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Comments: The regulatory agencies should permit development of the Midas Gold Stibnite Project. I am in favor of the operating plan in Alternative 2. Mine production and restoration of the site is a reasonable and advisable outcome of the project. The project will be of great value to working families in Central Idaho. Even with the (pre-Covid) strength of the economy, my opinion is that every living-wage, non-seasonal job that can be created is truly valuable. Mining traditionally provides some of the best wages and benefits of all jobs.

I have four main concerns for consideration in the permitting process. The reclamation bond must be honestly sufficient to reclaim the site if Midas goes out of business during mine operations and reclamation. The mine should be operated on a zero-discharge basis. The closure plan must ensure there is no threat of long-term acid drainage or metal leaching. The tailings impoundment must be carefully permitted to eliminate operational and seismic risks.

Use of the Burntlog Road for project access is a good opportunity to reduce the local impact of the project.

Having spent my career in the mining industry, I know that companies make great efforts to stay in compliance with regulations and permits. The environmental degradation of many decades ago should not occur with modern permitting and regulation. Investment in the Stibnite Project will be beneficial to Idaho. An investment of this size in rural Idaho is significant. Resources continue to be a major part of the rural Idaho economy. Many Idaho workers will benefit from the living-wage jobs the Stibnite Project will create.