



WELCOME

Michindoh Sole Source Aquifer Meeting

Mony Chabria and Bill Spaulding
EPA Region 5
Chicago, IL

Why are we here?

- After 5 years of community meetings, outreach and research, the City of Bryan, applied to (petitioned) EPA in 2007 to designate the Michindoh Aquifer a Sole Source Aquifer.
- Since then EPA reviewed the petition, asked for additional information from the City of Bryan and opened a public comment period on our plans to approve it.



What is an aquifer?

- A porous layer of sand, gravel or rock that holds water.
- Groundwater moves through these underground spaces.



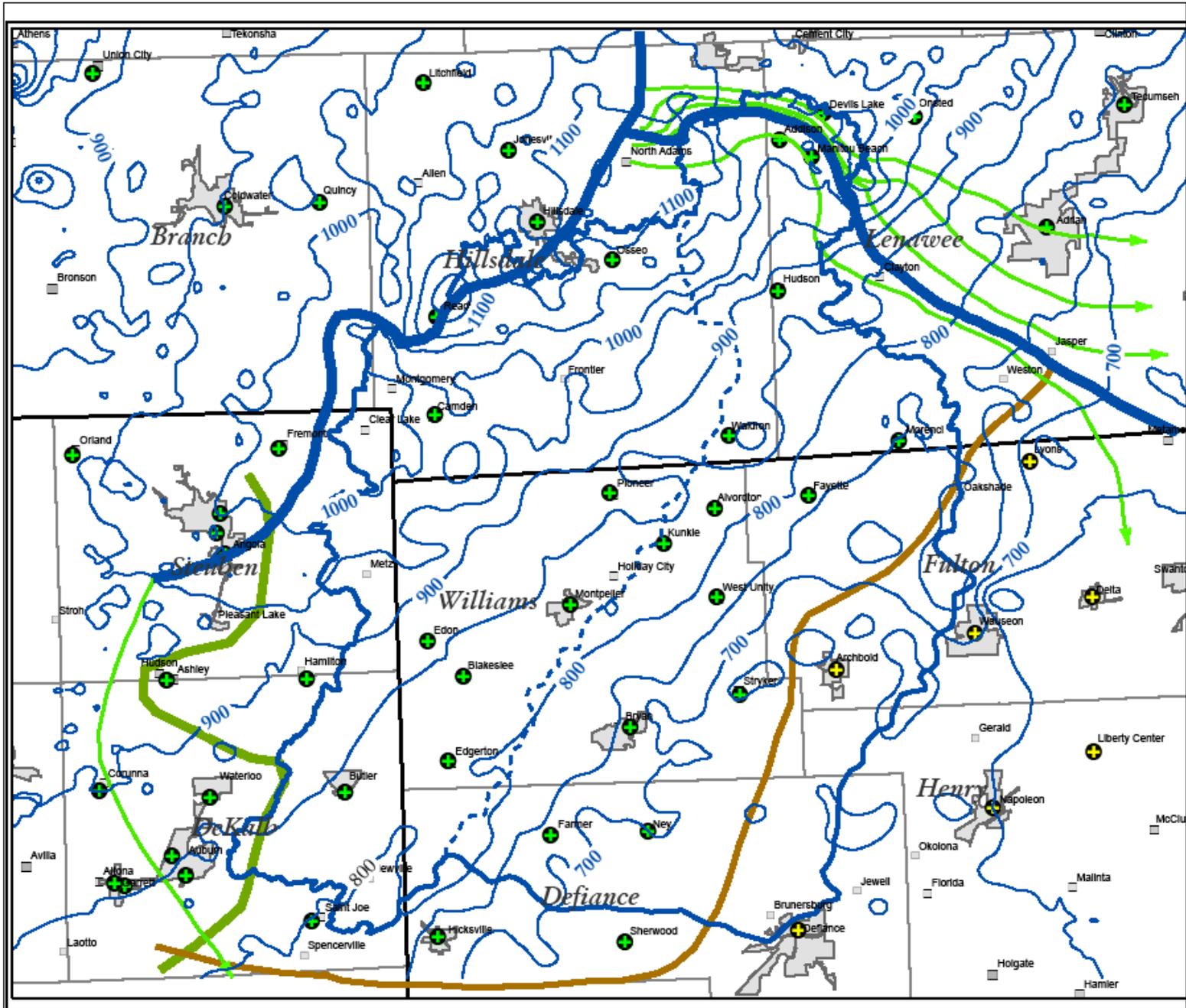
What is a Sole Source Aquifer?

