

Gay Trachsel

I thank you for upholding the 10MG/million sulfate standard and do not give KEETAC -Nippon mine a variance. Studies, updated studies, required by Minnesota's Legislature, have been shown that high levels of sulfate and mercury kill wild rice and harm fish. this standard has been in place since the 70's but never enforced, therefore, KEETAC has had many years of "variances." Wild rice is central to Minnesota's economy, not just iron ore. It contributes about \$13 million/yr with harvesting and \$19 million in sales. It accounts for approximately 300 jobs. It is also a critical part of the ANISHINAABE and Dakota cultural practices. It is a Treaty Protected Food. It is time we honor the treaties we have signed as a nation.

Nippon Steel has invested 11 BILLION in upgrades to US Steel-now is the perfect time to fix the pollution of KEETAC mine and not with a variance!

Thank you for having hearings and comments.