

Brad Snyder

As a Science Teacher/Environmental Educator, Mechanical Engineer (Emphasis: Environmental Science/Eng.), Clean Water/Environmental Protection/Human Health Advocate, and an extremely concerned Minnesotan, I wholeheartedly insist the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency MUST protect Minnesota's water and natural environment from the effects of mining and NOT allow the degradation of any of our water!!

- 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!
 - Degradation prohibited! Both the Clean Water Act and Minnesota law prohibit degradation of water quality in Minnesota lakes, streams, and wetlands! MPCA MUST NOT allow polluters to degrade high quality, low-sulfate wild rice waters!
 - Protect low-sulfate waters! Many of Minnesota's most abundant wild rice stands in the Boundary Waters, the Lake Superior watershed, and north central Minnesota (including the Big Sandy Lake area) have far less than 10 ppm of sulfate! MPCA permitting MUST NOT allow sulfate in these wild rice waters to increase even if the degraded level of sulfate remains just below the standard!
 - Sulfate pollution increases toxic mercury contamination of fish due to release of mercury from sediments and increased mercury methylation! MPCA MUST consider the effects of lax sulfate standard enforcement on mercury and methylmercury!
- Thanks!