03/23/2015 HUD Illinois ERO Guidance on Mahomet Aquifer System:

On March 11, 2015 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a decision to designate a portion of the Mahomet Aquifer system as a sole source aquifer. More than half of the population in east-central Illinois relies on the Mahomet Aquifer system as a source of drinking water.

The Safe Drinking Water Act gives EPA authority to designate all or part of an aquifer as a "sole source" if contamination of the aquifer would create a significant hazard to public health and there are no physically available or economically feasible alternative sources of drinking water to serve the population that relies on the aquifer.  The designation authorizes EPA review of projects that receive Federal financial assistance to assess potential for contamination of the aquifer system that would create a significant hazard to public health.

More info: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/gwdw/mahomet/>

What does this mean for HUD grantees?

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/sole-source-aquifers>

HUD Guidance

**Is the project located on a sole source aquifer?** Review the EPA regional Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) maps to determine whether the project is within the boundaries of a designated SSA.

**If so, does the project include any activities beyond acquisition, leasing, or rehabilitation of existing buildings?**

**If so, do you have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or working agreement with the EPA that excludes your project from further review?**

**If not, will the proposed project contaminate the aquifer and create a significant hazard to public health?**Consult with your Regional EPA Office.  Your consultation request should include detailed information about your proposed project and its relationship to the aquifer and associated streamflow source area.  EPA will also want to know about water, storm water and waste water at the proposed project.  Follow your MOU or working agreement or contact your Regional EPA office for specific information you may need to provide.  EPA may request additional information if impacts to the aquifer are questionable after this information is submitted for review.

**If so, work with the EPA to develop mitigation measures.**

Compliance and Documentation

The environmental review record should contain **one**of the following:

* Documentation, including a map, showing that the project site is not on a sole source aquifer
* A determination that the project consists solely of acquisition, leasing, or rehabilitation of existing buildings
* Documentation showing that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or agreement with the EPA excludes your project from further review
* Documentation that EPA has reviewed and commented on the proposed action within an SSA and a description of any mitigation measures, if necessary