

Lisa Ciorlieri

I was in Virginia for your public meeting September 3. (MCPA knows how to conduct a public hearing.) Full compliance with the sulfate standard was required by 2019. No treatment plant was ever built. In 2024 the EPA found that between Sept 2019 and September 2023, Keetac released wastewater with sulfate levels higher than the permitted amount into nearby waters almost 300 times.

Clean air and clean water are resources to be protected at all costs. Variances should NOT be issued. There are more than 8 billion people on the planet, and our attitude to protecting our resources reminds me of people who are always going to start their diet tomorrow. Jobs, budget problems and other excuses will always be found. There was a lot of discussion about the recent purchase by Nippon Steel. 'Now is not a good time.' It will never be a good time.

I also hope that MPCA will include protection of groundwater. Sensitive aquatic life must be protected, please.