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It is disturbing to me that only written comment on changes to the wild rice standard will be received. Open public meetings help to inform people of the actions and possible harms our agencies plan to allow. The ten parts per million wild rice sulfate standard has been employed for years. When sulfate exceeds the standard wild rice suffers. Minnesota agencies, the MPCA and DNR in particular, should not conform to the wiles of extractive industry while letting natural resources be harmed.

Please, MPCA, enforce the 10 ppm wild rice sulfate standard which is upheld by both the Clean Water Act and Minnesota laws and regulations. In my book it is criminal to let polluting industries harm the high quality, low-sulfate wild rice waters. Productive wild rice waters, including the Boundary Waters, Lake Superior's watershed and the waters near Big Sandy Lake have sulfate levels less than 10 ppm. I urge the MPCA not to grant any sulfate level increases in those lakes and waters.

For several years I have read reports on how sulfate pollution increases mercury toxicity in fish due to mercury methylation. Reducing enforcement of the 10ppm sulfate standard would harm fish and those who eat fish, harming fetuses, youngsters, the elderly, and actually all who subsist on fish, many of whom are indigenous. That violates their Treaty Rights, because they cannot without harm "hunt, fish and gather" in those waters with high mercury levels.

Please require any industry or entity wanting to put more sulfate in the water prove that their "site-specific sulfate standard" does not harm wild rice so that wild rice will be protected in the long run. A 2018 contested case hearing debunked the "site-specific" standards the MPCA was promoting. More wrongs don't make a right. The MPCA should not grant "site-specific" sulfate standards without tribal consultation and consent and without public rulemaking. It's time to nix the "site-specific" sulfate standards for the wishful and unscientific thinking it is.

Unless and until Minnesota's laws and the Clean Water Act formally approve a "site-specific sulfate standard," I urge the MPCA to apply and enforce the 10 ppm wild rice sulfate standards as you work to establish and enforce permit limits and as you develop TMDL studies and plans to restore any and all wild rice waters on the impaired list due to higher sulfates than the 10 ppm standard. Please do not put this off or apply weakened standards. Enforce the 10 ppm wild rice standards now.

We have no right to further degrade our environment. We must leave it in as good or better shape than we found it so future generations can enjoy and use it. Again please, enforce the 10 ppm wild rice standards now.

Thank you.