

WaterLegacy

Protecting Minnesota's waters and the communities who rely on them

October 3, 2012

Ms. Shannon Lotthammer, Section Manager
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Dear Ms. Lotthammer,

WaterLegacy is a non-profit organization formed to protect Minnesota Water Resources and the communities that depend on them. In connection with public education opportunities, we have spoken recently with citizens about protecting Minnesota's land and clean water heritage.

Minnesotans highly value wild rice or manoomin, the state grain. We rely on your agency to protect this vital resource -- the waters and sediments that support natural stands of wild rice, the wildlife and the human harvesters who rely on it for food and economic sustenance.

Enclosed find Petitions, Postcards and online Letters from **799 citizens**. Their message:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is now considering an amendment of Minnesota Rule 7050.0224, the wild rice sulfate standard, to more precisely define "waters used for the production of wild rice" protected from sulfate levels above 10 mg/L. The proposed changes would both, list additional specific wild rice waters where the standard applies, and establish criteria that would allow application of the standard to unlisted wild rice waters.

I would strongly request that the MPCA, in considering this rule change: 1) list additional lakes, streams, creeks, rivers and wetlands on which natural wild rice grows and has grown within the Lake Superior Basin and in all other Minnesota watersheds; 2) protect natural wild rice for wildlife uses and preservation of genetic diversity as well as protecting larger and more accessible stands used for human harvest; 3) protect waters where wild rice has grown since the November 28, 1975 Clean Water Act "existing use" date and protect waters where wild rice was harvested by tribes, whose right to harvest is protected by treaties.

Thank you for protecting natural wild rice.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to MPCA defining broadly and flexibly where the wild rice sulfide standard will be applied.

Sincerely,



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