

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: lfoushee@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lea Foushee
<lfoushee@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 10:58 AM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Dear Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Staff,

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Lea Foushee

5093 Keats Ave N Lake Elmo, MN 55042-8508 lfoushee@nawo.org

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: lisabharrington@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lisa Harrington
<lisabharrington@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 11:59 AM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Lisa Harrington

400 3rd St NW Chisholm, MN 55719-1507

lisabharrington@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: linda.e.k@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Linda Kriel
<linda.e.k@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 12:05 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Sincerely,

Linda Kriel

1314 3rd Ave Newport, MN 55055-1141

linda.e.k@hotmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: lonniemarq@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lonnie Marquette
<lonniemarq@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 11:37 AM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Lonnie Marquette

20728 Grouse Rd Little Falls, MN 56345-4073 lonniemarq@outlook.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: loriemarsh@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lorie Marsh
<loriemarsh@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 12:39 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Lorie Marsh

1437 Hartford Ave Saint Paul, MN 55116-1668 loriemarsh@yahoo.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: linddayrebhan@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lindsay Rebhan
<linddayrebhan@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 9:13 AM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Sincerely,

Lindsay Rebhan

1095 Stryker Ave West Saint Paul, MN 55118-1304 linddayrebhan@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: tilly.tornado2@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Laura Schauland <tilly.tornado2@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 12:42 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

The Keetac mine has had more than enough time to meet these standards and although the standards have not been carefully and consistently enforced, it is more imperative than ever that the issue needs addressing. Clean water is becoming the primary concern for the 21st century... more people more needs and competition for these resources. The mining industry does not deserve more beneficial breaks than the ordinary folks and environment downstream!

Sincerely,

Ms. Laura Schauland

9609 Arrowhead Rd Isabella, MN 55607-3304 tilly.tornado2@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: metalmark@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mark Bouchard
<metalmark@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 11:37 AM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Mark Bouchard

4100 Edmund Blvd Minneapolis, MN 55406-3646 metalmark@me.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: marissadodgemusic@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Marissa Dodge
<marissadodgemusic@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 11:25 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Ms. Marissa Dodge

146 E Maryland St Saint Croix Falls, WI 54024-9431 marissadodgemusic@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: mackenzie.epping@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mackenzie Epping
<mackenzie.epping@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 10:48 AM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Ms. Mackenzie Epping

2726 Kenilworth Pl Minneapolis, MN 55405-2324 mackenzie.epping@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: matt.karlgaard@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Matt Karlgaard
<matt.karlgaard@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 11:45 AM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Matt Karlgaard

16236 Birchwood Ln Brainerd, MN 56401-6183 matt.karlgaard@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: mitchmulter@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mitch Multer
<mitchmulter@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 12:00 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Mitch Multer

1037 Davern St Saint Paul, MN 55116-2477 mitchmulter@comcast.net

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: mattx20@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Matt Ringquist <mattx20@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 11:26 AM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Matt Ringquist

18538 School Lake Rd NE Bemidji, MN 56601-6811 mattx20@live.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: scootermas@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mary Scott
<scootermas@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 1:39 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Mary Scott

458 Warwick St Saint Paul, MN 55105-2549 scootermas@comcast.net

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: foes.hollies.63@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Michael Young <foes.hollies.63@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 11:36 AM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Michael Young

37533 Amen Lake Rd Deer River, MN 56636-3060 foes.hollies.63@icloud.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: woodspath@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Paul Biker
<woodspath@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 11:41 AM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Paul Biker

21545 Anderson Rd Bowling Green, OH 43402-9627 woodspath@yahoo.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: pakerlin@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Pat Kerlin
<pakerlin@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 1:43 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Pat Kerlin

1055 22nd Ave SE Minneapolis, MN 55414-2539 pakerlin@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: pamelasmail2000@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Pamela Seitz
<pamelasmail2000@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 4:43 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Pamela Seitz

2924 34th Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55406-1708 pamelasmil2000@yahoo.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: pthompson2920@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of P Thompson <pthompson2920@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 11:14 AM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Dear Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Staff,

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I've paddled in BWCAW since 1973, hiked the trails of northern woods and been on numerous lakes in Minnesota and see the importance of keeping our land and waters as clean as possible to preserve it for future generations.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

P Thompson

PO Box 46 Park Rapids, MN 56470-0046

pthompson2920@msn.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: bobhale69@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Robert Hale <bobhale69@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 3:27 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Robert Hale

788 Idaho Ave W Saint Paul, MN 55117-3465 bobhale69@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: tabbykat7285@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Raleigh Koritz <tabbykat7285@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 4:04 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Ms. Raleigh Koritz

4505 Nathan Ln N Minneapolis, MN 55442-3153 tabbykat7285@outlook.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: rdlibbey@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Richard Libbey
<rdlibbey@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 10:14 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Dear Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Staff,

Hopefully they can meet these permit requirements without impacting production. They have had 11 years to find a solution and it's time to light a fire under them and quit kcking the can down the road.

