



Tamarack Water Alliance Community Zoom Meeting **Wednesday, April 2, 2025 10am CT**

TOPIC: Protecting Public Health from False Climate Solutions

PRESENTER: Kathleen Schuler, MPH, State Policy Director & Board Member Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate

Fossil fuel companies are promoting an array of technological and market-based solutions to the climate crisis. We can evaluate these “solutions” by asking: Who benefits? What is the amount of greenhouse gases reduced? Are there better alternatives? Is it part of our zero emissions future? And, are there external harms to air, water, land and human health? While there are many false solutions being proposed, this presentation will specifically cover: low carbon fuel standards, carbon capture and storage, bioenergy, waste incineration and mining as false climate solutions for Minnesota.

Kathleen Schuler, MPH is the State Policy Director and board member of Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate, a network of hundreds of doctors, nurses, other health professionals across the state of Minnesota working to protect human health by promoting climate health. Kathleen previously served as Co-Director of Healthy Legacy, a Minnesota coalition and campaign to advance public policies to protect public health from toxic chemical exposures. Kathleen has a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Minnesota and is a former Bush Leadership Fellow in environmental health.

REGISTER FOR THE MEETING AND RECEIVE THE ZOOM LINK [here](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/php/eventreg.php?eid=16)
(<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/php/eventreg.php?eid=16>) *All welcome.*

NEW FACT SHEETS:

[Is There Really A Talon - Tesla Supply Agreement?](https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TalonTesla.pdf)

(<https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TalonTesla.pdf>)

[Rio Tinto: A History of Corruption](https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/RioTinto.pdf) - updated

(<https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/RioTinto.pdf>)

[Copper & The Green Economy](https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/CopperGreenEconomy.pdf)

(<https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/CopperGreenEconomy.pdf>)

VIEW Previous Tamarack Water Alliance Zoom Presentations [here](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html#info)

<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html#info>)

DOWNLOAD Additional Tamarack Water Alliance fact sheets/flyers/presentations [here](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html#flyers)

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[DONATE to Tamarack Water Alliance:](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/donate.html) (<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/donate.html>)

Your donation goes to support our community educational activities which include tabling at community festivals and parades, participation in other community events, targeted speaking engagements with interested local organizations, monthly informational public Zoom calls and an associated email newsletter, website and social media, letter writing campaigns and articles in local news outlets, interviews with media, and other community outreach and canvassing. Tamarack Water Alliance is a Minnesota non-profit. We are not certified as a federal non-profit (e.g. 501c3).

Sign-Up To Receive Updates from the DNR on Talon Metals Environmental Impact Statement [here](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/tamarack-nickel-project.html)

(<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/tamarack-nickel-project.html>)

Volunteer with the Tamarack Water Alliance. Send us an [email](mailto:waters@tamarackwateralliance.org) at waters@tamarackwateralliance.org.

Sign-up for the Tamarack Water Alliance monthly email newsletter at (<http://eepurl.com/hOboEb>).

Protecting Public Health from False Climate Solutions

by Kathleen Schuler, MPH, Public Health Professional, State Policy Director with Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate

Fossil fuel companies are promoting an array of technological and market-based solutions to the climate crisis. Several of these “solutions” have been proposed for Minnesota, including carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects and a statewide low carbon fuel standard. These solutions sound amazing until we lift the hood. On closer examination, they not only don't reduce

greenhouse gases at the cost and pace we need them to, they also create harms like air, water, and soil pollution and adverse impacts on human health. We must evaluate these climate “solutions” by first asking “who benefits from the technology?” If fossil fuel companies are promoting, it’s a given that they will benefit to the detriment of climate, ecosystems and health. pumping estimate was based on 4 drill holes somewhere in the region, maybe not even in the mine area itself. Talon seems to have no idea exactly how much water must be pumped or why and has no plan to find out or mitigate this water issue.

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

Federal subsidies are available for various carbon capture projects, including two proposed for Minnesota. Using federal subsidies in the form of 45Q tax credits, Summit Carbon Solutions is seeking a permit to build a CO₂ pipeline in southern Minnesota to capture carbon from 17 ethanol plants and ship it to North Dakota. [While Summit claims they will permanently sequester the carbon in the ground, the CEO of their parent company, Bruce Rastetter, has said the project is feasible because of enhanced oil recovery](#), which uses the CO₂ to recover hard to reach oil deposits. (<https://curemn.org/carbon-pipelines-mn/>)

In the second CCS project, the Department of Energy awarded \$2.2 million for a Rio Tinto Tamarack Project to “explore new approaches in carbon mineralization technology as a way to safely and permanently store carbon in solid rock form.” According to the Tamarack Water Alliance, (<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TamarackCarbonCapture.pdf>) the proposed operation would only capture as much CO₂ as 1700 acres of 10 year old forest. Clearly, an investment in reforestation in Minnesota would be a much better way to capture carbon. In addition, the project would use significant amounts of water potentially impacting local lakes and wetlands.

