

David Lick

Since Dr. Pastor did his sulfate study there has been added argument about the results and the 10ppm standard. The mining industry and anyone discharging has not been in a hurry to meet the standards. The Pastor study was followed up by the Chamber of Commerce study and Minnesota Power and Light also was adamant about the standard being too low. Now Minnesota is at a crossroads again with the discison. A suggestion create a new study on an active mine or sewage plant and test different concentrations and the effect the concentrations have on the rice. This pollution has gone on for over 20 years so it is no big deal to add 5 more years to the the timeline. This will delay permitting but again time has not been a big factor for MPCA the EPA or the mines or gov't units. If the study is done on a active biome (system) the results could be more conclusive. Maybe the rice can withstand higher limits than the 10 PPM limit currently. The Native Americans should devise the study on their sovereign land and have it overseen by industry and the MPCA. The steel companies and the Mn Legislature should be the financiers of the study. Make an agreement before the study takes place that the results will be the final straw and if the standard at which rice is affected is 25PPm they will comply and the legislature will make sure cities and towns have the money to also comply. Thanks

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