HOW COME POLYMET [NEW RANGE COPPER NICKEL] CLAIMS IT WILL TREAT ITS PREDICTED VERY HIGH SULFATE DISCHARGE FOR 500 YEARS AND DO SO ECONOMICALLY IF THEY ARE GRANTED THEIR PERMIT TO MINE???. THEY CLAIM THEY WOULD USE A REVERSE OSMOSIS PROCESS UNTIL THEY DEVELOP CHEAPER ALTERNATIVES. WHY CAN'T KEETAC DO THIS???????

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin permits and U.S. Steel's application for a variance. I would like to support the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and strengthen enforcement of water quality standards that protect Minnesota wild rice, fish, and human health.

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Thank you for considering my comments, Rich Libbey Grand Rapids Minnesota

Sincerely,

Mr. Richard Libbey

18603 Hale Lake Dr Grand Rapids, MN 55744-4526 rdlibbey@mchsi.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: rjr621@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Robert Rees <rjr621@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 2:33 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Robert Rees

2312 31st Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55406-1455 rjr621@yahoo.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: rscheierl@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Robert Scheierl
<rscheierl@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 1:24 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Scheierl

1109 NE 5th Ave Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3080 rscheierl@live.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: rzimanski@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ronald Zimanski
<rzimanski@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 10:45 AM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Mr. Ronald Zimanski

1566 Minnehaha Ave E Saint Paul, MN 55106-4928 rzimanski@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: suzannedamberg@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Suzanne Damberg
<suzannedamberg@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 11:08 AM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Suzanne Damberg

415 Vadnais Lake Dr Deive Vadnais Heights, MN 55127-7140 suzannedamberg@yahoo.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: fseberry12@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sandra Fevig <fseberry12@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 10:20 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Dear Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin permits and U.S. Steel's application for a variance. I would like to support the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and strengthen enforcement of water quality standards that protect Minnesota wild rice, fish, and human health.

I support these MPCA actions related to the U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits:

- 1) I agree with MPCA that U.S. Steel permits should require compliance with Minnesota's wild rice sulfate standard of 10 parts per million (mg/L) at both the Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin. I understand that draft permit limits of 14 mg/L monthly average and 24 mg/L daily maximum are based on this standard.
- 2) I agree with MPCA that U.S. Steel should be denied a variance from compliance with the sulfate standard. A variance is a specific exception to the rules, and U.S. Steel's resistance to the expense of water quality treatment does not provide grounds to avoid the standard.
- 3) I support MPCA's requirement that U.S. Steel monitor waste streams at both the Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin for sulfate and other pollutants. It seems that this should have been required a long time ago.

However, I'm concerned that the draft permits have some gaps. The permits should be strengthened in the following ways:

- 1) MPCA should not give U.S. Steel another five years before they actually have to meet Minnesota's wild rice sulfate standard. Sulfate limits were set in Keetac permits in 2011, and studies on treatment were done and approved by MPCA almost a decade ago. MPCA should give U.S. Steel no more than two years to achieve full compliance with wild rice sulfate limits. Nippon Steel, the new owner of U.S. Steel, should include sulfate treatment in the \$11 billion in upgrades they've promised for U.S. Steel.
- 2) MPCA should revise the Keetac permits to require groundwater monitoring, especially the groundwater beneath and adjacent to the Tailings Basin. This monitoring is needed to protect groundwater and to help determine if pollutants released through groundwater are causing or adding to violations of surface water standards.

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4) In addition to monitoring for sulfate, MPCA should require monitoring for mercury in surface waters and should update testing for mercury in fish tissue downstream of Keetac.

I appreciate the steps MPCA is taking to control sulfate pollution from the U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin. But I would also ask that MPCA revise the draft permits to avoid delay and to better protect groundwater, wild rice, fish, and the health of people who eat fish that are now contaminated with mercury.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Ms Sandra Fevig

2317 Milwaukee Ave Minneapolis, MN 55404-3151 fseberry12@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: rosskemo@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of stephanie johnson
<rosskemo@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 12:10 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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It is time we take care of our natural resources and not a pocketbook philosophy...money can be earned but our natural resources cannot be replaced if not protected.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Ms. stephanie johnson

35 E White St Ely, MN 55731-1247

rosskemo@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: sladerman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Scott Laderman
<sladerman@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 7:59 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Mr. Scott Laderman

4014 Mcculloch St Duluth, MN 55804-1929 sladerman@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: mindseye2010@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Steve Mills <mindseye2010@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 4:38 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Dear Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Staff,

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Steve Mills

6318 Pillsbury Ave S Richfield, MN 55423-1523 mindseye2010@comcast.net

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: sophiapatane01@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sophia Patane <sophiapatane01@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 6:09 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Dear Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin permits and U.S. Steel's application for a variance. I would like to express my support for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and strengthen enforcement of water quality standards that protect Minnesota wild rice, fish, and human health.

I support these MPCA actions related to the U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits:

- 1) I agree with MPCA that U.S. Steel permits should require compliance with Minnesota's wild rice sulfate standard of 10 parts per million (mg/L) at both the Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin. I understand that draft permit limits of 14 mg/L monthly average and 24 mg/L daily maximum are based on this standard.
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2) MPCA should revise the Keetac permits to require groundwater monitoring, especially the groundwater beneath and adjacent to the Tailings Basin. This monitoring is needed to protect groundwater and to help determine if pollutants released through groundwater are causing or adding to violations of surface water standards.