Low Carbon Fuel Standard

A Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS), known in Minnesota as a Clean Transportation Standard, has been proposed as a climate solution to reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions. An LCFS requires that fuel producers reduce the carbon intensity of their fuels over time to reduce greenhouse gases. The program generates credits that can be used to fund electric vehicle infrastructure. This program will leave the gasoline-ethanol mix in our fuel supply for longer than necessary and will incentivize ethanol producers to use CCS and CO₂ pipelines to reduce their carbon intensity, causing harm to ecosystems from pipeline building and encouraging more enhanced oil recovery. Keeping ethanol in our fuel mix will continue air, water and soil pollution from corn growing. In addition, there is evidence that ethanol has a higher carbon intensity than gasoline. [See A Midwest Low Carbon Fuel Standard is Not a Climate Solution](#). (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dkQielc0THznJxEmpz2qVUWR6nQE98Nk/view>).

Why are we turning to carbon capture and storage when land conservation, sustainable forestry and regenerative agriculture will store carbon naturally. Why are we looking at a low carbon fuel standard for on road vehicles, when promoting and incentivizing electric vehicles is the simpler and more effective solution? We must look at the true costs and benefits, including who benefits, of

proposed climate solutions. Facing a climate crisis, Minnesota can't afford to invest in false solutions like carbon capture and storage or a low carbon fuel standard.

Sulfide Mining and Human Health in Minnesota

by Emily Onello, Deb Allert, Steve Bauer, John Ipsen, Margret Saracino, Kris Wegerson, Douglas Wendland, Jennifer Pearson

"Sulfide mining (specifically copper-nickel sulfide mining) represents a significant departure from Minnesota's iron mining tradition. Sulfide mining can produce acid waste and sulfates that mobilize the release of heavy metals into the environment. These metals include known neurotoxins such as lead and mercury. Mining activities also create airborne fibers and pollutants that can contribute to increased morbidity. The short- and long-term effects of exposure to these substances on human health should be considered in present and future sulfide mining proposals. In addition, Minnesota physicians need to understand the potential adverse mental and physical health effects of sulfide mining on mine workers and residents of communities near mining operations. "

Read entire article at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30476429/>
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30476429/>

Who We Are

Tamarack Water Alliance is a group of local residents and landowners working together with others from across Minnesota to protect water and community health from the dangers of sulfide mining near our beloved lakes and wild rice beds, at the headwaters of the Kettle River and in the Mississippi River watershed. Visit our website [here](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/) (https://tamarackwateralliance.org/)

A proposal by a foreign owned mining company, Talon Metals/Rio Tinto to mine nickel and other metals near Tamarack in Aitkin County threatens the health of our communities. This kind of sulfide mining, especially in water-rich environments, has never been done without severe impacts to water and the health of those downstream. Mining here is also a threat to environmental justice and the long-term economic security of nearby native and rural communities.

Review our [community slide presentation](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TamarackMineConcerns-Consolidated.pdf) (tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TamarackMineConcerns-Consolidated.pdf) and download [informative flyers](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html) (tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html):

- Talon Mine Risks,
- Geology of Aitkin County,
- High Sulfide Mines Create Acid Mine Drainage,

- Nickel Not Needed for Future EV Batteries,
- Minnesota's Prime Wild Rice Lakes Under Threat,
- Minnesota Regulators Poor Record In Protecting The Environment,
- Eagle Mine Environmental Report & Saving Our Meager Nickel Reserves
- Is There Really A Talon Tesla Supply Agreement? (no)
- Rio Tinto: A History of Corruption
- Green Bridge Metals -Canadian proposed sulfide mine near Duluth seeks to acquire battery rich mineral assets
- Copper and The Green Economy
- Prove It First!

We will be sending this monthly newsletter to keep you informed about this project, to share information and opportunities to act, and to invite you to gatherings where you can connect with others who share a passion for clean water and community health.



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