



**Raft River Rural
Electric Cooperative Inc.**

www.rrelectric.com

To Whom It Concerns:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Black Pine Mine Project # 68766 as it relates to Raft River Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The Raft River Rural Electric Cooperative (Raft River) is a member-owned, non-profit cooperative incorporated in 1939 to distribute electrical energy to the rural areas in southcentral Idaho, northwestern Utah, and northeastern Nevada. Customers who receive electricity from Raft River infrastructure are considered members of the cooperative and participate in elections to select a governing board of directors to oversee it. Accordingly, Raft River is understanding and respectful of member needs regarding the safe, reliable and economical supply of electric energy. Raft River spans a vast area with 2400 miles of energized lines to supply power to 5300 meters comprised of residential, commercial/industrial and agricultural meters.

The Black Pine Mine project has requested electrical service from Raft River to meet some of the energy needs required to sustain mining operations. The additional load required to supply electrical energy will be served across Raft River lines, supplied through Pacific Northwest Generation and Transmission Cooperative (PNGC). PNGC manages and holds the necessary wholesale power and transmission contracts on behalf of Raft River to ensure adequate delivery of energy.

Currently, roughly 60 percent of Raft River's load mix is sold to members for agricultural-based irrigation pumping load. To have additional load for the Black Pine Project would only help Raft River in the diversification of load requirements, eliminating such heavily reliance on seasonal irrigation sales. The amount Black Pine has requested could potentially account for 2 to 4 percent of the current peak capacity of Raft River's system, which would ultimately aid in the diversification of energy sales.

Raft River served the mine in years prior to the close in the 1990's. There is currently infrastructure available to serve the requested load, with minimal upgrades needed. This is a project that needs to be considered, with numerous positive economic impacts on the surrounding rural communities, especially when considering just about everything consumed by humans either comes from something either grown or mined. This is a pragmatic approach to the collection of a natural resource that will be accomplished in a prudent manner, ultimately benefiting us all.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to comment on behalf of Raft River Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Respectfully,

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General Manager

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