

## Rachel Youens

After half a century of failure to enforce Minnesota's federally-approved wild rice sulfate standard, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is proposing a plan for permitting and for "site-specific standards" that would allow more pollution than the 10 parts per million sulfate wild rice rule.

We must ensure the MPCA does not allow mines and other industries to discharge uncontrolled pollution for another half a century.

Wild rice (manoomin) is sacred to the Anishinaabe and is Minnesota's state grain, an important food for wildlife and humans, and an ecological indicator for water quality. The same sulfate pollution that kills wild rice also increases toxic mercury contamination of fish.