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Comments: I write in support of East Boulder Major Amendment 4 and the proposed addition of the Dry Fork Waste Rock Storage Facility and Lewis Gulch Tailings Storage Facility. I believe the proposed action aligns with the current Forest Plan and Montana Hard Rock Mining Regulations. It is an acceptable use of our Public Lands and aligns with the premise of multiple use. The current EIS did an extensive job of characterizing environmental and social impacts associated with the proposal allowing the responsible persons to make an informed decision on approving the amendment. However, I ask that the agencies expound on these questions...

1. If this amendment is not approved and being the sole source of PGMs in the United States, where then will these critical metals going be sourced from to continue to protect our air quality via catalytic converters? What is the potential extent of environmental and social impacts that may result in these foreign regions that are forced to increase production to accommodate the reduction in PGMs as a result of East Boulder Mine closure?

2. The operation of the Met Complex in Columbus is dependent on the mineral production coming from the East Boulder Mine. What type of economic impact will then result in Stillwater County and Columbus if the Met Complex is forced to shut-down because of inadequate production? What impact will that have on the world-wide recycling of automobile catalyst which the Met Complex produces 750,000 oz per year? Will this force increased production from other mines in the world to makeup the short-fall resulting from less recycling?

3. Assuming the East Boulder Mine is forced to close without this Amendment, what type of specific economic impacts would result in the towns of Big Timber and Livingston?

4. In the modern era (say last 30 years), have there been any failures of Tailings Dams (world-wide) using the downstream construction method and using native fill or waste rock in the construction of those facilities?

5. The East Boulder Mine currently accounts for over 50% of the entire tax base in Sweet Grass County. How will the County make-up for this loss of millions of dollars in tax revenue? If this tax revenue cannot be "made up", where would the County propose cutting services?

Thank-you for your efforts in this process and consideration of my questions/comments.

Randy