- A sole source aquifer is an underground water supply designated by EPA as the “sole or principal” source of drinking water for an area.
- There are 73 designated nationwide



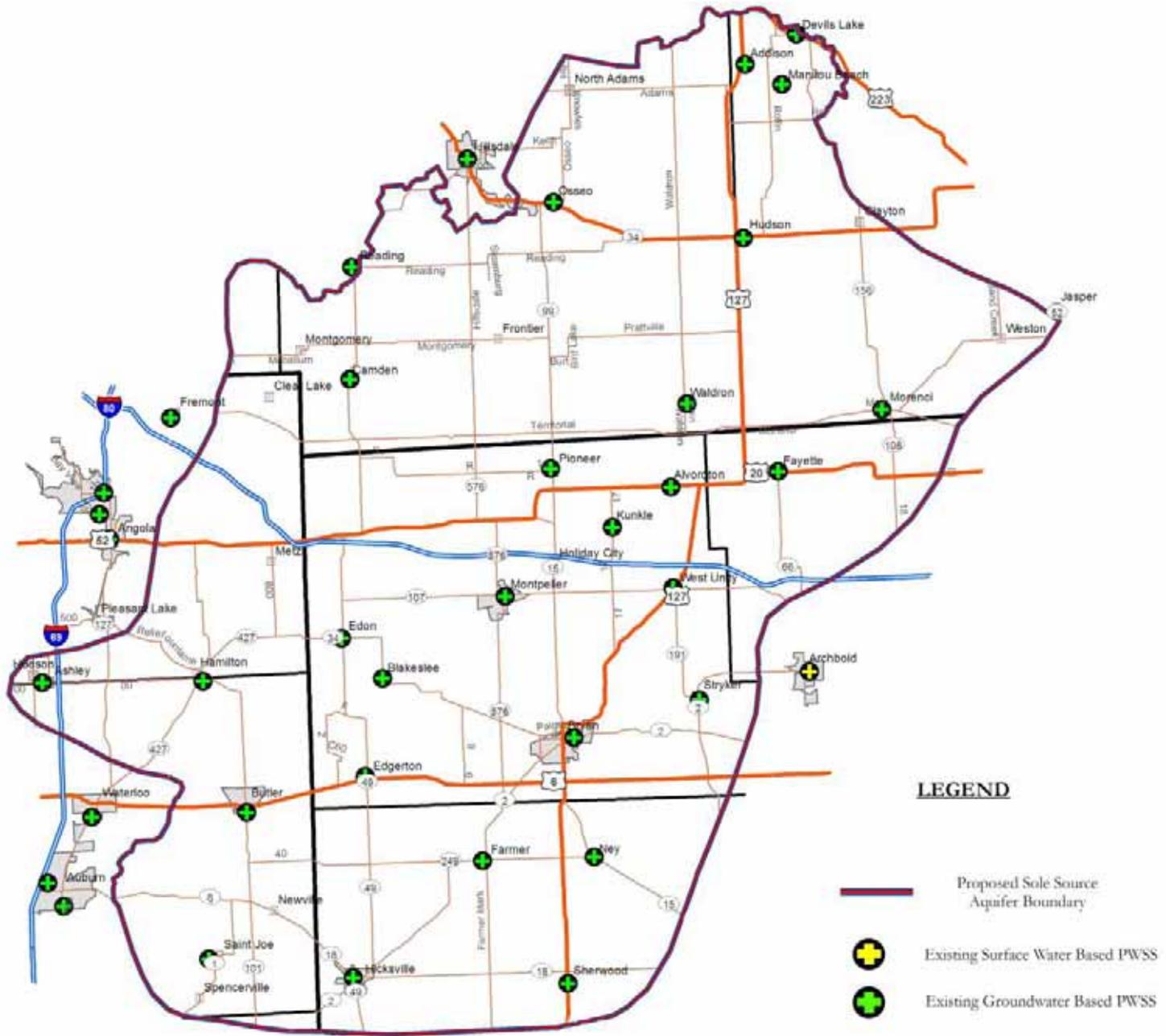
The Michindoh Sole Source Aquifer

- ??? portions of 9 counties in 3 states.
- It is a glacial aquifer (sand and gravel).
- The groundwater moves horizontally and vertically within the aquifer.
- Generally, the groundwater moves from the NW to the SE.
- Depth varies from ground surface to near 200 ft below the surface.
- Provides water for more than 385,000 people
- 72 million gallons per day



What data was used to determine the Michindoh Aquifer boundaries?

- A database of over 60,000 well logs was used to determine the physical limits and groundwater flow directions.
- USGS stream gauge data.
- Economic Feasibility Analysis used 2000 Census data combined with design cost, income and demand calculations.



