



(Click [here](#) to view and download ICWA's karst poster)

## Karst Concerns: A Defining Issue for Monroe County – Important New Study Funded

*Karst remains a defining water issue for the county. Always a focus of efforts for county watershed groups, in 2012 ICWA and Friends of THE Second Creek co-sponsored a yearlong public awareness campaign. In 2017, a major USGS-led study of Monroe County waters was announced.*

- Monroe was one of four counties included in the 2016 expert report by Ernst Kastning, Ph.D., P.G., on geologic hazards in the karst regions that would be crossed by the proposed MVP Pipeline. Dr. Kastning concluded that “karst and associated hazards [steep slopes, land instability, weak soils and potential seismicity] constitute a serious incompatibility with the proposed pipeline. The effect of these threats ... renders this region as a ‘no-build’ zone for the project.” (Access the report [here](#).)
- A 2016 USGS report—prepared with the WV Dept. of Health and Human Resources to assess source water-influenced groundwater supplies following the January 2014 chemical spill in Charleston—noted that the karst hydrogeologic setting in Greenbrier and Monroe Counties “is possibly the most intrinsically susceptible aquifer in West Virginia.”
- In 2017, the USGS spearheaded a proposal for a coalition of Federal, State, County and local agencies for a comprehensive hydrogeological assessment “to supply Monroe County with information to make science-based decisions on water-resources supply and management.” (Find out more about the study [here](#).)

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## Abandoned Wells Help Map Underground Geology and Water

ICWA is assisting USGS scientists locate abandoned wells as part of the statewide USGS Borehole Geophysical Assessment Program. This program will provide subsurface geologic and hydrologic data—critical information in understanding the county’s aquifer characteristics—which will also tie into the USGS county-wide hydrogeological study described above. **How you can help:** If you know of an abandoned well in the county that is at least 100 feet deep, [contact us](#).

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**ICWA welcomes the chance to work with individuals and organizations interested in protecting Monroe County’s water.**

**Please [contact us](#) for information on how to get involved!**



**Indian Creek Watershed Association**

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*Active since 1996, ICWA is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization*