

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2020 12:07:51 AM

First name: Claudia

Last name: Camerino

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms. Linda Jackson and Victoria Christiansen,

My name is Claudia Camerino. I am writing to you from White Salmon, WA, a small town overlooking the Columbia River in southern Washington.

I am writing to request that the period for public comment on the proposed Stibnite mine be extended to the full 120 day period. First, please consider the implication of all that is currently taking place in our nation. We are grappling with the wide reaching effects of a global pandemic, and the many stresses, inconveniences, and strange circumstances that come with it. On top of this, the presidential election is weeks away, and many concerned citizens are spending time outside of work to volunteer for campaigns, from text banking to phone calling.

As a nation, we pride ourselves in upholding democratic values. Commenting on a proposed project is the most significant way that the public can communicate with the agency regarding the potential environmental and community impacts and provide vital information so that the agency can make an informed decision. The importance of public comment to the integrity of the NEPA process and agency decision making cannot be overstated, and in these unprecedented times, it is crucial to ensure that the public's opportunity to engage in the NEPA process is ensured.

Additionally, I feel it's important to consider that this shortened comment period makes it very difficult to thoroughly read, digest, and understand the information within the DEIS. It is unreasonable to assume that 45 days plus the given partial mini-extension is enough time to thoroughly examine and comment on a document thousands of pages long. The full extension of 120 days is needed as a minimum to review the document in a way for citizens to be able to submit substantive comments.

Thank you very much for your hard work and for reading this necessity of action in extension of the comment period to 120 days. Please confirm receipt of this message.

Warm regards,

Claudia Camerino