

As a rural central Idaho resident, a member of the whitewater community, and an economic geologist, I ask that you approve Perpetua Resources' Stibnite Mine project DEIS Modified Mine Plan.

Having been involved in the mine permitting process across the Western US, I believe the Stibnite Project has been analyzed at a much higher level of scientific scrutiny than projects of a similar scope typically are. Paying close attention to the process since 2008, I think much of the opposition to the project is purely emotionally driven, and led by groups with no attachment to the region other than to use Idaho Rivers as recreational colonies for high-income city residents. I ask that you consider factual science and provide weight to actual local opinions in the approval process.

I have been to Stibnite, am familiar with the mining history, and know that Perpetua is the only group, including non-profit activist groups and government agencies, that has come up with a viable plan, and funding, to restore the South Fork Salmon River watershed. Claims of irreparable harm from mining is hollow coming from groups which will happily recreate in the unrestored version of said landscape.

The lack of historical awareness for the urgency and difficulty of mining tungsten at Stibnite during World War Two, and the associated environmental damage done by the rushed emergency wartime mining practices, is inexcusable. I challenge opponents of modern mining at Stibnite to read the letter from General Dwight D. Eisenhower thanking the miners at Stibnite for shortening WWII by what he estimated at nine months due to the increased munitions and armor manufacturing capabilities. I challenge them to measure lead levels on Normandy beaches as well to ensure the historic relevance sinks in.

Having lived in small rural towns that have high-paying jobs in natural resource industries, and small cities which depend on the whims of out-of-town visitors for much lower-paying and less stable tourism industry jobs, there is a much stronger sense of identity and purpose in the towns that have self-sustaining economies, with high wages and benefits and a semblance of job security. Additionally, the towns and cities with natural resource jobs had a much higher level of home ownership and financial security, and much less concern for crime. Idaho needs more good jobs in small communities to preserve this long-established standard of living and self-respect.

As a proud American, knowing very well the mineral wealth our country is endowed with, I find it reprehensible that we treat other countries as resource colonies. As a society, we have been happy to take full advantage of low wages, lack of social responsibility and lax environmental laws in other countries to provide the natural resources which our consumption demands, at a slight discount to what we could produce them domestically.

Without local jobs in natural resources in mining, logging, farming and ranching, rural areas in the Western United States are doomed to an existence based on the whims of the tourist economy. This essentially makes these regions and communities recreational colonies for people whom live in an entirely different wage and real estate scale, and can overpower local economies and housing markets for second homes.

Thank you for reviewing my comments. I consider myself well informed of the benefits and risks of the Stibnite Project, and urge you to approve the SDEIS and approve the modified mine mine so that Perpetua Resources can move forward with this valuable and thoroughly evaluated project.

Sam Bourque