

I am proud to submit my comments in support of Perpetua Resources' Stibnite Gold Project. This project presents our state with an incredible opportunity to bring well-paying jobs to rural Idaho, boost our state's economy and provide our nation with the much-needed critical mineral antimony. Today, America relies on China and Russia to provide us with antimony. The Stibnite Gold Project could help us secure a domestic source of antimony.

I support the Stibnite Gold Project. It presents the best opportunity to give this area of Idaho's backcountry the environmental attention it needs, while also securing a domestic source of the critical mineral antimony. Water quality at Stibnite has been negatively impacted by legacy mining activity for years. There are elevated levels of arsenic and antimony. Fortunately, the SDEIS concluded surface water concentrations of these elements downstream of the site would be reduced during mining and post-closure due to water treatment. Water quality at Stibnite will not improve unless Perpetua Resources is allowed to move forward with its plan.

Reviewing Perpetua Resources' improved plans it is clear to me the company really believes in taking care of the environment and keeping the community safe. That is why they reduced water temperatures, improved water quality and shrunk the project footprint by 13 percent. I urge you to trust in your own review process and permit the Stibnite Gold Project.

Thelma Watts