

No one wants a mine that harvests toxic elements in their backyard, or near their streams and rivers. We all want it to be located somewhere else, far from us. But when a large store of a commodity that is necessary to the way we live our everyday lives is found, and we are not willing to go back in time to a place when this commodity was not necessary, sometimes sacrifices have to be made. As a champion of the environment, I naturally would be opposed to any mine on principal. Yet, I also realize that the products I use have to get their chemical elements from somewhere, and I feel it would be hypocritical of me to not at least look at the plans for a nearby source of these elements, thereby hoping to relegate the mining to some poor third-world country to deal with.

Because of this, I have researched extensively and open-mindedly into Perpetua Resources' plan not only for the mining of Antimony but for their environmental commitment to cleanup and reclamation. I must say, that after considerable research, I have found that

the company is truly committed to using mining to leave Stibnite in better condition than they found it. It is no secret the site is not in great condition today. Water quality has been harmed by legacy mine waste and fish cannot swim past the Yellow Pine pit. Once Perpetua has mined the Yellow Pine pit, the company plans to backfill the pit and restore the natural flow of the river. This will permanently reconnect fish to high quality habitat further upstream. But instead of waiting until mining is complete, Perpetua is proposing to provide temporary access for fish by building a passageway around the pit. The SDEIS concluded this decision will limit the overall impact of habitat reduction for fish in the area of the active mine and also reduce the impacts of dewatering the diversion and stream channel elimination. Perpetua's decision to build a fish passageway proves to me that they are willing to go above and beyond to protect wildlife and the environment. I also feel that harvesting antimony domestically is a sound move for our national security, trade balance, and economy in general.

It is with this knowledge that I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to select the 2021 Modified Mine Plan Perpetua Resources presented and permit the project.

Deborah Walgren