

Linda Herron

To the MPCA,

In the planning for any new standard for sulfate concentration in any Minnesota water, extensive research is required. Before a "site-specific standard" can be considered for a new or expanding discharge to wild rice waters, the MPCA-approved discharger should have to prove, based on at least 5 years of independent research using site-specific wild rice seeds and sediment, that the proposed sulfate levels would not cause harm to wild rice beneficial use, including harm to wild rice abundance, seed productivity, genetic diversity, and nutritional quality.

Additionally, this process should involve Tribal involvement and approval. No "site-specific standard" for discharge of sulfate to wild rice should be approved by MPCA without tribal consultation and tribal consent and a formal and public rulemaking process.

Until such further research can prove a safer level than the current 10 PPM, I urge the MPCA to maintain the current previously determined safe level of sulfate at 10 PPM for all Minnesota waters.

Thank you for consulting the public, even if in a limited way.