

## Peder Otterson

I am a retired DNR hydrologist who began my work with the State of Minnesota on the Regional Copper Nickel Study back in the 70s. Through field studies and extensive review, I came to appreciate how waste rock from mining operations could form leachate that impacted adjacent wetlands and lakes. Sulfates were a key indicator as they were easy to track by measuring the specific conductance of the associated water. At the time, we were not focused on how they might affect wild rice. Now we know! It is important that PCA maintain and enforce the sulfate standard for wild rice that was established years ago.