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Water Line Break in Anmoore

Morgantown Water Supply Threats Mapped Out

*Written by Jared Pelletier
Last updated on March 27, 2014 @ 7:51PM
Created on March 27, 2014 @ 7:33PM*

Many people are still anxious about the safety of their water following the crisis in the southern part of the state which contaminated water for nearly 300,000 people.

Some local residents wonder if their water could be contaminated. That's why a few environmental based groups recently went to work to try and find answers for people in the Morgantown area.

Officials are saying there are 55 potential contaminants that could cause problems for approximately 25,000 Morgantown Utility Board Customers, but despite potential hazards most experts claim MUB is ahead of the curve when it comes to protecting people's water.

A group called Downstream Strategies partnered with West Virginia Land Trust to develop a map which clearly shows potential problems for three different water companies. Experts are saying MUB has approximately the same amount of potential problem areas as Charleston, but MUB has a good handle on the situation.

Following the disaster down south the state legislature passed a bill requiring companies to have a Source Water Protection Plan. MUB decided to enact its own plan in 2011 and Downstream Strategies representatives claim the water company has been doing a great job.



Downstream Strategies President Evan Hansen said, "They have an existing source water protection plan from 2011 and even so they're not waiting for the bill to be signed by the governor. They're not being constrained by what's in that bill."

Timothy Ball is the General Manager of MUB. He said, "MUB is the largest publicly owned water supply utility in the state. We take that as a responsibility. We're proud to lead the way and set the standard."

West Virginia Land Trust officials claim one of the most important aspects of keeping water supplies clean is land preservation.

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