

## Judy Grant

I have a lake home on Big Sandy Lake near McGregor MN. This is a very wet area and I am very concerned that the MPCA may allow Copper Nickel mining in the Tamarack area, which would due to the fact that the sulfur content of this ore is high contaminate and acidify the ground and surface water in this area. Therefore, I would like to point out that both the Clean Water Act and Minnesota law PROHIBIT the degradation of water quality in Minnesota lakes, streams, and wetlands. And the MPCA must not allow polluters to degrade high quality, low-sulfate wild rice waters such as those in the greater Big Sandy Watershed area. And 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. So, to maintain water quality MPCA permitting should not allow sulfate in these wild rice waters to increase even if the degraded level of sulfate remains just below the standard. Lastly, I would like to point out that 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.