

MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 16, 2015
TIME: 01:30 or Upon Adjournment
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman Thompson, Vice Chairman Anderst, Representatives Raybould, Hartgen, Vander Woude, Nielsen, Anderson, Mendive, Trujillo, Beyeler, Chaney, Nate, Scott, Smith, Rusche, Jordan, Rubel
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Vice Chairman Anderst, Representative(s) Vander Woude, Anderson
GUESTS: Robert Barnes, Midas Gold

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Anna LaBelle, Vice President Legal and Sustainability, Midas Gold Corporation presented the Stibnite Gold Project near Yellow Pine, Idaho. Midas's approach is environment and modern mining can work together. They have a strong commitment to hiring local contractors and strive to be a meaningful member of the community and engage all stakeholders. Midas began exploration in Idaho in 2009, and since 2011 they have invested more than \$80 million in Valley County, \$94 million in total. Midas has recently appointed a locally focused Board of Directors and have identified an economically feasible, socially and environmentally sound project that will also restore the mining site. The project area has an extensive history of mining and is heavily disturbed. Mineral resources still available on site make for an economically feasible project. The Stibnite Gold Project is an economically feasible, socially and environmentally sound project that will restore the land, water and habitat of an area left after 100 years of mining. The project will restore fish passage, reprocess million of tons of waste, reuse approximately six million tons of spent heap leach ore and will reduce sediment currently entering adjacent streams and rivers. Upon closure of the site the area will be a self sustaining natural environment.

In response to questions, **Ms. LaBelle** explained there is more gold available in this area of Idaho, silver is more prevalent in Northern Idaho. Residents of Yellow Pine are all in favor. Permitting is the biggest risk. Midas is aware mining is a boom and bust industry, they have been very careful to say this is not a solution for the economy. Ms. LuBelle said the local hiring will not place extra students in their school system. Midas is responding to traffic impacts, and even if the price of gold reduces to \$832 an ounce they will still be able to make a profit.

SCR 117: **Rep. Thompson** presented **SCR 117** to honor the service of Vice Admiral John J. Grossenbacher, he has been the Director of the Idaho National Laboratory for the past decade. This Resolution commends him for his integrity, leadership, and many contributions to the state of Idaho.

MOTION: Rep. Trujillo made a motion to send **SCR 117** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** Rep. Thompson will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Representative Thompson
Chair

Heidi McKay
Secretary