

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: auntiefaye1985@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ann Galloway <auntiefaye1985@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 9:08 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.

Once the damage is done it will be too late. Future generations are depending on us.

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

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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. Ann Galloway

4020 9th Ave W Apt 116 Hibbing, MN 55746-3027 auntiefaye1985@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: ourkaya1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Amy Gardner <ourkaya1@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 10:35 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. Amy Gardner
PO Box 446 Finland, MN 55603-0446
ourkaya1@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: blakeseriqui@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Blake seriqui
<blakeseriqui@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 10:17 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,

Sometimes I just get so sad and downhearted - like... The more I learn about the tangle of our current way of life with big companies who have a responsibility to shareholders to make a profit... And the impact this has on our most sacred resources - our home, our children... The more hopeless it seems. I understand both sides all the time...

So what do we do??

What do we do?

We are losing our way of life making our focus on maintaining it, I do believe that. So what we are doing now isn't working. I'm ready to give up my current way of life if it means I can keep fishing, which my family has done for generations. I'm ready to give up conveniences and a "secure future" if it means I'm more likely to watch my child's children run, splashing into a real lake.

I also believe in my community - even if we don't all see eye to eye. I would rather sit down with my neighbors and realize we have some hard work to do to come up with creative ways to build together and to receive the gifts the lands of our region have to offer without hurting it. If a big global company (Keetac, for example) abandons our community because we won't let them ignore the effect they are having on our home because of the cost, I say let them go.

I would rather face a hard problem with neighbors I don't agree with than let a group of people worried about money tell us we have no choice but to poison our home.

Please take the four steps to ensuring protection.

Thank you for reading my comment.

Sincerely,
Blake seriqui
37 23rd Ave NE Minneapolis, MN 55418-3303 blakeseriqui@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: carlaalbers@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Carla Albers
<carlaalbers@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 6:52 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,

Carla Albers

777 Excelsior Blvd Excelsior, MN 55331-1959 carlaalbers@yahoo.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: dailey.elizabeth@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Elizabeth Dailey
<dailey.elizabeth@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 3:41 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. Elizabeth Dailey

512 W 22nd St Minneapolis, MN 55405-3201 dailey.elizabeth@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: dailey.elizabeth@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Elizabeth Dailey
<dailey.elizabeth@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 3:42 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,

Sincerely,

Ms. Elizabeth Dailey

512 W 22nd St Minneapolis, MN 55405-3201 dailey.elizabeth@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: luedtkek@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kim Luedtke
<luedtkek@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 10:14 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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Sincerely,
Kim Luedtke
1325 W 1st St Duluth, MN 55806-2225
luedtkek@hotmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: kerikola@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Keri Pickett
<kerikola@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 8:15 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,

Ms. Keri Pickett

2208 4th St NE Minneapolis, MN 55418-3431 kerikola@aol.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: klmncic@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Karen Reichensperger
<klmncic@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 6:59 PM
To: Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)
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Sincerely,
Dr. Karen Reichensperger
1199 Minnesota Blvd Ely, MN 55731-8021
klmncic@frontiernet.net

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: strangewotters@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mary Watters
<strangewotters@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 3:19 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 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,

Sincerely,

Ms. Mary Watters

3030 Rd 2 N International Falls, MN 56649 strangewotters@proton.me

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: n.millermosaicsandmurals@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Nancy Miller
<n.millermosaicsandmurals@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 8:57 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. Nancy Miller

100 McKinley Ave Apt 609 Eveleth, MN 55734-1651 n.millermosaicsandmurals@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: sandraangels035@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sandy Daniels-milton
<sandraangels035@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 1:16 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,
Sandy Daniels-milton
514 Basswood Ave Kinney, MN 55758-3017
sandraangels035@aol.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: wbeverly56@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Beverly Warren <wbeverly56@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 9:41 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,
Beverly Warren
1014 6th St SE Bemidji, MN 56601-3532
wbeverly56@yahoo.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: jcobainfan@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of jason husby
<jcobainfan@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 7:21 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,

Dr. Jason Husby

3531 N 3rd St Minneapolis, MN 55412-2651 [jacobainfan@aol.com](mailto:jcobainfan@aol.com)

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: lindeet67@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Linda Vukson <lindeet67@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 1:42 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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Sincerely,

