

## Lynn Anderson

The MPCA must enforce Minnesota's current wild rice sulfate standard of 10 parts per million. Degradation of low sulfate waters should be prohibited so that wild rice that the Native people depend on continues to grow. Low sulfate waters should be protected to full extent of the Minnesota wild rice standard of 10 parts per million. Sulfates increase mercury contamination in fish. When people eat the mercury contaminated fish it becomes a human health hazard for infants, children, and developing fetuses. If the water is deemed to have high iron content, adding sulfates will only make the situation worse for wild rice. MPCA's equation is NOT valid science. Tribes must be consulted, and give their permission to allow site-specific sulfate standard modifications that do not meet the Minnesota wild rice standard. In addition, independent research must be conducted for five years to confirm that a site-specific standard is appropriate. Until a site has been designated by law as site-specific, Minnesota's wild rice standard must be enforced and upheld.