

Richard Libbey

Dear Sirs I would like to comment on the MPCA permit for Keetac. It is time to find a solution to this sulfate-mercury problem. There has been no enforcement for 15 years and the problem persists. The 2030 deadline hopefully will get the mines, politicians and researchers moving on this before it impacts production.

As a lifetime resident of the area I have seen the mines fight every effort to clean up the environment instead of moving forward for solutions. The Silver Bay case of dumping taconite tailings into Lake Superior is one of many cases.

Mesabi Metallics is on track to build a more environmentally friendly plant. New Range Copper and Nickel {Polymet} claims they will be able to treat their sulfate discharge with reverse osmosis for 500 years but Keetac says they can't clean up theirs.

Taconite plants are the biggest emitters of mercury in the state and sulfate in Keetacs sulfate discharge activates mercury in the down stream waters bioaccumulating in fish in Swan lake. This must stop.

Northeastern politicians claim we have mined iron ore for 100 years with no environmental harm. This is a lie.

Get the IRRB and the Research Center in Coleraine developing solutions. Tac plants need to invest in this as do politicians instead of fighting it.

Set a 2030 deadline and approve this permit. Sincerely Richard Libbey