

## Greta Gaard

Thank you for your work on protecting Minnesota's waters! I support MPCA's efforts to identify 2,395 wild rice producing waters and add 20 new waterbodies to the list of wild rice waters impaired due to sulfate--Minnesota's tribes have sought this recognition for decades! I have read that you should add Dark Lake, a wild rice lake in the Rainy River watershed contaminated by mining pollution, to the list of wild rice waters impaired due to sulfate.

Presently, the current Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan to study and reduce pollutants in impaired waters is TOO WEAK to protect human health, ecosystems, and the exercise of treaty-reserved rights from sulfate impairment of wild rice and toxic mercury contamination of fish.

Sulfate promotes MERCURY CONTAMINATION. Sulfate discharge from mining pollution is the main cause of about half of the wild rice waters sulfate impairments listed by MPCA. The most efficient and common sense way to restore these waters is to set and enforce sulfate discharge limits in mining National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to reduce sulfate and achieve compliance with Minnesota's wild rice sulfate standard.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO PROTECT OUR WILD RICE--for native people, animals, waters, and future generations.