Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/3/2023 6:55:55 PM First name: David Last name: Johnson Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a fourth generation Montanan with strong ties to the mining industry, I fully support this expansion project. The factors of safety included within the design are substantial, including the capacity to withstand a 7.5 magnitude credible earthquake and 47 inches of precipitation over a 24-hour period (probable maximum flood). For reference, the highest recorded precipitation event in Montana was 11.50 inches (24-hour) in 1921. In addition, the proposed tailings storage facility and waste rock storage area have been reviewed (and will continue to be reviewed) by an Independent Review Panel. Specific to the tailings storage facility, the design aligns with international best practices for tailings management. And finally, the expansion project is needed to allow continued operations at the East Boulder Mine beyond 2025. Economic studies have shown the impact of Sibanye Stillwater's US Operations on local communities as well as Montana. In 2021 alone, the US Operations provided over \$6 billion in economic output, which was about 6% of Montana's entire output. The US Operations employee over 1,900 employees, with an estimated 6,000 additional jobs. Without these jobs, the local communities and tax bases will drastically suffer. This expansion project is sound and must be approved to sustain Montana families and the local/Montana economies that are supported by Sibanye Stillwater's US Operations.