

MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, February 12, 2013
- TIME:** 1:30 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW41
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Raybould, Vice Chairman Eskridge, Representatives Anderson(1), Hartgen, Vander Woude, DeMordaunt, Nielsen, Thompson, Anderson(31), Anderst, Mendive, Monks, Morse, Trujillo, Smith, Rusche, Woodings
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
- GUESTS:** Anne Labelle and Jeffrey Root, Midas Gold Corporation; Russell Westerberg, Curt Fransen and Barry Burnell, Department of Environmental Quality; Dennis Stevenson, Administrative Rules Coordinator; Mckinsey Lyon, Gallantin Public Affairs; Miguel Legarreta, Ada County Association of Realtors; Pat Barclay, Idaho Council on Industry & Environment
- Chairman Raybould** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Thompson** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2013, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- MOTION:** **Rep. Trujillo** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2013, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- MOTION:** **Rep. Smith** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2013, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 21882:** **Rep. Denney** presented **RS 21882**, which is a concurrent resolution to reject a fee rule of the Department of Environmental Quality relating to Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems. This legislation will remove Section 010 from IDAPA 58.01.08.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Anderson (1)** made a motion to introduce **RS 21882**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Anne Labelle**, Vice President of Legal and Sustainability for Midas Gold Corporation, gave a presentation to the Committee. She explained Midas Gold is based in Vancouver, British Columbia, and is publicly traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange - soon to be on the New York Stock Exchange. Ms. Labelle stated Midas Gold is currently focused on the exploration and development of the Golden Meadows Project, located near historic Stibnite, Idaho, in Valley County.
- Ms. Labelle** explained in addition to gold, Midas Gold is exploring for antimony. She stated over 90% of antimony is currently mined in China, and there are no domestic antimony mines in production in the United States. Ms. Labelle said antimony is used for flame retardants, batteries, plain bearings, and solder.
- Ms. Labelle** reviewed plans Midas Gold has for leaving the land when mining has ended. These include protecting and enhancing water quality, fisheries, wetlands, and groundwater. She stated they try to limit road building and use helicopters whenever possible, and that they planted 7800 trees last year to help with dust suppression.

Ms. Labelle stated Midas Gold is the largest private employer in Valley County, and approximately \$45 million was spent in Idaho in 2012. She explained the company hires locally and uses local suppliers and contractors. Their goal is to create jobs and be a part of the existing communities. Ms. Labelle estimated 400 direct employees, 1,000 indirect jobs created, and an average annual payroll of \$20 million as a future economic benefit to the area. She added there are approximately 2.5 spin-off jobs for every job at the project area.

Ms. Labelle explained it is a federal action to develop a mine and reviewed some of the federal, local and state permits that are required. She stated the company has started the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), required for water discharges, and in late 2013 they will start the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for mine development.

In answer to questions on whether new deposits have been discovered in previously mined areas, **Ms. Labelle** stated all the surface deposits are gone from historic mining, but there are additional minerals in a sulfite form. She also said with what is known today the life of a mine is about 14 years, and although there is a price point where gold is no longer feasible to mine, an upward trend is expected.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Representative Raybould
Chair

Lynn Walker
Secretary