

Brett Cease

Both U.S. Steel and Cleveland Cliffs are requesting site-specific exemption to the wild rice sulfate standard of 10 ppm (10 mg/L). In the article U.S. Steel claims that it would cost them between \$9 and \$27 million per year at their Minntac plant to meet this standard.

The Clearwater BioLogic sulfate reduction system (www.ClearwaterBioLogic.com) using biological reduction and DRI (Direct Reduced Iron) treatment is estimated to cost less than \$3 million per year at the Minntac site to meet the wild rice standard downstream. And a big part of this solution uses the DRI pellets that the iron and steel companies themselves are or will be producing. The United Taconite site would cost much less. This technology is ready to begin implementation now. And furthermore, the biggest cost of sulfate remediation would be the providing of good paying jobs here in NE Minnesota. If we want jobs in NE Minnesota, we can provide jobs by solving the sulfate standoff.