Source Water Assessment for the The Kincaid Chalet Anchorage, Alaska

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and Vulnerability Analysis

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM REPORT 429 PWSID 215605.001

Source Water Assessment for the The Kincaid Chalet Anchorage, Alaska

By HEATHER A. HAMMOND

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM REPORT 429 PWSID 215605.001

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION: 2002

CONTENTS

Public Water Sys Assessment/Prote	e Ar stem	nchorage area, Alaska serving the Kincaid Chalet on Area for the Drinking Water Kincaid Chalet	Page 1 1 1 1 3 4	Inventory of Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources Ranking of Contaminant Risks Vulnerability of Drinking Water Source Serving the Kincaid Chalet Summary References Cited	Page 4 4 5 6 7
			ΓAΒΙ	LES	
TABLE	1. 2. 3.	Natural Susceptibility - Susce and Aquifer to Contamina Contaminant Risks Overall Vulnerability of the D	ation	y of the Wellhead Water Source to Contamination	5 5 6
		ILLU	STR	ATIONS	
FIGURE 1. Index map showing the location of Anchorage, Alaska 2. Generalized hydrologic cycle in the Anchorage area 3. Map showing the location of the drinking water source for the Kincaid Chalet					Page 1 2
		AP	PEN	DICES	
APPENDIX	B. C.	Bacteria and Viruses (Tal Contaminant Source Inventory Nitrates and/or Nitrites (Tal Contaminant Source Inventory Volatile organic chemical Drinking Water Protection Ar for The Kincaid Chalet (N Vulnerability Analysis for and	y for they and R ple 2) y and R Table 3) y and R Table 3) y and R Is (Table a and Map 2 a l Risk F	e Kincaid Chalet (Table 1) isk Ranking for the Kincaid Chalet — isk Ranking for the Kincaid Chalet — isk Ranking for the Kincaid Chalet — e 4) Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources nd 3)	

Source Water Assessment for the Kincaid Chalet, Anchorage, Alaska

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and Vulnerability Analysis

By Heather A. Hammond

Drinking Water Protection Program Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Water System for the Kincaid Chalet is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system consisting of one well in the Anchorage area. Identified potential and current sources of contaminants that present the most significant risk to the Kincaid Chalet drinking water source includes approximately 1500 acres of park and recreation area, the Kincaid Chalet septic system, roads, recreation trails, and an oil and gas pipeline. These identified potential and existing sources of contamination are considered sources of bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals. Overall, the public water source for the Kincaid Chalet received a vulnerability rating of **low** for bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this environmental assessment is to provide public water system owners and/or operators, communities, and local governments with information they can use to preserve the quality of Alaska's public drinking water supplies. This assessment was completed for the source of public drinking water serving the

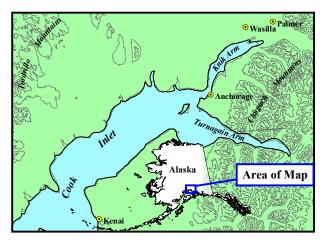


Figure 1. Index map showing the location of Anchorage, Alaska

Kincaid Chalet. This water system consists of one well in the Anchorage area (see Figure 1). This assessment, known under the Alaska Drinking Water Protection Program as the *Source Water Assessment*, has combined a review of the natural hydrogeologic sensitivity with potential and existing contaminant risks to arrive at an overall vulnerability of the drinking water source to contamination. This assessment has been completed as a basis for local voluntary protection efforts and to assist agencies in their efforts to reduce risk to this public drinking water supply.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ANCHORAGE AREA, ALASKA

Location

Anchorage, located in southcentral Alaska, encompasses 1,698 square miles of land and 264 square miles of water. The area containing a majority of the urban development, commonly referred to as the Anchorage Bowl, encompasses approximately 180 square miles [Partick, Brabets, and Glass, 1989] and envelopes the low lands of the area. This area is bounded on the east by the Chugach Mountains and the north, west, and south by the Knik and Turnagain Arms of Cook Inlet (Figure 1). In recent times, urban development has extended eastward along the flanks of the Chugach Mountains. This area, known locally as the Anchorage Hillside, contains development at elevations exceeding 3,700 feet in elevation above sea level.

