

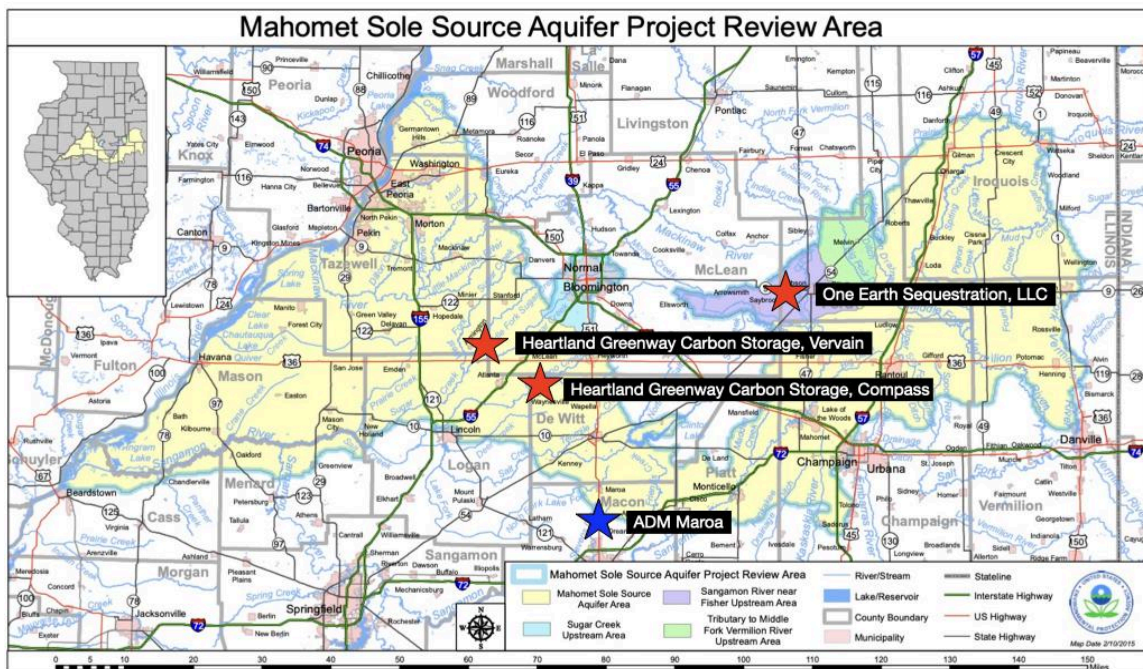
Protect the Mahomet Aquifer!

Stand up for the Mahomet Aquifer again!

- Thirteen years ago, the Mahomet Aquifer was threatened by the **storage of toxic waste** in the Clinton Landfill, located over the Mahomet Aquifer in DeWitt County. But counties and municipalities organized to protect it from manufactured gas plant (MGP) waste and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) waste. They:
 - Obtained a **sole source aquifer** designation from the U.S. EPA, which acknowledges its significance as a local water supply that must be protected.
 - Passed a **consent decree** and convinced legislators to **pass legislation** ([House Bill 1326](#)) to further protect the Mahomet from these toxic wastes.
- Then, in 2016 near Fisher Illinois, an injection well leaked methane into the Mahomet Aquifer from a gas storage facility owned by People's Gas. The **gas contaminated wells** as far away as Mahomet (the city). After eight years and with millions of dollars spent on the design of a new water supply, affected residents still rely on bottled water for daily use.
- Today, the Mahomet Aquifer is facing another threat that, if not stopped, can contaminate the aquifer with toxic, heavy metals. Once again, **your help is needed** to keep the aquifer safe.

The threat

- Due to its unique geology, **Illinois is a prime target** for carbon sequestration (CCS), the process of storing pressurized CO₂ underground in geological formations with the intent of permanent storage.
- The U.S. EPA plans to **hold public hearings** early next year on draft Class VI well permits for three CCS projects that would inject CO₂ through and/or store it under the Mahomet Aquifer (or its recharge area near Fisher) in DeWitt, Ford, Logan, and McLean Counties.



We need a Mahomet Aquifer CCS Ban!

- CO₂ can **leak along injection wells** and through existing faults and fractures in the cap rock. Natural or induced earthquakes (caused by injecting large volumes of highly-pressurized CO₂) can crack well bores and the cap rock, releasing it into the aquifer. Leakage also can occur through abandoned wells that penetrate the Mahomet Aquifer:
 - When CO₂ mixes with water, it forms carbonic acid, which can leach **heavy metals** from sand and rock formations in the aquifer. These include arsenic, antimony, cadmium, chromium, copper, iron, lead, magnesium, and selenium.
 - People who consume **high levels of heavy metals** risk acute and chronic toxicity, liver, kidney, and intestinal damage, anemia, and cancer.
- Illinois passed legislation regulating carbon capture and storage in May of 2024 (the [SAFE CCS Act](#)), but the **law does not ban** the injection of CO₂ through or storage under the Mahomet Aquifer and its recharge areas. This leaves the Mahomet vulnerable to contamination from a CO₂ leak.

The Mahomet Aquifer is vital to our well-being

- The Mahomet Aquifer is the primary source of drinking water for nearly **one million people** in Central Illinois. It serves over 100 communities and tens of thousands of rural homeowners in 14 counties.
- It also is **important to our economy**. Many self-supplied agricultural, industrial, institutional, and commercial users rely upon the aquifer for cooling, process water, and row-crop irrigation.
- Its designation as a sole-source aquifer by the U.S. EPA means **over 50 percent of the population** served by the Mahomet Aquifer would be unable to find either a physically-available or economically-feasible alternative source of drinking water should it become contaminated.

What Can You Do?

Work with us to stop all carbon capture, transport, and storage projects that threaten the Mahomet Aquifer!

- **Ask your county** to pass a sequestration ban to stop the injection of CO₂ through and storage under the Mahomet Aquifer! A county has the power to ban these activities, provided they adopt a special use permit that allows sequestration activities elsewhere.
- **Sign our petition** that asks your state senator and representative to adopt a Mahomet Aquifer Sequestration ban this fall.
- **Sign up** to get information on each of the upcoming U.S. EPA public hearings that will be held for Class VI well projects that threaten the Mahomet Aquifer that we expect to begin this fall. The first one is One Earth Sequestration, LLC, who plans to inject CO₂ through and store it under the Mahomet Aquifer.
- **Help us tell the EPA** they should deny these permits. We'll provide talking points and help you prepare.
 - **No private company** should be allowed to threaten Central Illinois' primary water supply.
 - Approval of these projects will **compromise our health** and leave us **without a viable supply of replacement water** should the aquifer be contaminated by CO₂.

Petitions and a signup form can be found at ProtectTheMahomet.com.

Questions? Contact Pam at prichart@ecojusticecollaborative.org or Andrew at arehn@prairierivers.org.

