has shown they are committed to Idaho and want to take care of the environment. The company designed its project to clean up legacy waste, reconnect salmon to their native spawning grounds and fix one of the watershed's largest source of sedimentation. The Stibnite Gold Project would water quality, wetlands and the river better than they are today. I hope you move forward and permit this project as quickly as possible.

As it stands today, the Stibnite Gold Project site is a brownfield site. The U.S. government tried to restore the area years ago but the work that was done didn't go far enough. The old tailings piles left by previous mining companies are still unconstrained and therefore present a risk of leaching minerals into nearby streams and the groundwater. Under Perpetua's the 2021 Modified Mine Plan, the company will pick up and reprocess these legacy tailings, which will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water. This would be a huge win for the site because today arsenic and antimony levels far exceed human health standards at multiple points across the site. Perpetua's water treatment during operations will further lower levels of these metals in the river and cause concentrations to be below the current baseline conditions. What is more impressive to me is the improvements Perpetua made to its plan following the DEIS. Now, the company will no longer need long-term water treatment at site following mining. The project size has been reduced by 13% when compared with the original design. And changes have been made at site to make sure water temperature stays at or below the current temperatures on site. The site needs to be remediated and Perpetua has a plan to do it the right way.

The Stibnite Gold Project is important to Idaho, our national security and clean energy future. Regulators have been reviewing the project for the past 6 years. This time has allowed the project to improve and, now, I encourage you to permit the project as quickly as possible.

Lena Velloff