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Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Midas Gold PRO at Stibnite. This project has many potential benefits but also raises many concerns. I believe the biggest concern is for the impact the project will have on the water quality in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon river and ultimately the South Fork itself.

The potential harm to the EFSF has two components: short term effects as a consequence of the operation of the project, and long term effects for many years into the future after the project closes.

With regard to the operational part of the project, Midas Gold does not say what toxic substances will be in the water and at what concentrations. I understand they intend to use water recovery and recirculation, that the CN- will be reduced by 99%, that some of the arsenic will be converted to ferric arsenate and so on. But it will never be possible to prevent all toxic material from entering the water course. This is especially true because of the size of this project. They should say what the downstream concentrations will be, for example but not limited to, labile arsenic, ferrous iron, cyanide, flotation reagents, etc.

In the long term, say 30 or 50 years out after closure, it is not believable that 100 million tons of tailings is going to stay in place. We should assume that at some time, because of erosion on the embankment (20% gradient) or by earthquake or by some unpredictable event, tailings sediment will move into the water environment. It is therefore incumbent on Midas Gold to tell us exactly what toxic substances will be in the TSF and at what concentrations. This is information that Midas Gold should have with some specificity and precision.

Thank you again for this opportunity. It is my hope that this project can proceed but only if there are no long term environmental consequences.