

Dawn Heisel

I have lived on the Iron Range since 1975, residing for the last 30 years on the north shore of Sand Lake in Britt. In the 1980's every member of my immediate family was forced to relocate as a result of the downturn in the mining industry at that time. Sadly, although they love visiting, not a one of them has been able to leave the life they started elsewhere and return to the Range.

However, in spite of this obvious heartache, I feel that the current sulfate requirement should not be changed. There is indeed enough science to indicate an adverse effect on our local rice beds, which have disappeared on Sand Lake. As we have found out personally, jobs will come and they will go, but our earth will always need the same parameters to flourish. As a gardener, I know that plants cannot always tolerate the same environmental elements as humans. To say that drinking water for humans should be tolerated by wild rice and other plants is a good sound bite, but, it is an erroneous statement.

MPCA exists to keep our world safe for people, animals, and even plants. Please reject this request for a variance.

Sincerely
Dawn Heisel
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