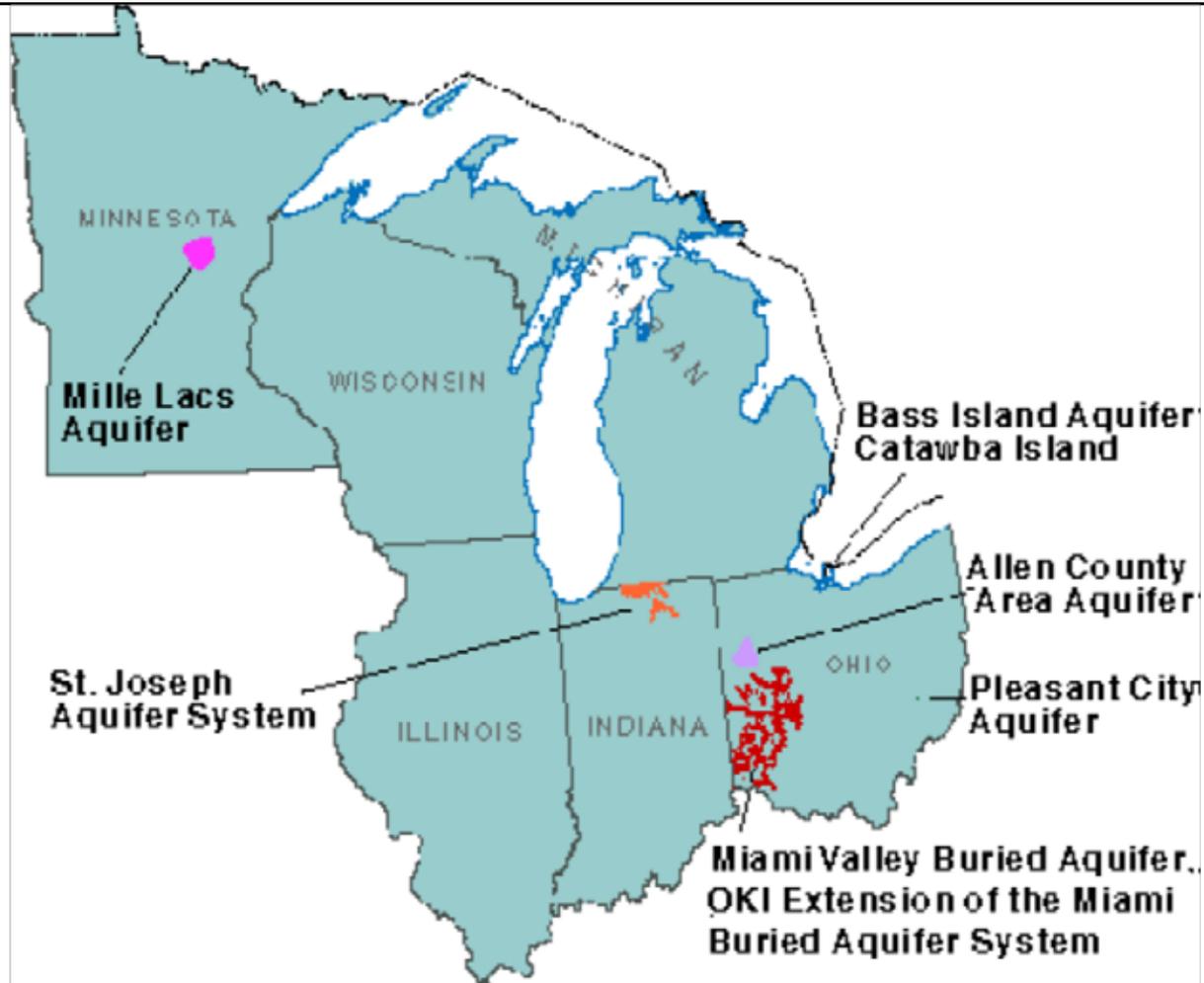
What does Sole Source Aquifer designation mean?

- Projects that receive federal contracts, grants or loans and which have the potential to contaminate the aquifer have to get EPA's review and approval.
- Examples of this type of projects are bridges, roads, etc.

What doesn't it mean?

- If a SSA designation is made, EPA SSA reviews are **not** required for State, local, or privately-funded projects.

Other Midwest SSAs





EPA uses this criteria when evaluating an SSA petition

- Is the aquifer the “sole or principal” source of drinking water?
- “Sole or Principal” criteria = at least 50% of the drinking water to the public
- Would contamination create a significant hazard to public health?

What State rules might affect an SSA area?

- Indiana – landfills and storage tanks in “sensitive areas”.
- Ohio – solid and hazardous waste landfill location, underground storage tanks and manure storage lagoons in SSAs
- Michigan – solid and hazardous waste landfills in SSAs



Project Review Process

- Projects using federal assistance would be submitted to EPA early in the review.
- Very short project review times.
- No comment = approval
- EPA might ask for design change.
- Denial of funding if no change made
- No denials yet.



What are the next steps?

- We will respond to comments in a responsiveness summary.
- We will decide whether to approve the petition, request revision, or deny it.
- We will publish our decision to approve or deny the petition in the Federal Register and post it on the Web.



Questions and comments?

Bill Spaulding

(800) 621-8431 x. 69262

spaulding.william@epa.gov