

I am a native Idahoan and an exploration geologist with 30+ years of international exposure to many mining projects. There are certainly many places around the world where large footprint surface mining is not right for the current times, they will have to await future trends and needs. This one is different. The Stibnite project, which I have visited twice, is an excellent opportunity to restore a previously mined area and to produce important minerals locally, with local labor, under best practice standards across the board. Why would we, as a nation, deny such opportunity? Especially now that fresh lessons about mineral dependency from rogue states are in the daily news.

I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project. The project will help restore the site, secure the minerals we need for our national security and strengthen America's supply chains. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Today, arsenic and antimony levels at the site are far beyond what is considered healthy for humans or aquatic life. Metals have been leaching into the ground and surface water around the site for years from mine waste that was left behind from legacy mining operations. The Stibnite Gold Project, as outlined in the preferred alternative, will improve water quality conditions at the site because Perpetua Resources plans to remove old mining materials. Of course, the project will contribute new mine waste. However, the SDEIS concludes Perpetua's design features and today's technology will reduce new impacts to water quality. There are environmental benefits to the Stibnite Gold Project and I believe the right checks and balances are in place to move the project forward.

After reading my letter, I hope you can see why you should permit the Stibnite Gold Project. This project is a good thing for Idaho, helps decrease America's dependence on foreign countries for a critical mineral and cleans up the environment. The company also continued to refine its plan in response to the permitting process, so it has the smallest footprint possible and results in improved water quality conditions on site.

Kelly Cluer