

I am a mining engineer with over 40 years of experience in mined land remediation/reclamation and my peers consider me a pioneer in the development of passive treatment (aka constructed wetland) technology for addressing mining influenced water. I have reviewed Perpetua Resources' plans for the Stibnite Gold Project, and I'm impressed with the company's commitment to use modern mining to leave the area better than they found it, while providing our nation with the minerals we need. Below are my comments on the plan to be included in the project record.

America needs antimony and gold to support our modern economy and what better way than to do it ourselves rather than rely on sometimes unreliable international supply chains. It is understandable that people are concerned about mining's impacts on the environment, but based on my professional experience, these impacts can be mitigated by good design. When regulators identified Perpetua Resources' refined plan as its preferred alternative, they did so because they determined the company could mine while minimizing impacts on the environment and communities. One of the ways the company accomplished this is by using Burntlog Road. This reduces the number of stream crossings for mine traffic compared to the Johnson Creek Route, reduces the chances of accidents with recreationalists and minimizes the impacts of potential spills. By keeping traffic away from river crossings, it also lowers sedimentation impacts from mining.

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.

James Gusek