

Cody Dianoski

Hello, my name is Cody Dianoski. I am a journeyman electrician and belong to IBEW Local #294 in Hibbing, Minnesota. I have worked residential, commercial, and industrial jobs across the Iron Range and further. I have worked in at least four of the mines, including Keetac.

I ask that you do not grant them the variance on pollution control levels. I don't believe the lies being told that it will cause the mine to shut down and jobs to be lost. On the contrary, I believe it would create many temporary construction jobs to install pollution control measures. These jobs would fall under collective bargaining agreements, and would go to skilled Union tradesmen earning prevailing wages.

Our lakes will be around long after the mines will have stripped our land of all her resources and shut their doors due to lack of ore in the ground(not because we made them limit their pollution). That is why it is so important to force them to do whatever possible to keep our precious waters clean for future generations, rather than keep those billions of dollars in profits in their foreign pockets.

I took a hike to Hay Lake the weekend after the MPCA's public meeting, to see with my own eyes the condition of these waters and the rice(or lack thereof). I paddled a canoe around the lake to see everything up close. The rice was there, but it did not cover a large area, and it was patchy and unhealthy. There weren't but about five degenerate grains on each stalk. We can not allow this to happen to our natural resources just because of corporate greed. We must hold them accountable. They need to clean the water, and they need to be forced to do it, soon.