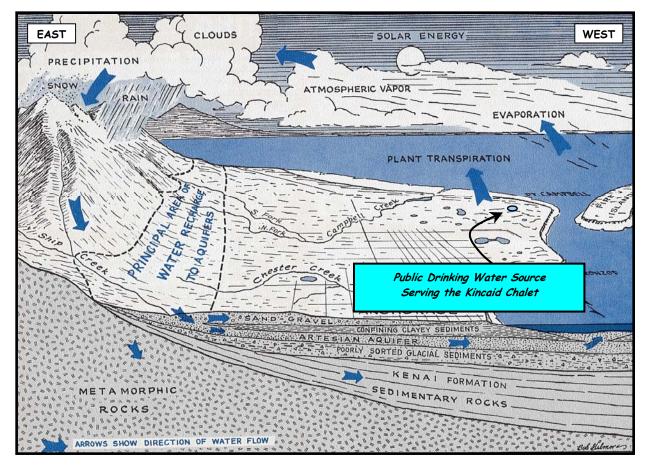


Figure 2. Generalized hydrologic cycle in the Anchorage area [Barnwell, George, Dearborn, Weeks, and Zenone, 1972].

Climate

The Anchorage area climate is somewhat transitional in that it does not experience large daily and annual temperature fluctuations like those experienced in the interior of Alaska nor does it experience high amounts of precipitation typified by gulf coast regions. Mean annual precipitation at the Anchorage International Airport is approximately 16 inches per year. On average, Anchorage receives a total snow accumulation of 69 inches per year. Precipitation generally increases inland toward the Chugach Mountains where annual precipitation may exceed 160 inches per year [Barnwell, George, Dearborn, Weeks, and Zenone, 1972]. Mean daily temperature ranges from 65° F during July to 8° F in January [Western Regional Climate Center, 2000].

Physiography and Groundwater Conditions

Surface elevations in the Anchorage area range from sea level at Knik and Turnagain Arms to well over 5,000 feet in the peaks that bound the area. Glacial moraine and outwash deposits primarily mantle the surface of the Anchorage Bowl.

The backbone of the Chugach Mountains is composed primarily of metamorphic marine and volcanic rocks

(bedrock). These high peaks that bound Anchorage's east side are flanked with colluvium or slope deposits. These slope deposits eventually grade into the glacial and stream deposits at lower elevations in the Anchorage Bowl.

In the Anchorage area, two principal groundwater flow systems or aquifers exist (see Figure 2). The upper unconfined aquifer or water-table aquifer is separated from a lower confined aquifer system by layers of silty, clayey glacially derived sediments (confining layer) [Ulery and Updike, 1983]. The lower confined aquifer system consists of a series of hydrologically interconnected layers and lenses of gravel, sand and silt that, collectively, form the confined aquifer. The confining layer ranges from 0 to 270 feet thick throughout the Anchorage area and generally thins with increasing distance from Cook Inlet, thus pinching out at the mountain front [Patrick, Brabets, and Glass, 1989].

Water enters or recharges these two aquifer systems in several different ways. Along the front of the Chugach Mountains, groundwater seeps from fractures in bedrock into the sediments. At these higher elevations, rain and snowmelt also enter the sediments. This area along the mountain front is considered the principal recharge area

for wells in the Anchorage area. Precipitation in the low lands may also percolate directly into the ground. Lastly, aquifers may also be recharged by streams where surface water percolates into surrounding permeable sediments (losing reaches of streams). Groundwater flow in the confined aquifer is generally east to west from the mountain front toward Cook Inlet and Turnagain Arm, except in areas where the direction of flow is influenced by large municipal or industrial production wells. The direction of groundwater flow in the upper unconfined aquifer is more variable due to the influence from surfacial topography as well as its close connection with surface water bodies.

PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM SERVING THE KINCAID CHALET

The public water system serving the Kincaid Chalet is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system. The system consists of one well, and is located within Kincaid Park near the coastal bluff of Cook Inlet at an elevation

of approximately 200 feet above sea level (see Figure 3). According to the most recent Sanitary Survey (09/9/99) potential sources of contamination are located a safe distance from the well site. The date of installation is unknown as no well log is available for Kincaid Chalet's source of public drinking water. The Sanitary Survey notes that the well was installed to a depth of 240 feet below ground surface and was completed in a 6 inch well casing. It is suspected that the well was not grouted at the time of installation. The Sanitary Survey also notes that the well site is protected so that foreign matter and surface water are diverted from entering source waters along the well casing. Adequate sloping of the ground surface aids in diverting foreign matter and surface water away from the well site so that contaminants do not enter the well along the casing. Proper sealing and grouting of the well also aid in the protection of source waters against contaminants.

