

# Joseph Knaeble

I am writing to you today to strongly encourage the MPCA to follow the current Federal and State laws regarding sulfate pollution from mining and to protect Minnesota waters. Below are just a few of the reasons I support the current Federal and State regulations.

The MPCA must enforce Minnesota's wild rice sulfate standard of 10 parts per million (ppm) under the Clean Water Act and decisions of the Minnesota courts. MPCA has no discretion to continue to delay or deny enforcement. The 10 ppm sulfate standard is the "effects threshold" for wild rice impairment.

Health threat of sulfate and mercury. MPCA lax enforcement of the wild rice sulfate standard and increased mercury contamination of fish will damage the developing brains of fetuses, infants, children, and people who rely on fish for subsistence, and will impair the exercise of tribal Treaty-reserved rights.

New or expanded discharge – research required. Before a "site-specific standard" can be considered for a new or expanding discharge to wild rice waters, the proponent (discharger or MPCA) should have to prove based on at least 5 years of independent research using site-specific wild rice seeds and sediment that the proposed sulfate levels would not cause harm to wild rice beneficial use, including harm to wild rice abundance, seed productivity, genetic diversity, and nutritional quality

Tribal and public process. No "site-specific standard" for discharge of sulfate to wild rice should be approved by MPCA without tribal consultation and tribal consent and a formal and public rulemaking process.

In closing I once again strongly urge the MPCA to follow the existing laws and prevent pollution of Minnesota waters and life.

Sincerely,

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