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Instituting a "site-specific" sulfate permitting process is an unacceptable breach of MPCA's responsibility to protect our state's waters and wild rice, a treaty-protected cultural resource. Site-specific standards are simply a way to exempt mining operations, particularly copper-nickel sulfide mines that want to operate in the state, from the sulfate standard. All wild rice waters, including those currently below 10 ppm of sulfate, must be protected from further sulfate degradation. Once a permit is granted to open the door to degradation, it could easily surpass 10 ppm and kill wild rice, which is already threatened by climate change and invasive species. It will also contribute to more methylmercury pollution in fish. Please do not open the door to this dangerous loophole that further imperils the state's precious wild rice.