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Title:

Comments: I am a native Idahoan and a 45-year resident of McCall. I own a retail establishment in downtown McCall which I have operated for the entire time I have lived in McCall. My wife Deborah and I have raised two children here and one of them and his wife are partners in the retail store. I lived through the former operators of Stibnite and Thunder Mountain (Hecla and SMI) and I know for a fact that my business saw no upside in economic benefit during their years of operation.

My comments today will address the woeful inadequacies of the Socio/Economic portion of the DEIS. I hope to have time to address a few other environmental sections of the report as there are concerns with almost every aspect of this project.

Section 4.21 will be my focus.

4.21.1 and 2:

This section is saying that there is not a good way to quantify the number of local versus non-local employees that will be hired. There needs to be a more extensive study or poll that can give a better analysis. The report contradicts itself and says that the local workforce is [ldquo]limited[rdquo]. Can the FS send this report back and ask for more data on this issue?

* Valley County[rsquo]s labor force availability is limited, as current county unemployment levels are comparable with the state average. As a result, a high percentage of non-local employees would be expected due to local labor market constraints. 4.21-2

I believe that Valley County will see all of the downsides to mining Stibnite and no economic upside. Housing will be expensive in Valley County (see 4.21-11) and per 4.21.1 most employees will be out of County if not even out of State. Mix that with the fact that the few employees that will be living here will be the ones that can afford the rent or housing prices and those employees will just add to the housing issues that already exist here and that are getting more dire everyday. Just look at the boom/bust economies generated by the Bakken Shale mania a few years ago. I am afraid that will happen here with much more dire consequences.

* Most employees are expected to spend almost all their earnings at their place of residence. As a result the economic contributions to Valley and Adams counties economies would be limited to income earned by workers that live in the area. 4.21-7

Finding employees for local businesses is extremely difficult in McCall today due to the lack of affordable housing and the real estate price pressure brought by the large influx of out of town/state second home owners. These sections do not address any adverse effects on existing businesses because of a 10-40% SGP jobs influx. Even the low end of Midas Gold[rsquo]s estimate will make a big impact on local businesses ability to hire. I worry that the [ldquo]indirect and induced[rdquo] effects will all be negative for small local businesses. Cascade and McCall do not have the level of service that will be required for an operation of this size (wholesale food supply, fuel distributors, industrial supplies, etc.). Most would come from the Boise area if not from out of state. This section does not mention any down side projections for the local area[rsquo]s economy which I believe is a startling inadequacy. It is even hard to believe that the State of Idaho will get most of the economic benefit from increased business knowing the global spread of goods and services.

Indirect and Induced

* Alternative 1 would result in indirect and induced economic effects on the local analysis area's economy as a result of direct employment and income from SGP construction activities[hellip] 4.21-4

All of the Alternatives for indirect effects show a positive effect. As stated above, the report is one sided and does not even consider that there would be any negative effects on local small businesses. Don't you, the decision makers, see that this whole DEIS is one sided and flawed? Looks like it was written by Midas Gold!

This is an assessment by a local businessman who has seen this kind of hype before, that ends up being just that [ndash] hype. The only winners here will be the company and the investors. Everyone else loses. This does not stop with just economic losses though. The certainty that the environment will suffer terribly is the underlying reason that this project should not be permitted.