



CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

July 27, 2020

The Honorable Brad Little  
Governor  
State of Idaho  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720

Dear Governor Little:

Thank you for your letter dated June 5, 2020 requesting that the Stibnite Gold Project be identified as a high priority infrastructure project pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13766, "Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects." The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regularly coordinates with other Federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), to align various permitting improvement and infrastructure initiatives.

Under E.O. 13766, the Chairman of CEQ is required to determine whether an infrastructure project qualifies as a "high priority" infrastructure project in response to a request from a Governor of a State or the head of any executive department or agency. In addition, E.O. 13807, "Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review Process for Infrastructure Projects," adds to the categories of projects that may qualify as high priority infrastructure projects under E.O. 13766.

The U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) published a notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Stibnite Gold Project, a proposed complex mining project located in Valley County in central Idaho, in the Federal Register on June 5, 2017<sup>1</sup> and is preparing this EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.* As described in the NOI, the Stibnite Gold Project requires additional approvals and authorizations by multiple Federal agencies. Based on its review, CEQ has determined that the Stibnite Gold Project qualifies as a high priority infrastructure project in accordance with E.O. 13766.

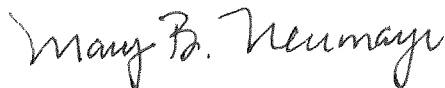
CEQ has sent a letter to USDA Secretary Perdue, notifying him of this determination and requested that the Forest Service conduct the environmental review in a timely manner consistent with the One Federal Decision policy described in E.O. 13807 and with the related Memorandum of Understanding executed in April 2018. In addition, CEQ has requested that the Forest Service provide it with regular updates and work with the appropriate agencies to list the Stibnite Gold Project on the Permitting Dashboard at <https://www.permits.performance.gov/>.

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<sup>1</sup> Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, 82 Fed. Reg. 25759 (June 5, 2017).

Thank you for your request related to this project and for your continued support of the Administration's efforts to improve the efficiency and timeliness of the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary B. Neumayr".

Mary B. Neumayr  
Chairman

cc: Douglas Hoelscher, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director, White House  
Intergovernmental Affairs