

Karin Winegar

I am deeply concerned that MPCA does not serve the people and wildlife of this state by establishing and upholding strict protections for our legendary and essential water. MPCA has neither reissued the U.S. Steel Minntac permit with sulfate limits nor updated other mining permits that lack limits on sulfate to comply with Minnesota's standard. The only mine facilities with sulfate limits—the U.S. Steel Keetac mine and tailings basin—have violated their sulfate limits for years with no apparent consequences.

MPCA must move quickly to set sulfate load limits for wild rice waters polluted by mining to restore compliance and establish, update, and enforce sulfate limits in every mining permit to achieve compliance. These steps—none of which MPCA has adopted—would restore approximately half of Minnesota's wild rice waters impaired due to sulfate.