Ms. Linda Vukson

5331 Juniata St Duluth, MN 55804-1341

lindeet67@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: gmehmel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Gretchen Mehmel
<gmehmel@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2025 7:22 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,

Gretchen Mehmel

2788 Bankton Rd SW Baudette, MN 56623-2646 gmehmel@wiktel.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: ojanenlaw@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Karuna Ojanen
<ojanenlaw@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2025 9:46 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,

Karuna Ojanen

2665 Riverside Ln NE Rochester, MN 55906-3456 ojanenlaw@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: karen09264@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Karen Nielsen <karen09264@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 7:53 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,

Karen Nielsen

121 23rd Ave N Saint Cloud, MN 56303-4337 karen09264@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: nonni0417@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Nancy Nelson <nonni0417@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 7:12 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,

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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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,

Nancy Nelson

4721 13th Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55407-3559 nonni0417@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: therese.presley@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Therese Presley
<therese.presley@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 7:24 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,

Ms.. Therese Presley

1112 Maryland St Duluth, MN 55811-1609

therese.presley@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: lisaursa@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lisa Fitzpatrick
<lisaursa@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 4:02 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,

Minnesota's wild rice sulfate standard is 10 parts per million (mg/L) at both the Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin, as is everywhere in the state. This standard must be enforced NOW by MPCA. I have seen the effects of sulfate on the roots of wild rice and it is not pretty. Prof. John Pasteur (UMD Biology) has done many studies on this. MPCA should not be dallying and waiting around to enforce this standard.

Groundwater monitoring around Keetac mine & tailings basin must be required. Also, US Steel must be required to test their wastewater discharge right from the start, again for safety & health of fish and aquatic life (and then for humans). Of course, mercury in surface waters and testing for mercury in fish tissue downstream of Keetac must be done. (for water, fish and human health)

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

MPCA needs to revise the draft permits to better protect groundwater, wild rice, fish, and the health of people who eat fish that are now contaminated with mercury! My husband is a fisherman (recreational) and it is discouraging that the fish are contaminated by mercury and we cannot eat it as often as we would like. I recently met a woman who has terrible health problems, due to her childhood contamination of eating local mercury-containing fish. MPCA's enforcement of water standards could prevent such tragedies.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,
Ms. Lisa Fitzpatrick
5229 Peabody St Duluth, MN 55804-2445
lisaursa@hotmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: neej@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Theodora Redwing
<neej@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 12:24 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,
Theodora Redwing
PO Box 1042 Cass Lake, MN 56633-1042
neej@yahoo.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: tnielsen1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Patricia Nielsen <tnielsen1@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 6:12 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,

Mrs. Patricia Nielsen

614 Robert E Lee Dr Wilmington, NC 28412-0924 tnielsen1@ec.rr.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: raplinger@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Robin Raplinger
<raplinger@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 7:50 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. Robin Raplinger
916 17th St N Virginia, MN 55792-2137
raplinger@rangenet.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: seanmac63@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sean MacManus <seanmac63@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 2:45 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. Sean MacManus

1533 N 9th Ave E Duluth, MN 55805-1120

seanmac63@hotmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: jdschlicht@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of John Schlichting
<jdschlicht@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:20 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,

John Schlichting

1020 10th St SE Saint Cloud, MN 56304-1517 jdschlicht@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: klemzaa@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Aaron Klemz
<klemzaa@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 5:51 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,

Aaron Klemz

1359 Hillcrest Dr NE Fridley, MN 55432-5827 klemzaa@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: bgakre@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Barbara Akre
<bgakre@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 6:51 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 attended the hearing in Virginia September 3rd, where I learned that sulfate is transformed into sulfide, which limits growth of wild rice and increases concentrations of mercury and other toxins in lakes and streams, and that a new process for removing sulfate from effluent has been developed by a Babbitt engineer - one that is effective and less expensive than the originally planned process. For these reasons and more below, I would like to support the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in strengthening 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, and that this original standard was reconfirmed by John Pastor and other scientists at UMD have reconfirmed the original 1940s limit observed by John Moyle - within the past decade.
- 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. Moreover, your presentation at the Virginia hearing reported your findings that Keetac could afford the costs of sulfate removal from effluent. I remain puzzled by the lack of mention or discussion by the MPCA of an allegedly newer, efficient, and less expensive process for sulfate removal pioneered by Jeff Hanson of Babbitt.
- 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, and 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.

