

Brandy Muhich

Dear MPCA,

My name is Brandy Muhich, and I work at NTS, which supports Minnesota's mining and manufacturing supply chain. I am commenting on the proposed enforcement of the 10 mg/L sulfate standard in the Keetac permit.

This standard is not achievable. Sulfates naturally exceed 250 mg/L in much of Minnesota, sometimes over 1,000 mg/L, and bottled waters like San Pellegrino contain 445 mg/L. Enforcing a 10 mg/L limit places facilities like Keetac in an impossible position.

The impact extends directly to businesses like mine. If mining operations face unattainable requirements, the economic harm will ripple across contractors, suppliers, service providers, and small businesses. Iron mining also generates nearly 70% of the Permanent School Fund, which last year provided \$58 million to Minnesota schools. These benefits are at risk under the current rule. I urge MPCA to replace this outdated standard with a site-specific, science-based approach that protects wild rice while sustaining the supply chains and communities that depend on mining.

Best,
Brandy Muhich
Eveleth Resident