

Michael Overend

Thank you to the MPCA staff for hosting the important public hearing in Virginia, MN on Wednesday, 9/3/25, focused on the US Steel Corp-Tailings-Wastewater Permit, including the presentation by your MPCA representatives as well as the public comments provided by members of the audience.

As you know, this was a very well-attended meeting with important information discussed by your representatives and many divergent opinions expressed by over 40 members of the public regarding appropriate actions for the MPCA to address the existing sulfate pollution of our waters.

I have included my two-minute personal comment I shared at this meeting on the topic below; importantly, my message was the only one referencing the unique solution available to address this water sulfate-impairment problem offered by the ClearWater BioLogic company of Babbitt.

I encourage everyone involved in this issue to become familiar with this cost-effective, scalable solution for water sulfate-impairment offered by the ClearWater BioLogic company of Babbitt, MN through the following resources:

Contact information for Jeffrey Hanson of ClearWater BioLogic:
jhanson@clearwaterbiologic.com
(913) 620-7420

The ClearWater BioLogic website:
<https://clearwaterbiologic.com/>

Jeffrey Hanson's TEDx Silver Lake presentation with important background information on this topic:
<https://youtu.be/jQwJ6BUyBZ0?si=oXLw0vWyQqx8K8iv>

Thank you for allowing me to share information on this very important topic directly impacting the future health and well-being of NE Minnesota's waters and the families and communities of the Iron Range. I believe the ClearWater BioLogic technology merits serious consideration as a viable and valuable solution for successfully addressing this important issue for our region.

Respectfully,

Michael Overend, DVM
Cohasset, MN
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Oral comments provided by Michael Overend at the 9/3/25 MPCA hearing in Virginia, MN.

"Hello, I am Mike Overend from Cohasset. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on the NPDES permits.

We need iron mining to supply the US with the critically important iron ore required to build our

future, including our clean energy economy.

However, this mining must be done in an environmentally safe manner.

AND...

We rely on our waters to be safe for all the living things depending upon them, including people, wild rice and fish. The sulfate pollution that comes, in part, from iron mining must be addressed to protect our waters AND the future of the iron mining industry and the Iron Range communities.

Sulfate is a proven problem that threatens our children as well as our wild rice. Sulfate must be addressed to reduce the mercury accumulating in our fish. Mercury threatens all of us, but especially babies and children.

There is a false argument that we can only protect mining jobs OR the environment, but not both. However, there is a real and cost-effective solution to the sulfate problem that can protect both mining jobs and our waters.

The ClearWater BioLogic company of Babbitt has developed proven technology to remove sulfate from water using natural bacteria. This process accelerates the bacteria's ability to remove the sulfate safely and cost-effectively at a much lower cost than other methods and without using harmful chemicals. This technology can be rapidly put into place at the scale needed to address the sulfate problem threatening our mining industry and our waters.

The founders of ClearWater BioLogic have developed this technology specifically to address this sulfate problem. I ask everyone who has concerns for the future of the families of our Iron Range communities, and for our waters, to learn more about this important solution that can protect both our iron mining jobs and our fresh waters, our wild rice, our fish, and our environment.

Thank You"