**Report on Injection Wells for Green Sanctuary Meeting - January 17, 20222**

I spoke with Bob Lane, the oil/gas producer in Washington County who is advocating against Class II injection wells on the basis of their interference and destruction of production wells and their danger to drinking water. He told me that the law firm, Bordas & Bordas, is finalizing a legal case against four brine-waste disposal companies. Lane said that he expected the suit to be filed at the end of December; that has not happened, so I assume it will be delayed. In my conversation with Lane, he mentioned the risks of seismic events with injection wells that are adjacent to geological faults. I sent a message to Mr. Adam Schroeder of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources on December 22 to ask if ODNR does any seismic monitoring at injection well sites. No response yet.

On December 14 the Green Sanctuary Committee of the UU congregation in Marietta sponsored a Zoom meeting with Ted Auch. Ted, who lives in the Cleveland area, has done considerable research on the fracking industry (both the production side and waste disposal). Major outcomes of his presentation and subsequent discussion:

-Ted gave us information on a community in Trumbull County (northeast Ohio), which successfully denied an injection-well facility in their area. We’ll be contacting that group.

-The oil & gas industry has identified an area bordered by a triangle from points of Wheeling WV, Cambridge OH and the Ohio River as the area of disposal of brine waste from fracking wells.

-State legislators in this region have thus far been unresponsive to requests to take some action against brine-waste disposal companies.

-He said the focus of efforts on injection wells should be to deny ODNR the “primacy” of permitting and monitoring Class II injection wells, which they were granted several years ago by the US EPA. Primacy means that the ODNR is the primary agency for the process of permitting and monitoring injection wells in Ohio.

-There are few jobs in the brine-waste disposal industry. There are a few truckers, but this job category will be reduced when the disposal companies start shipping their waste by barge along the Ohio River. Some organizations like the Fresh Water Protection Group are opposing this barging option. The oil & gas business is putting pressure on the disposal companies to reduce their costs. The major disposal company in this area is Deep Rock LLC, which is owned by a company in Texas.

-Green Sanctuary is launching a letter-writing campaign on injection wells. George has distributed talking points to the group, and one letter has already been submitted to the Marietta Times. Maggie Meyer’s letter was published in the Jan 10 2022 of the MTimes, Vic Elam has agreed to write the next letter.

George Banziger