

Dr. Liz Dahl

I live in Northern St Louis County. I support MPCA's efforts to identify and protect rice producing waters adding 20 new waterbodies to the list. Dark Lake has been contaminated by mining and should be added to the list of sulfate polluted waters. I am sad that Minnesota's regulations are too weak and not even enforced such that our natural resources are being destroyed for short term profits for the mining industry. Ecosystems are at risk. Our well water and ability to nourish our livestock and agricultural produce is at risk. I have observed dramatic loss of biodiversity since I moved here over 20 years ago. The clean waters and biodiversity is one major reason we moved to Minnesota! As a retired physician I can attest to the long term adverse health impact of mercury contamination in fish along with water pollution from other toxins directly related to sulfate mining i.e. copper-nickel mining....These toxins are especially damaging to babies and children. Shouldn't the MPCA do more to monitor protect and restore waters? What is your mission? Do you honestly feel you are achieving your mission? Why do the legislators and MPCA let mining operations ignore the regulations? Why do they keep weakening the standards? Tribes have sought recognition of wild rice waters for decades. It is horrific that their voices are largely ignored. MPCA should move quickly to determine sulfate load reductions and regulate mining pollution to restore wild rice waters.