January 7, 2023

RE: Stibnite Gold Project EIS50516

As a long-time resident of Idaho and frequent visitor to our state’s wilderness areas, I’m writing to express my deep concern about the construction of the proposed mine by the Canadian firm, Perpetua Resources Corp formerly known as Midas Gold. The facts that inform my comments are focused on the native people who have historically been most affected by ill-conceived mining schemes, and who will be most impacted if this mine is allowed.

From a letter to the Idaho Dept of Environmental Quality from Nez Perce Tribal leader, Samuel N. Penney, please consider these salient words:

*“We are deeply concerned that DEQ’s air permit issued to Perpetua fails to protect the Nez Perce Tribe, local communities and environment from harmful air pollution resulting from the proposed Stibnite Gold Project,” stated Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee Chairman Samuel N. Penney.  “Clean air is critical to protecting our Tribal members’ ability to safely access and use the area for treaty-reserved, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial purposes and for protecting the resilience of our treaty-reserved resources throughout our aboriginal homeland.  DEQ’s permit to Perpetua Resources violates the federal and state laws and, therefore, must be vacated and withdrawn.”*

Furthermore:

*“The Tribe reviewed Midas Gold’s Plan of Restoration and Operation (“PRO”) and submitted scoping comments on July 20, 2017. In October 2018 the Tribe passed a resolution opposing the Project based on existential threats to our treaty rights and other interests.”*

*There are other places in the world where gold, silver and antimony may be mined with far less environmental impact than in the proposed location. In addition, the DEIS does not address whether there is current or future demand for gold, silver and altimony.*

*Mining projects are an intense land use and are intrinsically destructive; therefore, the Project in the proposed location will cause substantial and irreparable multi-generational adverse impacts on the Tribe and its members that cannot be mitigated or restored. Avoidance of these impacts through careful consideration of the need for this Project is therefore essential.*

The Stibnite Mine and its “promise” of reclamation while creating another enormous scar on the pristine wildlands of Idaho is just another 21st century blow to native peoples.

When looking at Perpetua Resources Corp. most recent Form 10-Q filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, one can see that the company operated at a net loss of $18,256,591 for the nine months ending Sept, 30, 2022. This fact does not give one confidence it the Company’s ability to pay for proposed reclamation, especially given that in the filing, it is stated “We have limited financial resources. We will need external financing to develop and construct the Project and to complete the permitting process. The Company’s latest liquidity forecast indicates that available cash resources are expected to be exhausted by early fourth quarter 2023.”

For these reasons, I adamantly oppose the permitting of this mine near the Frank Church Wilderness and the South Fork of the Salmon.

Sincerely,

Gina Poole

Ketchum, Idaho