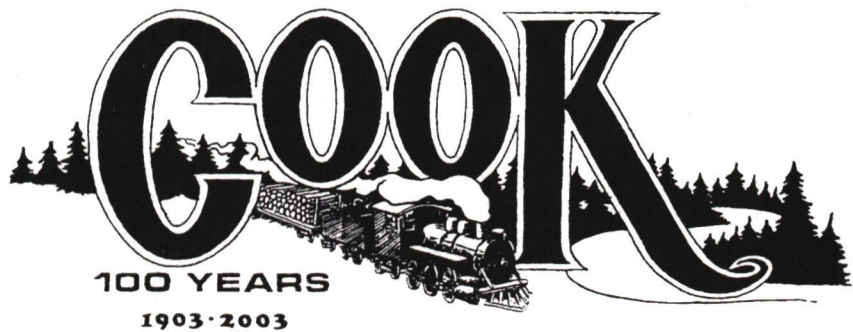




August 14, 2025

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
c/o Stephanie Handeland
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155



RE: Mayoral Support for Iron Mining, Keetac site-specific standard and variance

Dear Ms. Handeland,

As Iron Range mayors in Northern Minnesota facing a funding crisis in our cities, we strongly urge your support of the variance and site-specific standard for Keetac.

In 2024-2025, taconite mining at Keetac generated at minimum over \$16 million in local funding for the cities, townships, and counties in the Taconite Assistance Area. Funds generated from taconite mining generate additional millions in local property tax relief. Any disruption to operations at these facilities is financially unacceptable and would directly and negatively impact our citizens and our city budgets.

This funding supports our ability to provide critical city services ranging from water and wastewater infrastructure, business development in our downtowns, and housing. We cut our budgets year after year – and this funding remains an important constant, sustaining our city services and operations, and in many cases, allows us to make necessary and forward-thinking improvements to our communities for the benefit of our rural citizens.

Our residents work in mines in communities across the region, including Keetac. We have thousands of additional mining and vendor employees earning family-supporting wages in our districts. These people have children in our schools and are active in their communities. Their jobs matter. We must be able to keep tax base and families in our communities. This industry and these jobs allow our citizens the opportunity to afford their lives here.

Please support the variance request and site-specific sulfate standard for Keetac.

Sincerely,
Iron Range Mayors

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Manick". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Daniel Manick
City of Cook Mayor

www.cookmn.us • city@cookmn.us

CITY OF COOK • PO BOX 155 • COOK • MN 55723 • 218-666-2200 • FAX 218-666-0004