Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/17/2020 6:00:00 AM
First name: T.E.
Last name: Terteling
Organization: The Terteling Company Inc.
Title: CEO
Comments: I'm thankful to have this opportunity to encourage the U.S. Forest Service to help bring Midas Gold Idaho's vital Stibnite Gold Project back to life. This project will have positive impacts on Idaho's economy, our national security, and the safety of workers as well as the environment.

Prior to investments by Midas, the Stibnite Mining District had been derelict for years. Home to the largest source of antimony in the United States, the proposed project is expected to produce more than 100 million pounds of this "critical mineral" -as so designated by the U.S. government due to its potential uses in the fields of domestic clean energy production, aerospace, and national defense.

Right now, China is the number-one source of antimony for the United States as there is currently no domestic mining production of the valuable mineral according to the U.S. government. However, demand for the resource is growing. It is vitally important that America be able to produce antimony on its own, so we don't have to count on foreign sources to access a steady supply-particularly since the Department of Defense has predicted shortfalls of the mineral in the coming years.

Furthermore, this project will spur economic activity that is sorely lacking in rural Idaho communities. Midas has made a commitment to hire, contract with, and purchase supplies and services from Idaho businesses. Already, the company has spent more than $69 million here in Idaho doing just that. Moving forward, the Stibnite Gold Project will be a vital source of jobs-both during the construction phase as well as throughout the lifecycle of the project.

According to estimates by the company, construction could directly employ up to 700 Idahoans, providing annual payroll of up to $49 million. Up to another 600 jobs would be supported during operations, totaling an annual payroll of up to $51 million. Jobs during operations would cover everything from management and administrative positions to equipment operators and laborers to mechanics, engineers, and environmental experts. We're talking real jobs for hardworking Idahoans, which will only helpfurther strengthen local economies.

All of this will be done with the highest safety standards. From a hazardous materials transport plan to the design of their tailings storage facility (TSF), safety has been a central focus for Midas throughout the planning process. The TSF will help protect the local environment and water supply by preventing breaching, overtopping, leaking, and excess water accumulation.

For the benefits this project will provide to local businesses and economies as well as our entire nation, I ask that the U.S. Forest Service move forward with Alternative 2 as presented by Midas in its modified Plan of Restoration and Operations.

Sincerely,

T.E. Terteling, CEO