

Jason Croteau

To Whom It May Concern at the MPCA,

As a resident of a community downstream from the Keetac facility, I am deeply concerned about the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) approach to sulfate compliance in the draft permits. Requiring compliance at each individual outfall, when all discharges flow into a single water body, is not only inefficient but scientifically misleading. The permittee's request to use a single downstream compliance point is a more accurate and protective approach, and it should be honored.

Furthermore, I am troubled by the MPCA's refusal to act on or approve the site-specific standard (SSS) requests submitted by U. S. Steel in 2014 and 2022. These applications followed MPCA's own guidance and presented compelling evidence that a higher sulfate standard is appropriate for Hay Lake, where wild rice has thrived for decades despite discharges.

I urge the MPCA to:

Refrain from including sulfate limits in Keetac's permits. If limits are imposed, they must be based on a single, scientifically valid compliance point.

Abide by the 2011 law and update the outdated 10 mg/L sulfate standard, which modern science has shown to be inaccurate.

Sincerely,

Jason Croteau

Concerned Resident