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It seems to me the MPCA must enforce the 10ppm sulfate rule under the Clean Water Act, and water quality degradation is prohibited, regardless of the site. Also, the interaction of toxic mercury with sulfate must be taken into account, and on a related matter, peer-reviewed science doesn't support allowing more sulfate because a specific site may have more iron. The bottom line is that the mining companies have the ability and the funds to treat their effluent to meet the standard, and should be responsible corporate citizens and do so. I was at a public hearing in 2005 where a representative of US Steel said it would cost the company \$900 million to clean up their discharge. A lot of money, but their profits for that year were over a billion dollars.