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Comments: Among the many concerns I have regarding this proposed mining project is in my role as a local physician. While significant traumatic injuries or serious illness in the Midas' employee population would necessitate transfer to regional hospitals, often these patients will come to our facilities first for stabilization. Additionally, we have no inpatient treatment locally available for mental health services and substance abuse treatment, and are already under-resourced to meet outpatient needs in these areas for our current population. This is not only a local concern, but a statewide one as Idaho ranks near the bottom of all states in the availability of this important care.

Thus, a sudden increase in our population with a workforce of 500+ will place demands on a rural healthcare system not only in regard to managing emergencies but also in providing outpatient healthcare needs. The current plan to have one onsite provider is unlikely to be able to meet the needs of the workforce population for preventative and treatment services.