

## Patricia Schmieder

The current 10 ppm wild rice sulfate standard must be enforced as is, to uphold MN law and the Clean Water Act prohibiting degradation of our water quality the state.

The 10 ppm on the book since 1974 has been proven to be scientifically sound, and the consequences of higher sulfate levels are well known, including impacts on wild rice and on methyl mercury formation and bioaccumulation. Health effects on humans consuming contaminated fish are also well known. Mercury in infants in NE MN has been documented. The standard must be enforced as is to prevent further pollution and aquatic and human toxicities.

The validity and effectiveness of site-specific standards would need much more scientific basis and ground-proofing to demonstrate that beneficial uses will be protected. The "site-specific standards" loophole should not be used to resurrect the unsupported MPCA theory that wild rice could be protected without enforcement of the 10 ppm standard in the 2018 contested case hearing. Research has also shown high iron does not protect wild rice, with formation of iron sulfides on roots interfering with the sustainability of wild rice populations.

Don't take us backward by ignoring the facts on the ground. And, no "site-specific standard" for discharge of sulfate should be approved by MPCA in the future without tribal consultation and tribal consent and a formal and public rulemaking process.

Enforce the current 10ppm standard in all our Minnesota waters now.