

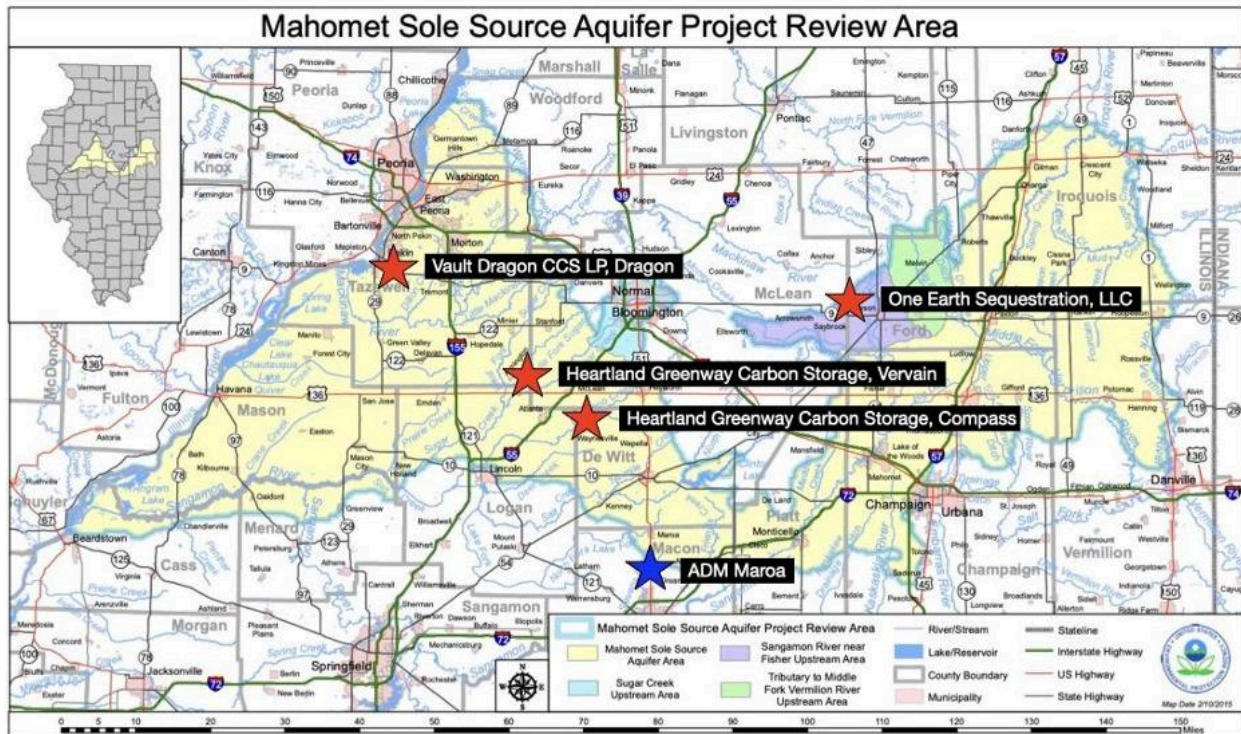
# PROTECT THE MAHOMET AQUIFER



## Support SB1723 (Faraci) / HB3614 (Ammons) to Protect the Mahomet Aquifer

The Mahomet Aquifer provides drinking water to nearly 1 million people across Central Illinois. More than 100 communities and rural homeowners in 14 Illinois counties rely on this aquifer for fresh drinking water.

The Mahomet Aquifer was designated a [sole source aquifer](#) by the EPA in 2015, which means that “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.”



