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Marquis Carbon Injection

Comment On: EPA-R05-OW-2025-1612-0001
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Comment submitted by Edward Zimmerlein

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General Comment

Comments to the Illinois EPA concerning Docket # EPA-R05-OW-2025-1612 for the Marquis CO2 Sequestration Project

To whom it may concern,

My name is Edward Zimmerlein. I live at 8553 Illinois Highway 71 in Hennepin Illinois. Approximately a mile away from the proposed injection site. I attended the public engagement meeting on October 15th and asked questions and learned more about this project. However, I want to submit these comments so that there is a record of my concern.

While our specific property is outside of the outline the map describes as “the plume”, I am still concerned with the effect that this project might have on us and our property. When it comes down to it, it seems that the process of pumping CO2 underground is a new process and there is not an abundance of experience dealing with it. It is definitely not a natural phenomenon. So, no one knows for sure what effects this process could have on anyone who depend on water from the aquifers that flow through this area. I did see a map at the public engagement meeting of some limits. There was much discussion of what monitoring will be done to see if there will be any leaking. Monitoring should be expected, and I was surprised to hear that Marquis was able to request that the monitoring period be decreased to less than what has been required in the past. From a public standpoint, I don’t understand why shorter periods of testing/monitoring would be allowed. The only testing done, it seems, will be on Marquis property through monitoring wells. Has any consideration been given to doing some baseline testing in private wells around the site and possibly kept on record for this in case something happens down the road? If there ever were an earthquake that damaged the cap above the sandstone that the CO2 will be stored in, the result

could be horrible for anyone drawing water from this aquifer. At the very least, if this permit were to be approved, would the EPA allow time and reach out to surrounding citizens to urge them to have their own wells tested as a baseline? As I said monitoring should be expected but what is the EPA's position on what happens if 50 years from now there would be an earthquake or an unexpected phenomenon where the cap material is penetrated, and CO2 rises up to our water supply? Which could also bring other harmful substances with it. Testing and monitoring will not help all of us private property owners if that happens. We could be drinking and bathing in that water without knowing there is anything wrong. Who would be responsible for the effects of this? Marquis or the Illinois EPA? If the issue is of no concern, I would like to ask that the EPA stand with private property owners around this area and re-assure us by talking with our insurance companies to make sure there is some sort of verbiage in our property insurance policies that we are covered if anything were to happen to our water supply. If our insurance companies can believe it is not a concern that they would have to pay out on and not raise our rates, I would then believe the EPA that it is not a concern. I think that this is a reasonable request. Also, if this permit was ever requested to be extended for more time or tons of CO2, will another public engagement meeting be held? The size of the plum would probably grow again.