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how many parts per million does Minnesota Powers Boswell put into water

Following a 5.5 million-gallon coal ash wastewater leak at the Minnesota Power Boswell Energy Center in July 2024, preliminary monitoring detected sulfate levels above 10 parts per million (ppm), the standard for protecting wild rice. In December 2024, an environmental group revealed that the plant had previously been permitted to emit wastewater with sulfate concentrations of 481 ppm through its outfall pipe, 48 times the wild rice standard.

The Boswell plant produces wastewater containing multiple substances, so the overall concentration of pollutants is not reflected by a single number. During the 2024 spill and subsequent investigations, the primary pollutants of concern were sulfate and boron, along with the potential for methylmercury formation.