- ★ Projects located within the Mahomet Aquifer or recharge area
- ★ Projects that are close, but appear to be located just outside the boundaries of the aquifer

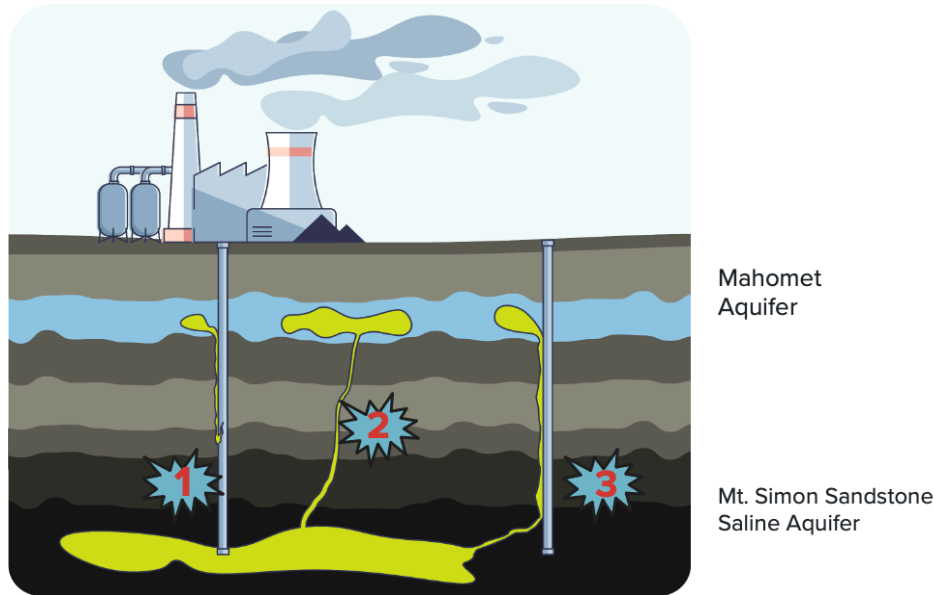
### Threats to the Mahomet Aquifer

Central Illinois is seeing an onslaught of proposed carbon sequestration projects. Backed by federal money, four of the eight proposed carbon sequestration projects currently threaten the Mahomet Aquifer, and more may be proposed without swift action to protect it. These four projects would store over 215 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> under the Mahomet Aquifer and its recharge zones. This is nearly 50 times the volume of carbon ever stored in Illinois.

No one can guarantee permanent storage. CO<sub>2</sub> is buoyant and can move upward along injection wells and through fissures or cracks in the caprock as it tries to make its way to the surface. Seismic activity that may be created by CO<sub>2</sub> injection could damage injection or monitoring wells — or crack the caprock ([Zoback 2012](#)). If this happens, escape paths would be created for CO<sub>2</sub> to leak into and contaminate the Mahomet Aquifer.

These threats are real and significant because they can jeopardize the future viability of the aquifer and put people's health at risk:

- CO<sub>2</sub> that leaks into the Mahomet Aquifer would change its pH, making it more acidic. This could mobilize heavy metals like manganese, cobalt, nickel, uranium, and barium, which are currently non-reactive.
- These toxic, heavy metals can cause severe health issues such as cancer and liver, kidney, and heart damage.



### Leak Pathways

- 1. Injection Well**
- 2. Caprock Failure**
- 3. Abandoned Wells**

### Risks

- **Acidification**
- **Salinization**
- **Heavy Metal Contamination**

### **ZERO tolerance for contamination**

While the recently passed SAFE CCS Act requires a storage operator to replace water contaminated by CO<sub>2</sub>, the sole source designation of the Mahomet Aquifer determined it is not economically feasible to replace water for the overwhelming majority of those who rely on it. But leaks are inevitable:

- In 2024, Archer Daniels Midlands' active sequestration project [leaked twice](#), causing them to stop injecting CO<sub>2</sub>.
- The 2016 Peoples Gas methane gas leak near the Village of Mahomet demonstrates the difficulty of replacing water from the Mahomet Aquifer. Nine years later, affected community members remain on bottled water.

Fresh water is a human right. Given the importance of the Mahomet Aquifer for those who rely on it for their water and the fact there is no economically feasible alternative to replace it, the risk tolerance must be **ZERO**.

## **Support SB1723 (Faraci) / HB3614 (Ammons) Ban carbon sequestration through and under the Mahomet Aquifer and its recharge areas and protect drinking water for Central Illinois**

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