This system operates year round serving 1 resident and 25 non-residents through 1 service connection.

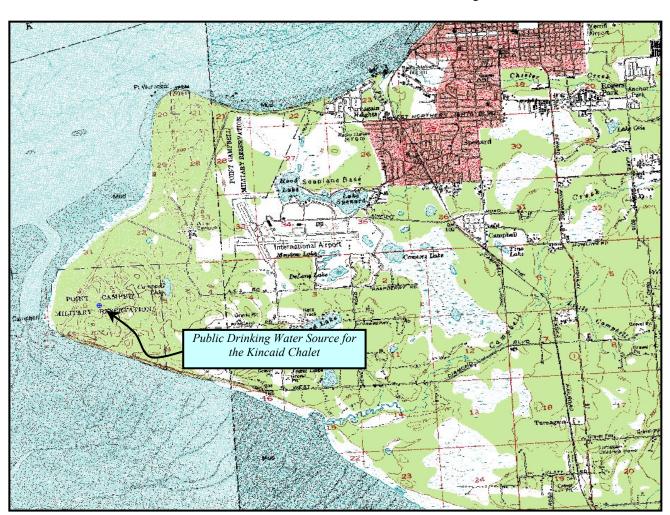


Figure 3. Map showing the location of the drinking water sources for Sand Lake Services - Well #2 [Base: USGS Tyonek A1].

ASSESSMENT AND PROTECTION AREA FOR THE DRINKING WATER SOURCE SERVING THE KINCAID CHALET

The Drinking Water Protection and Assessment Area that has been established for the source of drinking water serving the Kincaid Chalet is the area that is most sensitive to contamination. This area has served as a basis for assessing the risk of the drinking water source to contamination. The zones around the drinking water source outline the most critical area for the preservation of the quality of the drinking water for this system. For simplicity, this area will be known as your Drinking Water Protection Area and will serve as the focus for voluntary protection efforts.

Conceptually, groundwater enters the aquifer systems along the front range of the Chugach Mountains (Figure 2) and flows toward Cook Inlet. An analytical calculation was used to determine the size and shape of the area that contributes water to the well. The input parameters describing the attributes of the aguifer in this calculation were adopted from the U.S. Geological Survey [Patrick, Brabets, and Glass, 1989]. This analytical calculation was used as a guide as the first step in establishing the protection area for each public drinking water source in Anchorage. Additional methods were further employed to take into account any uncertainties in groundwater flow and aquifer characteristics to arrive at meaningful and conservative protection areas with respect to public health (Please refer to the Guidance Manual for Class B Public Water Systems for additional information).

The Drinking Water Protection Areas established for wells by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation are separated into zones. These zones correspond to a time-of-travel. Time-of-travel is the time required for water to move in the saturated zone of the ground from a specific point to the well. The Drinking Water Protection Area for the Kincaid Chalet contains four zones, Zone A through Zone D (See Map 1 in Appendix A). Zone A corresponds to the area between the well and the distance equal to ½ of the distance of the 2-year time-of-travel. Depending on where a contaminant source is located within Zone A, travel time for a contaminant to the well may be on the order of several days to several hours. Zone A also extends downgradient from the well to take into account the area of the aquifer that is influenced by pumping of the well. Zone B corresponds to a time-of-travel of less than two years. Zones C and D correspond to those areas between 5 years and 10 years time-of-travel, respectively.

INVENTORY OF POTENTIAL AND EXISTING CONTAMINANT SOURCES

The Drinking Water Protection Program has completed an inventory of potential and existing sources of contamination within the Drinking Water Protection Area for the Kincaid Chalet. This survey was completed through a search of agency records and other publicly available information. Potential sources of contamination to drinking water supplies cover a wide range of categories and types. Potential drinking water contaminants are found within agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial areas, but can also occur within areas that have little or no development.

