

# Mark Taray

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Attn: Stephanie Handeland

To: Stephanie Handeland:

I would like to input my opinion on the Waste Water Permit for Keetac. First of all, I want to be clear that I am in favor of Keetac getting a variance for the sulfate standard. I strongly believe that the requested 10 PPM is unattainable - that if an attainable number, i.e.: 50ppm was requested, I believe the mine would meet or exceed this standard. I've worked at Keetac 20 years and have witnessed first hand the practices of our environmental department. Keetac makes every effort to meet the requirements for the standards that are in place by the MPCA. Keetac has discharged water into the above named creeks and reservoirs, and wild rice, wildlife and vegetation thrives in and next to these waters.

The way of life on the iron range depends on mining! I strongly believe that an attainable sulfate standard should be researched and established working with the Department of Natural Resources, Mine environmental depts., etc.. Once a plan is put in place with solutions on how to obtain a realistic standard - it should be agreed and voted on by the public and implemented.

I care a great deal of my environmental surroundings here in northern Minnesota. I believe strongly that I am a witness to the great amount of care and attention given to the environment by the Keetac environmental department each and every day. Please consider the variance requested by United States Steel Keetac, and set in place a new achievable sulfate requirement.

For the future of families and mining in Minnesota!

Regards,

Mark A. Taray  
218-259-1010

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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