

# Michael Overend

Dear MPCA Administration,

The iron mining industry is vital to Northern Minnesota's economy and the well being of the region's families and communities. At the same time the site-specific sulfate water pollution associated with this iron-ore extraction industry has been clearly proven to cause impairment to the invaluable waters that are sacred to the Native Americans who traditionally rely on the bounty from these lands.

These tribal governments gave permission to our state government to make use of these mineral resources but they did not give permission to pollute their waters or destroy their wild rice resources. The 2018 Tribal Wild Rice Task Force Report has clearly defined the sources and impacts of sulfate pollution on the fresh waters and wild rice resources which are vital to the tribes:

<https://mnchippewatribe.org/pdf/TWRTF.Report.2018.pdf>

There is a cost-effective solution under development to address this problem through biological remediation of the sulfate impairment of fresh water. Please explore the clearwater BioLogic website for more information about this technology at this link:

<https://clearwaterbiologic.com/>

This technology offers a cost-effective and scalable solution that will allow the iron mining industry to address this sulfate pollution problem and meet the needs of the people of the native tribes for thriving wild rice and healthy waters to support their communities.

The MPCA should contact and work directly with clearwater BioLogic to help bring this technology to market as soon as possible and mandate the implementation of this technology to address the proven site-specific sulfate pollution of Minnesota's waters directly related to Minnesota iron mining.

The site-specific sulfate standard for our Minnesota waters must be enforced by the MPCA without exception and this is one of the most important roles and tasks of the MPCA as noted on your website:

"The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is committed to ensuring that every Minnesotan has healthy air, sustainable lands, clean water, and a better climate.

Through the authority of state and federal statutes and guidelines, the state agency focuses on preventing and reducing the pollution of air, land, and water, and leads Minnesota's efforts to protect against the devastating effects of climate change. We work with regulated parties, businesses, governments, organizations, and Minnesota's 11 tribal nations to develop innovative, community-centered approaches that protect our natural resources, improve human health, and foster strong economic growth.

The MPCA addresses statewide inequities in pollution exposure through its work to ensure that Black, Indigenous, communities of color, and low-income residents enjoy a healthy environment and fair treatment with respect to the development, adoption, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. The agency advances meaningful engagement with communities most impacted by pollution and programs intended to protect against it. Read more about the agency's environmental justice work.

The MPCA is organized into seven divisions:...

Industrial handles permitting, compliance assistance and enforcement, and licensing and certification for industrial wastewater and stormwater facilities, sources of air emissions, underground fuel storage tank facilities, and hazardous waste generators."

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/about-us#:~:text=Industrial handles permitting, compliance assistance, facilities, and hazardous waste generators.>

Please follow these guidelines that you have published on your website and that you have been tasked with by the authorities of the State of Minnesota.

Respectfully,

Michael Overend  
1087 Isackson Road  
Two Harbors, MN 55616  
(218) 591-2514