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 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. Barbara Akre

1921 W Kent Rd Duluth, MN 55812-1155

bgakre@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: equityfarm@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Claudia Faith
<equityfarm@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 8:06 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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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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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,

Claudia Faith

12 Elder Dr Duluth, MN 55810-1927

equityfarm@aol.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: reggie1722@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Regina Weber <reggie1722@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 2:09 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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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Regina Weber

21610 Fondant Ave N Forest Lake, MN 55025-9761 reggie1722@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: ekitkat10@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Emma Fineday <ekitkat10@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2025 5:37 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,
Emma Fineday
54260 Loon Ave Mcgregor, MN 55760-4695
ekitkat10@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: ekitkat10@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Emma Fineday <ekitkat10@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2025 5:42 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,

Sincerely,
Emma Fineday
54260 Loon Ave Mcgregor, MN 55760-4695
ekitkat10@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: orlandofineday2009@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Orlando Fineday jr
<orlandofineday2009@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2025 5:37 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,
Orlando Fineday jr
54260 Loon Ave Mcgregor, MN 55760-4695
orlandofineday2009@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: orlandofineday2009@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Orlando Fineday jr
<orlandofineday2009@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2025 5:42 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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Orlando Fineday jr
54260 Loon Ave Mcgregor, MN 55760-4695
orlandofineday2009@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: caiwata@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Carol Iwata
<caiwata@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 10:19 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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I support these MPCA actions related to the U.S. Steel Keetac Mine and Tailings Basin Permits:

- 1) Science shows that the sulfide in wild rice waters hampers the growth of wild rice permanently, and that sulfide eventually evolves into methyl mercury which gets into fish and thus has negative impact on human health.
- 2) Wild rice is sacred to Indigenous people.
- 3) Wild rice is protected by treaty with Indigenous tribes,
- 4) Minnesota has some of the best naturally growing wild rice in the nation. I am a dedicated wild rice harvester of 40+ years and use wild rice as food for myself and others.

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

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Sincerely,
Carol Iwata
Afton, MN

Sincerely,
Carol Iwata
PO Box 395 Afton, MN 55001-0395
caiwata@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: carolorban46@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Carol Orban <carolorban46@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 10:49 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,
Carol Orban
2 E Conan St Ely, MN 55731-1236
carolorban46@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: degustaf@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Duane Gustafson
<degustaf@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 3:53 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.

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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Mr. Duane Gustafson

9245 Burris Dr Cook, MN 55723-8854

degustaf@aol.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: gailhoffman655@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Gail Hoffman <gailhoffman655@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:54 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,

Please consider the damage to land, water and people if this goes through. Please think of The future and don't be short sighted by profit and short term jobs.

Sincerely,

Gail Hoffman

28067 303rd Pl Aitkin, MN 56431-2055

gailhoffman655@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: jgtulseth@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Judith Ulseth
<jgtulseth@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:05 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,

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.

Mining companies have been given too much time to comply! They must follow the laws like the rest of us by contributing to the good of their community. Mining should have the funds with their profits to use the technology that has been developed. Why contaminate fish and endanger citizens when solutions can be worked out with available funds!

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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Thank you for considering my comments,
Judith Tuuri Ulseth

Sincerely,
Judith Ulseth
8787 Raps Rd Cook, MN 55723-8827
jgtulseth@gmail.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: rlulset@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Robert Ulseth
<rlulset@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:10 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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Why scrap one industry in Minnesota for another. We need out beautiful lakes and rivers to the economy.

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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Thank you for considering my comments,
Robert L. Ulseth

Sincerely,
Robert Ulseth
8787 Raps Rd Cook, MN 55723-8827
rlulset@yahoo.com

Kneemueller, Ashley (MPCA)

From: sbjanickednp@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Susan Janicke
<sbjanickednp@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:29 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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We are blessed in Minnesota. We have wild rice that grows in our state. However, sulfate threatens this unique and limited food source. In addition, wild rice has important culture and spiritual significance for the indigenous people who reside in this state.

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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Thank you for considering my comments,

Sincerely,

Dr. Susan Janicke

51715 County 1 Blvd Kenyon, MN 55946-4612 sbjanickednp@gmail.com