

Dennis Kaleta

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I support the efforts to identify the 2395 wild rice producing waterbodies and I urge you to add the 20 additional bodies of water impacted by sulfates. Dark Lake, in the Rainy River Watershed, should also be added to this list. I feel that the TMDL contaminant plan is too weak at its current level. The MPCA should study each waterbody polluted by mining wastes and determine what level of sulfates needs to be reached to protect the wild rice in that waterbody. Mining permits should be written with strict sulfates controls and these permits should be strongly enforced. In Minnesota we depend on the MPCA to protect our waters, wild rice, fish and aquatic ecosystems from mercury and other pollutants. We need strict guidelines and timelines to accomplish this. MPCA should work to restore impacted waters so they are healthy for plants, wildlife and humans. Thank you.