

Michael Ptak

I'm against the variance that Keetac is proposing. I feel the 10mg/l of Sulfate now allowed is excessive and it has never been enforced and should be enforced. As stated in their request it doesn't appear to be a financial hardship for them to install the technology and it would actually create jobs to build this facility. From the meeting I attended on this matter the politicians are pushing this as job killing endeavor and were misstating the facts to that end. I see nothing in Keetac's request about shutting down this facility if made to comply.

The science is sound for this 10mg/l standard and should be enforced. I'm more concerned more hasn't been talked about preserving our water quality for the fish, wildlife and humans. As you well know this sulfate is converted to sulfites which in turn produces methylmercury which is an extremely toxic form of mercury and a huge threat to our environment.

There appear to be some new promising cost effect ways to treat high levels of sulfates right here on the range and could be implemented at this mine. If US Steel ever had intended in cleaning up it's mess, it would have been investing in this technology years ago. Once again this will create good jobs for people right here on the range.

This mess that mining has created on the range will have to be addressed at one point and that time should be now and it should fall on the mining industry not at a later time by Minnesota tax payers. Please remain steadfast to your original variance denial.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to insert my thoughts into this matter.