Vickie Platt

Hello,

As a resident of a community downstream from the Keetac facility, and as someone with family members who are proud union workers, I am deeply concerned about the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) approach to sulfate compliance in the draft permits. Requiring compliance at each individual outfall, when all discharges flow into a single water body, is not only inefficient but scientifically misleading. A single downstream compliance point would more accurately reflect environmental impact and provide stronger protection for the receiving waters.

I am also troubled by the MPCA's refusal to act on the site-specific standard (SSS) requests submitted by U.S. Steel in 2014 and 2022. Both applications followed MPCA's own guidance and included compelling scientific evidence showing that a higher sulfate standard is appropriate for Hay Lake, where wild rice has thrived for decades despite discharges.

My family, like many others in this community, depends on the good-paying union jobs mining provides. These jobs sustain households, support schools, and keep our towns strong. When regulations are based on outdated science, they not only fail to protect the environment effectively but also put our livelihoods and communities at risk.

I urge the MPCA to:

Refrain from including sulfate limits in Keetac's permits. If limits are imposed, they must be based on a single, scientifically valid compliance point.

Abide by the 2011 law and update the outdated 10 mg/L sulfate standard to reflect modern science and real-world conditions.

Minnesota can protect natural resources while also protecting working families. I ask the MPCA to take a balanced, science-based approach that honors both.

Vickie Platt
Community Member