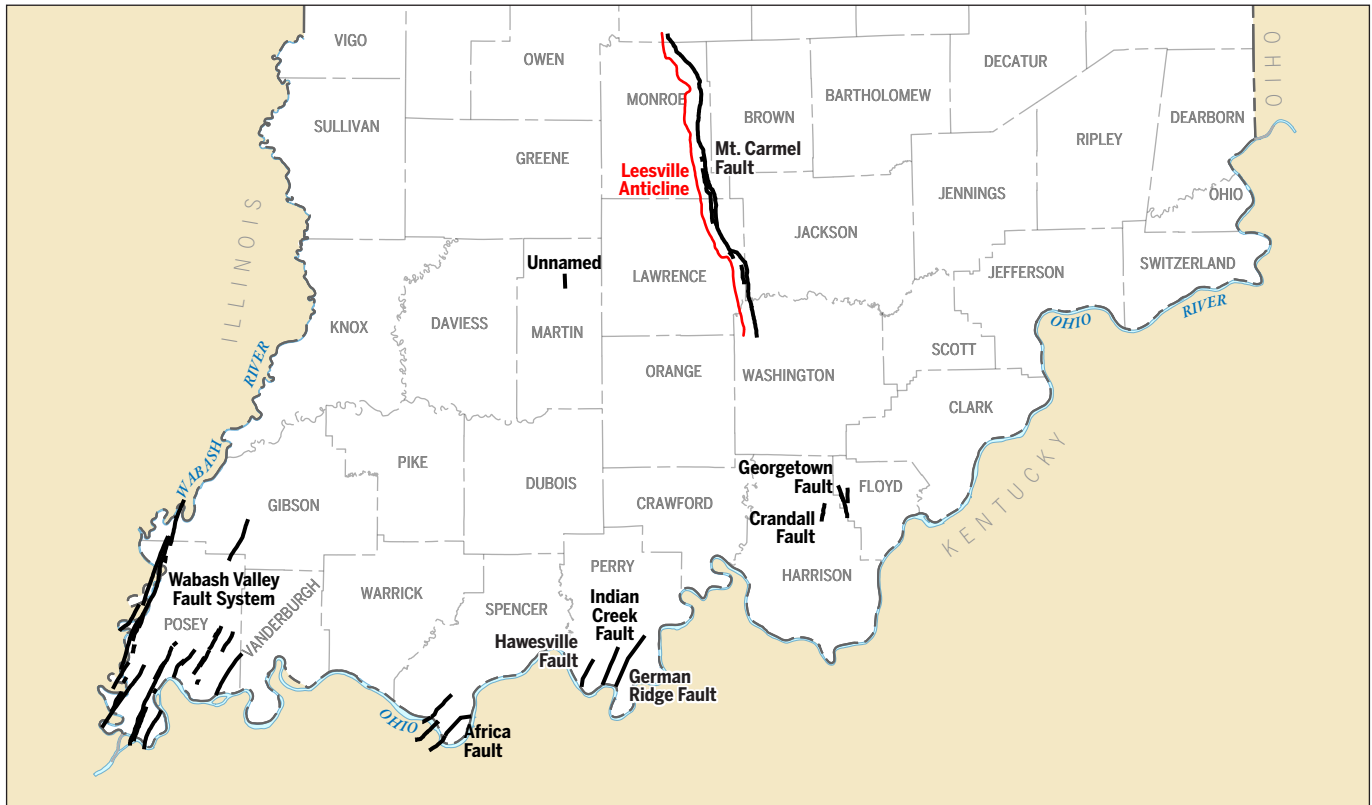


## Faults of Southwestern Indiana



When ancient bedrock faults were formed, earthquakes were probably common in southwestern Indiana. While these buried faults are not known to be associated with modern earthquakes, even more intense earthquakes in the region have been related to the New Madrid Seismic Zone, a major area of earthquake activity in the midcontinent region of North America. In 1811–12, three major earthquakes near New Madrid, Missouri, were among the greatest in recorded history in North America. Many scientists believe that the

Wabash Valley Fault System, which reaches into Indiana, is the northern extension of the New Madrid faults. The recurrence of such earthquakes could have disastrous consequences in Indiana.

Indiana Geological Survey geologists have located many earthquake-induced liquefaction features within the Wabash Valley seismic zone, suggesting that at least two strong earthquakes occurred within the last 1,200 years.