For the basis of this assessment and all Class B public water system assessments, three categories of drinking water contaminants were inventoried. They include:

- Bacteria and viruses
- Nitrates and/or nitrites
- Volatile organic chemicals

Maps 2 and 3 in Appendix C depict the Contaminant Source Inventory for the Kincaid Chalet. Table 1 in Appendix B lists the inventoried potential sources of contamination within Zones A through D. Below is a summary of the contaminant sources inventoried within the Drinking Water Protection Area for the Kincaid Chalet:

- Approximately 1500 acres of park and recreation
- Kincaid Chalet septic system;
- roads;
- recreation trails;
- an oil and gas pipeline;

These potential and existing contaminant sources present risk for all three categories of drinking water contaminants

RANKING OF CONTAMINANT RISKS

Potential and existing sources of contamination have been sorted, and ranked according to what type and level of risk they represent. Ranking of contaminant risks for a "potential" or "existing" source of contamination is a function of toxicity and volumes of specific contaminants associated with that source. Contaminant risks are further a function of the number and density of those types of contaminant sources as well as the proximity of those sources to the public drinking water well.

VULNERABILITY OF THE DRINKING WATER SOURCE SERVING THE KINCAID CHALET

Vulnerability of a drinking water source to contamination is a combination of two factors:

- natural susceptibility; and
- contaminant risks.

Each of the three categories of drinking water contaminants have been analyzed and an overall vulnerability score of 0 to 100 ultimately assigned:

Natural Susceptibility (0 - 50 points)

+

Contaminant Risks (0 - 50 points)

=

Vulnerability of the Drinking Water Source to Contamination (0 - 100).

A score for the Natural Susceptibility is achieved by analyzing the properties of the well and the aquifer.

Susceptibility of the Wellhead (0 - 25 Points)+
Susceptibility of the Aquifer (0 - 25 Points)

= Natural Susceptibility (Susceptibility of the Well) (0-50 Points)

The well log was not available for the drinking water well serving the Kincaid Chalet. Therefore, the geological information presented was gathered from well logs within ¹/₄ mile of the well serving the Kincaid Chalet. The well was drilled to a total depth of 240 feet below ground surface and was completed in a 6 inch well casing. According to surrounding well logs the well penetrates a confined aguifer. The depth to the top of the confining layer is approximately 106 feet below ground surface and consists of a layer of clay and has a thickness of approximately 10 feet. This confining layer may provide a protective barrier against the movement of contaminants in the subsurface. However, near the base of the Chugach Mountains, these clay layers tend to be discontinuous and thin toward the mountains. Therefore, contaminants that enter the subsurface near the base of the mountains may enter the confined aquifer uninhibited by the absence of any protective layer.

Combining the susceptibility of the wellhead and the aquifer to contamination leads to a score (0 - 50 points)

and rating of overall Susceptibility of the well to contamination (See Appendix D). Table 1 depicts the overall Susceptibility score and rating for the source of public drinking water serving the Kincaid Chalet.

Table 1. Natural Susceptibility - Susceptibility of the Wellhead and Aquifer to Contamination

	Score	Rating
Susceptibility of the Wellhead	5	Low
Susceptibility of the Aquifer	9	Low
Natural Susceptibility	14	Low

Contaminant risks to a drinking water source depend on the type, number or density, and distribution of contaminant sources. A score (0 – 50 points) and rating of Contaminant Risks (See Appendix D) is assigned based on the findings of the Contaminant Source Inventory (See Appendix B - Table 1 – Table 7). This portion of the analysis examines any existing or historical contamination that has been detected at the drinking water source through routine sampling. It also reviews contamination that has or may have occurred but has not arrived or been detected at the well. Table 2 summarizes the Contaminant Risks for each category of drinking water contaminants.

Table 2. Contaminant Risks

Score	Rating
12	Low
12	Low
22	Medium
	12 12

Appendix D contains eight charts, which together form the 'Vulnerability Analysis' for a Class B public drinking water system. Chart 1 analyzes the 'Susceptibility of the Wellhead' to contamination by looking at the construction of the well and its surrounding area. Chart 2 analyzes the 'Susceptibility of the Aquifer' to contamination by looking at the naturally occurring attributes of the water source and influences on the groundwater system that might lead to contamination. Chart 3 analyzes 'Contaminant Risks' for the drinking water source with respect to bacteria and viruses. The

