

Travis Kohlari

As a resident of a community affected by Keetac's operations, I am concerned about the MPCA's decision to require sulfate compliance at each outfall, despite all discharges entering a single water body. A downstream compliance point would more accurately reflect environmental impact and better protect the receiving waters.

Additionally, the MPCA's failure to act on the 2014 site-specific standard (SSS) request and denial of the 2022 application—both supported by scientific evidence—undermines confidence in the regulatory process. Wild rice has thrived in Hay Lake for decades, indicating the current 10 mg/L standard is outdated.

I respectfully urge the MPCA to:

Refrain from including sulfate limits in Keetac's permits. If retained, revise the permits to include a single compliance point and allow sufficient time for compliance.

Update the sulfate standard in accordance with the 2011 law and current science.

In addition, please grant US Steel the variance to continue operating the tailings basin and mine while the agency works through the science. If Keetac operations were to be halted for any reason, the impact on the community would be devastating. The company is working every possible angle to improve measures on mine location, including a crowd sourcing initiative engaging a pool of experts to help solve the issue plaguing many Minnesota companies and waters.

We want healthy communities, supported by good jobs, clean water and healthy wild rice. Let's not put undue regulation forward without science that supports the standard.

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