

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/9/2020 6:00:00 AM
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Organization: City of New Meadows
Title: City Clerk / Treasurer
Comments: RE: Comment Letter Stibnite Gold Project

A few of the major factors in the Stibnite Gold Project we would like to comment about.

Environmental Factors and the impact any project may have are especially important to our community. Being good stewards of the environment is what the City of New Meadows tries to do. In the last two decades our own community has completed stream restoration projects with local ranchers and our own city sewer system has begun to discharge its sewer effluent into an adjacent field. Our community was built upon three major economic factors, logging, ranching, and mining. We believe our environment has been affected by these three economies. Some good and some that could have been improved. As industries change and grow, we expect the environmental factors by any development to not be like that of yesteryear. From Water Quality to the landscape, we know things change and hope that this project will be a positive for our region.

Cultural Significance and our heritage is important as a community. From the time the Nez Perce inhabited the area to today, we understand the project will be part of a changing landscape of our culture.

Economic Growth is expected with any project of this size. Spin off industries will be created calling for more of everything. Balancing this growth with the project is significant as each community strives to meet the needs of their citizens. We believe our community is ready for some of the economic spin off industries that will be created by the project. Our Comprehensive Plan indicates a need for new and vibrant businesses that are sustainable.

Community Transportation is always difficult in our region. Removing traffic and vehicle congestion should be something the project developer studies. If a bus were to run from Council to the site, it should have stops in every community along the way, not just for the workers of the project, but also the community as a whole whose jobs were created because of the project.

Housing is a vital component to any project of this caliber. The region is already in a housing crunch. With the anticipation of this project, among other things, the price of homes has increased. We believe any project should assist the region in developing affordable housing. Our Comprehensive Plan indicates a severe need for additional housing. Staff believe the city is in need of at least 70 new dwellings to meet the current demand. With the project size, the housing demand will probably double if not triple in our community.

Restoration is an important portion of this project, if not the most important. We applaud Midas Gold in setting aside money for reclaiming the site. Taking all of the previous mining claims and combining them into a single project is very admirable. Reading their plan for restoring the fish habitats, water quality, landscape and natural habitat for the wildlife will take decades. The site being abandoned in the past should never have happened. The permitting agencies of yesterday should be ashamed of themselves for allowing the site to deteriorate to its current conditions.

We thank you for your time and attention and hope that the project will be a benefit to our community and the local environment.