

I am a registered professional chemical engineer with backgrounds in Metallurgical Engineering (B.S. Idaho '95) and Environmental Science (M.S. Idaho '99) and have been involved in and following the metallurgical processing development for the Stibnite Gold Project for almost the entirety of its development, from the Preliminary Economic Assessment phase in 2011 through the Plan of Restoration and Operations and Feasibility in 2018. While I do not currently live in Idaho, I spent a large portion of childhood with my father working in the Silver Valley at the Sunshine Mine and I attended the University of Idaho for undergraduate and graduate studies in mineral processing, environmental science and anthropology. With my experience of having worked on the process development portion, and having read the alternatives for both the EIS and the SDEIS, I feel that I have a background unique to many persons commenting on this project.

In my opinion, both Perpetua Resources Idaho and the US Forest Service have done a stellar and thorough job of developing the mine plan - including the restoration plan - and in addressing the concerns of the public and stakeholders over the past 12 years.

The current preferred alternative is the best option to redevelop this brownfields site to produce (the critically needed) antimony and gold, provide hundreds of local jobs supporting the Idaho economy... all while remediating a largely abandoned legacy site and restoring the environment closer to its natural state than it has been in over a century.

Fish will have access to native spawning grounds that they haven't been able to access in 80+ years, the project will increase the amount of wetland acreage, remediate legacy tailings to reduce arsenic, antimony and mercury levels in surface waters, use the most up to date technology for the treatment and storage of waste materials to reduce or eliminate the need for perpetual water treatment after closure, and the preferred alternative offers the safest route to and from site to further protect the environment, employees, contractors and the general public. I am sure that regulators would not have identified Perpetua's Modified Mine Plan as their favorite unless they were confident the company could minimize impacts to the environment and community while mining for gold and the critical mineral antimony.

Even before moving the company headquarters to Idaho in 2021, Perpetua Resources has had a presence in and been a member of the Idaho community for the past decade. During this time, the company and its employees have become wonderful champions and supporters of Idaho. They've volunteered their time in the schools and given generously to community causes. For these reasons and the many others I mentioned earlier, I choose to write in support of permitting the Stibnite Gold Project.

Thank you for the thorough review of the Stibnite Gold Project. After analyzing the project for the past six years, I urge you to now move forward and permit the mine using the 2021 Modified Mine Plan so Perpetua Resources can put Americans back to work. Now is the time to move forward with the Stibnite Gold Project.

Melanie Bond