'Contaminant Risks' portion of the analysis considers potential sources of contaminants as well as a review of contamination that has or may have occurred but has not arrived or been detected at the well. Lastly, Chart 4 contains the 'Vulnerability Analysis for Bacteria and Viruses'. Charts 5 through 8 contain the Contaminant Risks and Vulnerability Analysis for nitrates and nitrites, volatile organic chemicals, respectively. Vulnerability of the drinking water source to contamination is the combination of susceptibility of the aquifer and the well with contaminant risks. Table 3 contains the overall vulnerability scores (0 – 100) and ratings for each of the three categories of drinking water contaminants (See Appendix D). Note: scores are rounded off to the nearest five.

Table 3. Overall Vulnerability of the Public Drinking Water Source

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	25	Low
Nitrates and Nitrites	25	Low
Volatile Organic Chemicals	35	Low

Tables 2 through 4 in Appendix B contain the ranking of potential and existing sources of contamination with respect to bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals.

The contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses, and nitrates and/or nitrites is low with the Kincaid Chalet septic system, recreation areas, and the road presenting the most significant risk to the drinking water well. Review of the sampling history revealed that bateria and viruses, and nitrates and/or nitrites have not been detected in the drinking water. After combining the contaminant risk with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerabilty of the well to potential contamination from bacteria and viruses, and nitrates and/or nitrites is low.

The contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals is medium with the Kincaid Chalet septic system, the road, and the oil and gas pipeline presenting the most significant risk to the drinking water well. Combining the contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the well reduces the overall vulnerability of the well to potential contamiantion from volatile organic chemicals to low.

Review of the historical sampling data indicates that no bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, or volatile organic chemical contamination has been detected in the source waters for the Kincaid Chalet.

SUMMARY

A Source Water Assessment has been completed for the source of public drinking water serving the Kincaid Chalet. The overall vulnerability of this source to contamination is **low** for bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals. This assessment of contaminant risks can be used as a foundation for local voluntary protection efforts as well as a basis for the continuous efforts on the part of the Kincaid Chalet to protect public health. It is anticipated that Source Water Assessments will be updated every five years to reflect any changes in the vulnerability and/or susceptibility of the public drinking water source serving the Kincaid Chalet.

