Sue Halligan

Minnesotans want this agency to control pollution, not just measure it! MPCA must control sulfate pollution, complete Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies, and commit to restore sulfate and mercury impaired waters in Minnesota. However, MPCA has no commitment to limit sulfate loads and restore Minnesota wild rice waters impaired due to sulfate by any date. MPCA must update taconite permits, add sulfate limits, and penalize violations of permits that have sulfate limits. These actions alone could restore half of Minnesota's 55 wild rice waters listed as impaired due to sulfate pollution.

MPCA has planned no individual TMDL studies of 75 percent of Minnesota waterbodies impaired by excessive mercury. In fact, they only plan to start TMDL studies for 4 percent of Minnesota mercury impaired waters.

MPCA must accept the science that sulfate, among other factors, exacerbates mercury contamination from air emissions, and complete individual and rigorous mercury TMDL studies that protect fish, public health, and the exercise of treaty-reserved rights. Why is this not being done?