



Protect the Mahomet Aquifer!

champaign
county
HEALTH CARE
CONSUMERS

September 8, 2014

Dear Friends,

More than ever, Champaign County Health Care Consumers (CCHCC) needs your help and support to protect drinking water in Central Illinois from toxic contamination. *As unbelievable and irresponsible as it seems, drinking water for more than 750,000 residents in 14 counties in Central Illinois is under threat of contamination from toxic chemicals because of the greed of a single corporation. PDC/AREA Disposal owns the Clinton Landfill and its toxic waste dump, which sits above the Mahomet Aquifer.*

Recently, thanks in large part to citizen involvement and local government action, there have been important victories in the effort to protect the Aquifer from chemical waste at the Clinton Landfill. But the victories are temporary stays, and more action is needed to create a permanent solution to protect our Aquifer.

Despite our recent victories to halt toxic chemical dumping at the landfill, the owners of the Clinton Landfill are still planning to fight for and seek the necessary permits to allow dumping of Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) waste, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) waste, and other toxic chemical waste in their Landfill. And the decision to issue these permits starts with the DeWitt County Board – unless we can create a state solution to permanently protect our Aquifer.



Central Illinois residents must continue to fight to protect the Mahomet Aquifer from irreversible contamination from toxic chemicals allowed in the Clinton Landfill's toxic waste dump.

The effort to permanently protect the Mahomet Aquifer will have to take place on several fronts – from pressuring the DeWitt County Board, to pressuring the Governor, state legislators, and state agencies to do the right thing. A big part of the effort will also have to focus on raising awareness among residents of Central Illinois so that they can learn what's at stake and join the effort to protect the Mahomet Aquifer.

Read on for more information and to learn what you can do to help. Also, check out our new bumper stickers so you can help spread the word about protecting our Aquifer!

About the Mahomet Aquifer

The Mahomet Aquifer is an ancient underground repository of pure water that lies below the fields of Central Illinois. The aquifer was formed at the end of the last Ice Age when the retreating glacial formations began to melt, depositing large amounts of sand, gravel, and water in a large valley formation called the Mahomet Bedrock Valley. Over 120 communities in 14 counties rely on the Mahomet Aquifer's water for their drinking, cleaning, agricultural, and industrial needs. About 750,000 people use an average of 57 million gallons of aquifer water per day, just for drinking alone. *Please see the next page for a map of the Mahomet Aquifer.*

PDC/AREA Disposal Company's Clinton Landfill and its "Chemical Waste" dump

Peoria Disposal Company (PDC)/AREA Disposal owns the Clinton Landfill, located just outside of Clinton, IL in DeWitt County. *The landfill sits immediately above the Mahomet Aquifer.* The landfill has historically stored municipal and household waste collected by local waste haulers (including PDC/AREA Disposal Company).

In 2007, Clinton Landfill sought a special permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IL EPA) to receive "Chemical Waste" at its Clinton Landfill #3. In a series of moves that were done improperly and many allege violated the law, Clinton Landfill obtained local siting approval from the DeWitt County Board

We CAN win this fight to protect our Aquifer, and you can help – take action now!

We have to work on all fronts to protect the Mahomet Aquifer. You can help by taking these actions:

1. Add your name to the petition calling on the DeWitt County Board to deny Clinton Landfill's next application for a siting permit to receive chemical waste like MGPs and PCBs. In order to move forward with its plans to receive MGP and PCB waste, Clinton Landfill's first step will be to seek a local siting permit from the DeWitt County Board. The DeWitt County Board is stacked with Landfill supporters and needs to hear from as many Central Illinois residents as possible that their local actions can irreversibly affect an entire region of the state for generations to come.
2. Add your name to the petition calling on Governor Quinn to fully rescind Clinton Landfill's permit for "Chemical Waste." While Gov. Quinn's actions in July and August were of paramount importance, they simply resulted in not allowing the specific MGP and PCB forms of chemical waste, but did nothing to rescind Clinton Landfill's designation as a Chemical Waste dump. Clinton Landfill's permit for Chemical Waste must be rescinded in its entirety.
3. Add your name to the petition calling on state lawmakers to create a state law to permanently protect the Mahomet Aquifer. There ought to be a state law that protects the drinking water for an entire region of the state! The actions of one local government body should not be allowed to harm a natural resource that serves an entire region.
4. Make a tax-deductible contribution to support CCHCC's work to protect the Mahomet Aquifer. This work requires massive outreach efforts, including the costs of materials and staff time.
5. Join or support the boycott of AREA Disposal, the company that owns Clinton Landfill. CCHCC and the members of the multi-county coalition that are working together to protect the Mahomet Aquifer, are calling for a boycott of AREA Disposal. The purpose of the boycott is to let AREA Disposal know that our communities do not approve of the Clinton Landfill Chemical Waste dump and the threat it poses to the Mahomet Aquifer, and we will not help enrich a company that is so willing to threaten our environmental and public health in order to benefit its bottom line. If AREA Disposal (PDC/AREA) is your garbage hauler, please consider changing hauling companies. CCHCC can provide you with information about alternative haulers and it is available at healthcareconsumers.org/alternative-haulers/.
6. Help spread the word. Share our information and use e-mail and social media to help inform your contacts. "Like" us on Facebook. Get your bumper stickers to help create awareness!



Bumper Stickers – a great way to help spread the word!

Get your bumper stickers now! We have two new bumper stickers: 1) I "heart" my Aquifer and 2) Boycott AREA Disposal bumper stickers. Sales of the bumper stickers go to support CCHCC's work to protect the Mahomet Aquifer. *Please see the back page of this newsletter for more information.*

Thank you for your support!

There is no greater environmental or public health threat facing Central Illinois than the possible toxic contamination of the Mahomet Aquifer. To take action to protect the Aquifer, please fill out the blue pledge sheet and return it to CCHCC in the enclosed self-addressed postage-paid envelope. *Thank you for your support and ongoing involvement as we work to create a way to permanently protect the Mahomet Aquifer!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudia Lennhoff".

Claudia Lennhoff, Executive Director

*P.S. Your contribution
is tax-deductible
Thank you for your
support!*

Protect the Mahomet Aquifer Bumper Stickers

“Heart” my Aquifer Bumper Sticker

- 3 inches tall by 11.5 inches wide
- High quality, white removable vinyl bumper sticker
- Union made

\$3 each or 2/\$5



Boycott AREA Disposal Bumper Sticker

- 4 inches tall by 4 inches wide
- High quality, white removable vinyl bumper sticker
- Union made

\$2 each or 2/\$3

Aquifer Action Pack

Get one of each sticker - only \$4



Order your stickers today!

Go online at healthcareconsumers.org or contact Jen at (217) 352-6533

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