

Board Member of IMA Marci Knight (Marci Knight)

I am here to support U.S. Steel and their submissions two site-specific standard (SSS) requests for sulfate at Hay Lake near Keetac.

The 2014 request was never acted upon by MPCA and the 2022 request was denied. These applications followed MPCA guidance and show that a higher sulfate standard than 10 mg/L is warranted. It is concerning that the MPCA does not take into account modern science and site-specific conditions. I urge the MPCA to reconsider the SSS applications as Keetac has been discharging to Hay Lake for almost 60 years with healthy wild rice in existence.

I urge the MPCA:

To refrain from including sulfate limits in Keetac's permits. If the permit limits remain as proposed, the MPCA must modify the permits to contain a single sulfate compliance point and allow more time for compliance.

To abide by the 2011 law and update the 10 mg/L sulfate standard that the state of Minnesota has recognized as being incorrect.

Being from Iron Wood MI, I know firsthand of what a mine closure (White Pine Mine) does to a community. Large businesses close, small businesses close, schools close and residents move like myself.

Marci Knight
Community member and Board Member of IMA