

Managing Mineland Sulfate Release in Saint Louis River Basin

Subd. 05b \$270,000

Michael Berndt

DNR

500 Lafayette Rd

St. Paul, MN 55155

Phone: (651) 259-5378

Email: mike.berndt@dnr.state.mn.us

Fax: (651) 296-5939

Web: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

RESEARCH

Appropriation Language

\$270,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to map current sulfate sources and assess treatment options to minimize potential impacts of mercury on fish and wildlife from sulfate releases in the St. Louis River Basin. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2013, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

Project Overview

Over a century of iron mining in northeastern Minnesota has left numerous waste rock piles, open pits, and tailings basins that appear to be the dominant sources of sulfate in the St. Louis River. This sulfate has become a recent environmental concern due to the possibility that one of the byproducts of its increased presence, methylmercury, may lead to mercury contamination in fish and other wildlife. Through this appropriation, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the University of Minnesota are evaluating the sources and fate of sulfate in the St. Louis River Basin in order to better understand its impacts and determine the best means for reducing or eliminating these impacts, particularly in environments where methylmercury is a byproduct of sulfate presence.

Project due to be completed: 6/30/2013

[Work Program](#)