

## **CASE 178-AT-25**

*PRELIMINARY MEMORANDUM*

*October 9, 2025*

Petitioner: **Zoning Administrator**

Prepared by: **John Hall**, Zoning Administrator  
**Charlie Campo**, Senior Planner

Request: **Amend Sections 5.5.2 and 5.5.3 of the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance to extend a temporary safety moratorium on Carbon Sequestration Activity to expire in 6 months after the effective date of the amendment.**

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### **BACKGROUND**

The County Board approved a 12-month temporary safety moratorium on carbon sequestration activities in Champaign County on 1/23/2025.

A Carbon Sequestration Activities Task Force was appointed on 3/20/2025.

The Task Force has made good progress on a draft carbon sequestration amendment but review of the draft is ongoing and it is clear that a final carbon sequestration amendment cannot be adopted before the temporary moratorium expires on 1/23/2026.

At their meeting on October 9, 2025, the Environment and Land Use Committee will review an authorization for a public for a proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to extend the existing safety moratorium on carbon sequestration activity in Champaign County for an additional six months.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A Champaign County Environment and Land Use Committee (ELUC) Memorandum dated September 26, 2025, with attachment:
  - A Proposed Text Amendment
- B Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP) Goals & Objectives (provided on the ZBA meetings website)

Champaign County  
Department of



**TO: Environment and Land Use Committee**

**FROM: John Hall, Zoning Administrator**

**DATE: September 26, 2025**

**RE: Authorization for a public hearing for a proposed Zoning Ordinance text amendment to extend the existing safety moratorium on carbon sequestration activity in Champaign County for an additional six months**

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**BACKGROUND**

**Brookens Administrative Center**  
1776 E. Washington Street  
Urbana, Illinois 61802

(217) 384-3708  
zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us  
www.co.champaign.il.us/zoning

The County Board approved a 12-month temporary safety moratorium on carbon sequestration activities in Champaign County on 1/23/2025.

A Carbon Sequestration Activities Task Force was appointed on 3/20/2025.

The Task Force has made good progress on a draft carbon sequestration amendment, but review of the draft is ongoing and it is clear that a final carbon sequestration amendment cannot be adopted before the temporary moratorium expires on 1/23/2026.

A six-month extension is proposed.

**TEXT AMENDMENT PUBLIC HEARING TIMELINE**

The public hearing requires a legal advertisement in the newspaper (the advertisement will appear in the October 1, 2025, News-Gazette) and notice provided to all relevant municipalities. If the public hearing is authorized by ELUC on October 7, 2025, the anticipated timeline (\*earliest possible dates) is as follows:

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1. Public Hearing opens at the Champaign County Zoning Board of Appeals (CCZBA)	<b>Thursday, October 16, 2025</b>
2. Public Hearing closes at CCZBA and the CCZBA makes recommendations to the Champaign County Board	<b>*Thursday, October 16, 2025</b>
3. Environment and Land Use Committee of the Champaign County Board (ELUC) affirms or amends CCZBA’s recommendation	<b>*Thursday, November 6, 2025</b>
4. Environment and Land Use Committee of the Champaign County Board makes a recommendation to the Champaign County Board	<b>*Thursday, December 6, 2024</b>
5. Champaign County Board makes a final determination	<b>*Thursday, December 18, 2025</b>

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\* earliest anticipated dates of action

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A Proposed text amendment

**ATTACHMENT A: PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT**

**1. Amend Section 5.5 as follows:**

**5.5.2 Duration of this Moratorium**

This Safety Moratorium on CARBON SEQUESTRATION ACTIVITY will expire ~~12~~ six months, or ~~365~~ 180 days, after its effective date.

**5.5.3 Activities Impacted by this Moratorium**

- A. Any CARBON SEQUESTRATION ACTIVITY, as defined in this moratorium, that is proposed after the effective date of this moratorium will not be approved by Champaign County until the expiration or revocation of this temporary moratorium.
- B. Any CARBON SEQUESTRATION ACTIVITY that is pending, as of the effective date of this moratorium, will be held in abeyance until the ~~12~~ six month-long moratorium has expired or been revoked.