



**Governor Brad Little**

State Capitol :: Boise, Idaho 83720  
(208) 334-2100 :: [gov.idaho.gov](http://gov.idaho.gov)

June 5, 2020

The Honorable Mary Neumayr  
Chairman  
Council on Environmental Quality  
730 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Ms. Neumayr:

As Governor of the State of Idaho, the health of our people and the strength of our economic recovery are my top concerns. As we manage the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate our recovery, it is imperative that we focus on projects that develop our infrastructure, support important industries, and offer well-paying jobs for Idaho families.

In light of our needs, I am writing to bring to your attention the Stibnite Gold Project in Valley County, Idaho. Under Section 5(d) of the President's Executive Order 13807 "*Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects*," I am requesting that you refer the Stibnite Gold Project to the Executive Director of the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC) for determination as High Priority Infrastructure Project under Executive Order 13766.

Consistent with the goals of Executive Orders 13766 and 13807, the Stibnite Gold Project (SGP) will invest hundreds of millions of dollars in Idaho's infrastructure economy, employ hundreds of Idahoans, provide a stream of critical minerals, antimony, essential to the nation's security as well as contribute important materials for renewable energy infrastructure such as electrical storage batteries, hybrid vehicles, solar photovoltaics and fuel cells, as well as extensive applications for the United States military.

The Stibnite Gold Project is similar in importance to the general welfare and value to Idaho and the nation as are other surface transportation, energy production and water resource projects. For example, the project will invest approximately \$1 billion total construction capital, which will include new and upgraded roads, bridges, and transmission lines.

With job creation now a priority for Idaho and the nation, the Stibnite Gold Project will bring to Valley County approximately 1,000 temporary construction jobs in the first three years, followed by more than 500 fulltime jobs and 500 indirect jobs over the 12-to-15-year operating life of the project. With about \$50 million in annual



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payroll, there is projected life-of-mine direct, indirect and induced taxes of over \$500 million at the federal level and over \$200 million in state and local taxes.

Importantly, the SGP will be the only domestic source of antimony, a formally designated Critical Mineral pursuant to Executive Order 13817 due to its uses in flame retardants, batteries, military equipment and many other sectors of the economy. The global market for antimony is presently, and has been for many years, dominated by China, leaving the USA's supply chain vulnerable in times of crisis. In 2019, the USGS estimated the USA to be 84-percent dependent on China, with few alternate significant producers outside of China and Russia.

Finally, and perhaps equally important, the vision of the Stibnite Gold Project is the land revitalization of an abandoned legacy mine site having been impacted by the mining of critical and strategic minerals during World War II and the Korean War. To the extent that environmental land restoration can complement responsible mining while attracting private sector investment and producing critical minerals, the SGP embodies all four of these important priority interests.

The Stibnite Gold Project's potential as a vigorous economic engine cannot be realized until it successfully navigates NEPA review, which has been underway for the past three and half years, and secures federal permits – both processes that will be made more efficient and accountable through its qualification as a High Priority Project under the President's Executive Order 13766.

Your consideration and referral of the Stibnite Gold Project to FPISC for consideration as a designated High Priority Project is appreciated as we work to restore Idaho's economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little", is written over a horizontal line.

Brad Little  
Governor of Idaho

Cc: Lawrence Kudlow, United States Economic Council  
Peter Navarro, Assistant to the President  
Alex Herrgott, Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council