

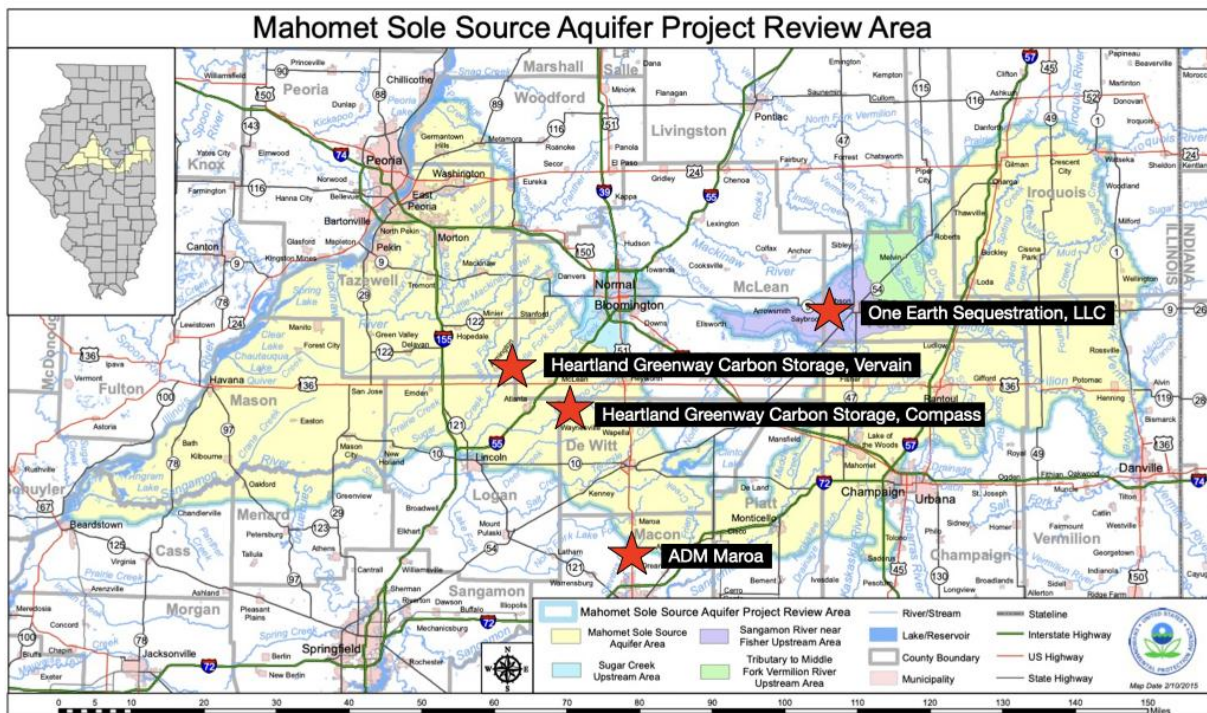
The Mahomet Aquifer is at risk from CO₂ contamination!

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** late this year and early next on draft Class VI well permits for four CCS projects that would inject CO₂ through and/or store it under the Mahomet Aquifer (and its recharge area near Fisher) in DeWitt, Logan, Macon, 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 CCS projects that threaten the Mahomet Aquifer! This includes:

- Helping **reignite the multiple coalitions** that previously worked together to protect it when the aquifer was threatened by MGP and PCB waste.
- Preparing for and attending each of the public hearings that will be held for projects that threaten the Mahomet Aquifer so that you can **tell the EPA to deny these permits**:
 - **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.
- Work for a legislative **Mahomet Aquifer CCS ban**. Call your state senator and representative and let them know we need a legislative Mahomet Aquifer CCS ban **to protect our drinking water and health** from CO₂ pollution! Go to the [Illinois State Board of Elections](#) website to find your legislators and their contact information.
- Visit noillinoisCO2pipelines.org for more information on **CCS and the Mahomet Aquifer**, and [sign up](#) for updates!

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