3) MPCA should require U.S. Steel to test wastewater discharge from day one to make sure it is not toxic to aquatic life, rather than waiting for three years before toxicity testing. MPCA should also require new biological assessments the first year of the permit to determine if downstream fish and macroinvertebrates are impaired.

4) In addition to monitoring for sulfate, MPCA should require monitoring for mercury in surface waters and should update testing for mercury in fish tissue downstream of Keetac.

I join many Minnesotans across the state in my appreciation for the steps MPCA is taking to control sulfate pollution from the U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin. Clean water and healthy wild rice are part of our way of life in Minnesota. Our children, grandchildren, and generations to come will inherit the results of the choices we make today. That's why I also ask that MPCA revise the draft permits to avoid delay and to better protect groundwater, wild rice, fish, and the health of people who eat fish that are now contaminated with mercury.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Sophia Patane

1610 Bluewater Ln Saint Paul, MN 55129-6220 sophiapatane01@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: stimmer@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Steven Timmer
<stimmer@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 12:23 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Dear Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Staff,

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The Wild Rice Rule has been around a long time; it has been flouted by the mining companies for as long as it has existed, and, frankly, neglected by the Pollution Control Agency. It is heartening to see that the Rule is finally getting some respect for the important environmental law that it is.

The Rule has withstood legislative efforts to gut and dismiss it and an industry effort to repeal it, but the science behind it is solid, and the Rule is still here. It is high time to enforce it.

U.S. Steel's request for a variance would just elevate its convenience over the public good that flows from clean water. It is simply a request to permit it to continue to shift part of the cost of its operation to the public and taxpayers. U.S. Steel can comply with the Rule; it just doesn't want to.

Sincerely,
Steven Timmer
5348 Oaklawn Ave Edina, MN 55424-1309
stimmer@planetlawyers.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: timwlovell@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Tim Lovell
<timwlovell@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 8:16 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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4) In addition to monitoring for sulfate, MPCA should require monitoring for mercury in surface waters and should update testing for mercury in fish tissue downstream of Keetac.

5) In general, it's time for the mining industry's control of MN government to be reined in.

I appreciate the steps MPCA is taking to control sulfate pollution from the U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin. But I would also ask that MPCA revise the draft permits to avoid delay and to better protect groundwater, wild rice, fish, and the health of people who eat fish that are now contaminated with mercury.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Tim Lovell

5376 Wahlsten Rd Embarrass, MN 55732-8611 timwlovell@hotmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: sifter-lagoons.0h@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Timothy Mullen <sifter-lagoons.0h@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 12:48 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Mr Timothy Mullen

1272 Richland Ave Saint Charles, MN 55972-1536 sifter-lagoons.0h@icloud.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: tashina2010@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Tashina Perry <tashina2010@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 9:48 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Tashina Perry

302 Commonwealth Ave Apt 7 Duluth, MN 55808-2028 tashina2010@hotmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: sissonwesley98@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Wesley Sisson <sissonwesley98@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 11:29 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits (MN0031879 and MN0055948) and Application for Variance

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Dear Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Staff,

I am writing to provide public comment on the draft wastewater permit for the Keetac taconite mine in Itasca County. I urge the MPCA to strengthen this permit to fully protect the health of Minnesota's waters, fish, and downstream communities.

1. Enforce the Wild Rice Sulfate Standard Minnesota's long-standing 10 mg/L sulfate standard was designed to protect wild rice, a culturally and ecologically important resource. Keetac has repeatedly violated this standard, yet the draft permit fails to require meaningful compliance. MPCA must ensure that this permit includes enforceable limits on sulfate discharges and a clear plan for monitoring and enforcement. Anything less undermines state law and the protection of wild rice waters.

2. Address Mercury Pollution in Fish

Discharges from sulfide-bearing mine waste contribute to the conversion of mercury into methylmercury, the form that bioaccumulates in fish. Downstream lakes already have mercury advisories, and additional loadings from Keetac will worsen this public health problem. The permit should require mercury minimization measures and strict effluent limits consistent with Minnesota's mercury TMDL goals.

3. Protect Downstream Lakes and Rivers from Sulfide Pollution Water downstream of the Keetac facility is already impaired by sulfates and other pollutants. Continued discharges threaten not only water quality but also aquatic life, recreation, and human health. The permit must ensure that no additional impairment occurs and that long-standing pollution issues are addressed.

4. Accountability for Past Violations

Keetac has a documented history of noncompliance with sulfate standards and other permit requirements. Without stronger, enforceable conditions, these violations are likely to continue. MPCA must hold the mine accountable with regular monitoring, transparent reporting, and clear penalties for violations.

Conclusion

The people of Minnesota depend on MPCA to uphold environmental standards and protect our waters. I respectfully request that this permit be revised to include enforceable sulfate limits, stronger mercury protections, and real accountability measures. Minnesota's wild rice waters, fish, and communities deserve no less.

Sincerely,

Mr. Wesley Sisson

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