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It's September 3 and the world is staggering through the hottest temperatures on record. Canada has had endless wildfires, fires of burning in Oregon and California. "Unprecedented" and "historic" everything; torrential rains, killer storms, drought, untold damage due to climate change. Man made climate change: there are 8 BILLION PEOPLE ON THE PLANET. Our water must be protected. It is the most important resource in the world. Minnesota is in drought. And MPCA is proposing an implementation plan for permitting that would allow low-sulfate waters to be degraded? I understand that the MPCA has resisted enforcement of Minnesota's 1973 federally-approved wild rice sulfate standard and the US Environmental Protection Agency has required MPCA to list Minnesota wild rice waters impaired because sulfate exceeds the standard.

Minnesota is a water rich environment. This is not just about wild rice. Sulfate pollution increases toxic mercury contamination of fish due to release of mercury from sediments and increased mercury methylation. Increased mercury contamination of fish will damage the developing brains of fetuses, infants, children and people who rely on fish for subsistence. Instead of the never-ending pattern of contaminating and poisoning our waters (then spending endless sums of money for cleanup - which is not an option with mercury in the water), PLEASE PROTECT THE WATER AND DO NOT ALLOW the site specific standards to go forward. And PLEASE PROTECT THE WATER AND ENFORCE THE FEDERALLY-APPROVED WILD RICE SULFATE STANDARD.

Thank you.