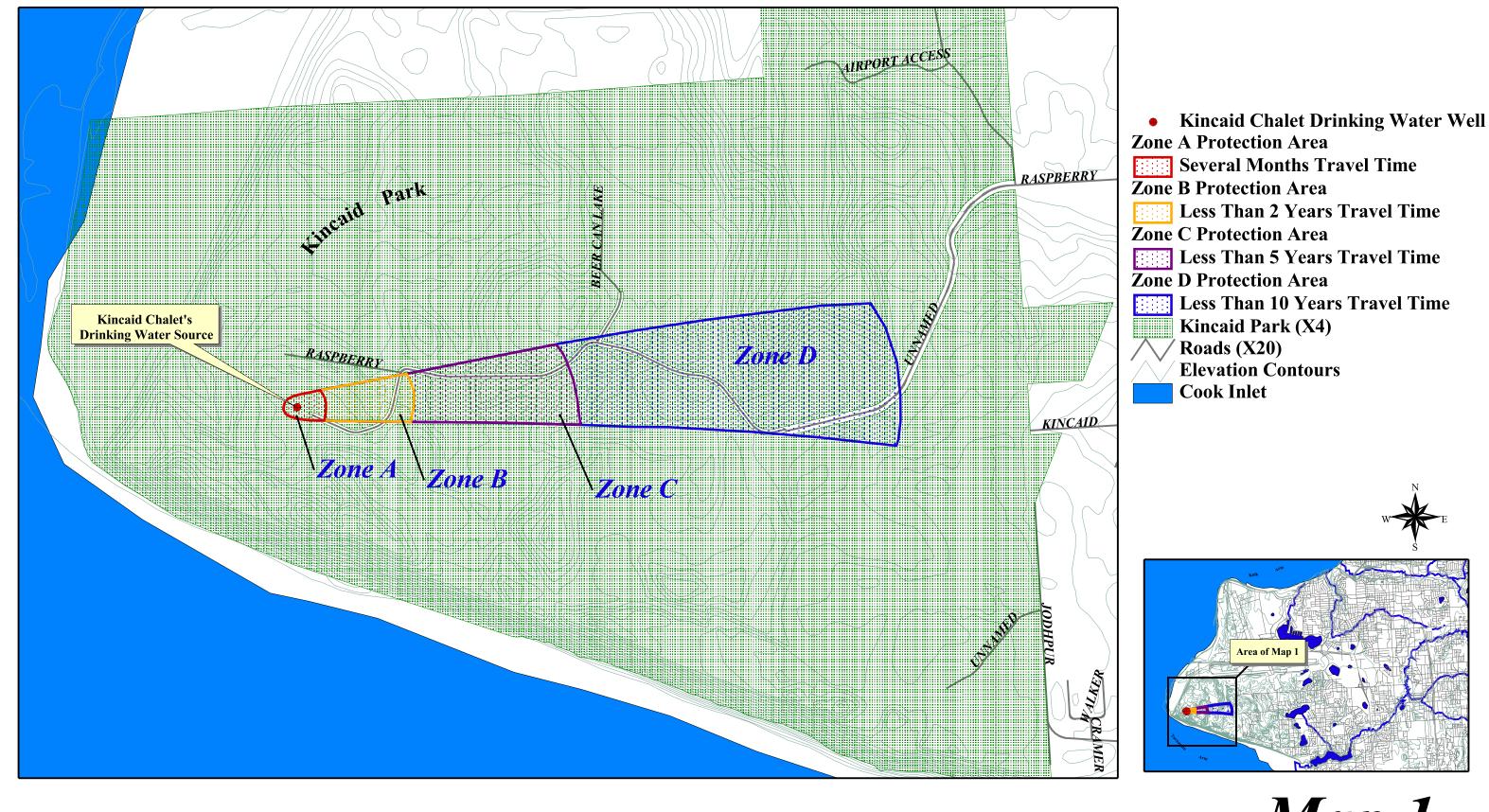
REFERENCES CITED

- Barnwell, W.W., George, R.S., Dearborn, L.L., Weeks, J.B., and Zenone, C., 1972, Water for Anchorage: an atlas of the water resources of the Anchorage area, Alaska: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report, 76 p.
- Patrick, L.D., Brabets, T.P., and Glass, R.L., 1989, Simulation of ground-water flow at Anchorage, Alaska: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 88-4139, 41p.
- Ulery, C.A. and Updike, R.G, 1983, Subsurface structure of the cohesive facies of the Bootlegger Cove Formation, Southwest Anchorage, Alaska: Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys Professional Report 84, 5 p.
- Western Regional Climate Center, 2000, August 24, Web extension to the *Western Regional Climate Center* [WWW document]. URL http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/index.html

APPENDIX A

Drinking Water Protection Area for the Kincaid Chalet

Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential & Existing Contaminant Sources for The Kincaid Chalet



4000 Feet

2000

2000

Map 1

APPENDIX B

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for the Kincaid Chalet

PWSID 215605.001

Contaminant Source Inventory for **MOA Kincaid Park Chalet**

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Location	Map Number Comments
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R2-1	A	Zone A	2
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	A	Raspberry	2
Municipal or city parks (with green areas)	X04	X4-1	A	Kincaid Park	2
Dog walking areas/foot trails	X46	X46-1	A	Throughout the protection area.	2
Pipelines (oil and gas)	X28	X28-1	В	Intersecting Zones B and C	2

Table 2

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for MOA Kincaid Park Chalet Sources of Bacteria and Viruses

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone		Overall Rank after Analysis	Location	Map Number Comments	
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R2-1	A	Low	1	Zone A	2	
Municipal or city parks (with green areas)	X04	X4-1	A	Low	2	Kincaid Park	2	
Dog walking areas/foot trails	X46	X46-1	A	Low	3	Throughout the protection area.	2	
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	A	Low	4	Raspberry	2	

Table 3

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for MOA Kincaid Park Chalet Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	U	Overall Rank after Analysis	Location	Map Number Comments	
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R2-1	A	Low	1	Zone A	2	
Municipal or city parks (with green areas)	X04	X4-1	A	Low	2	Kincaid Park	2	
Dog walking areas/foot trails	X46	X46-1	A	Low	3	Throughout the protection area.	2	
Highways and roads, payed (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	Α	Low	4	Raspherry	2	

Table 4

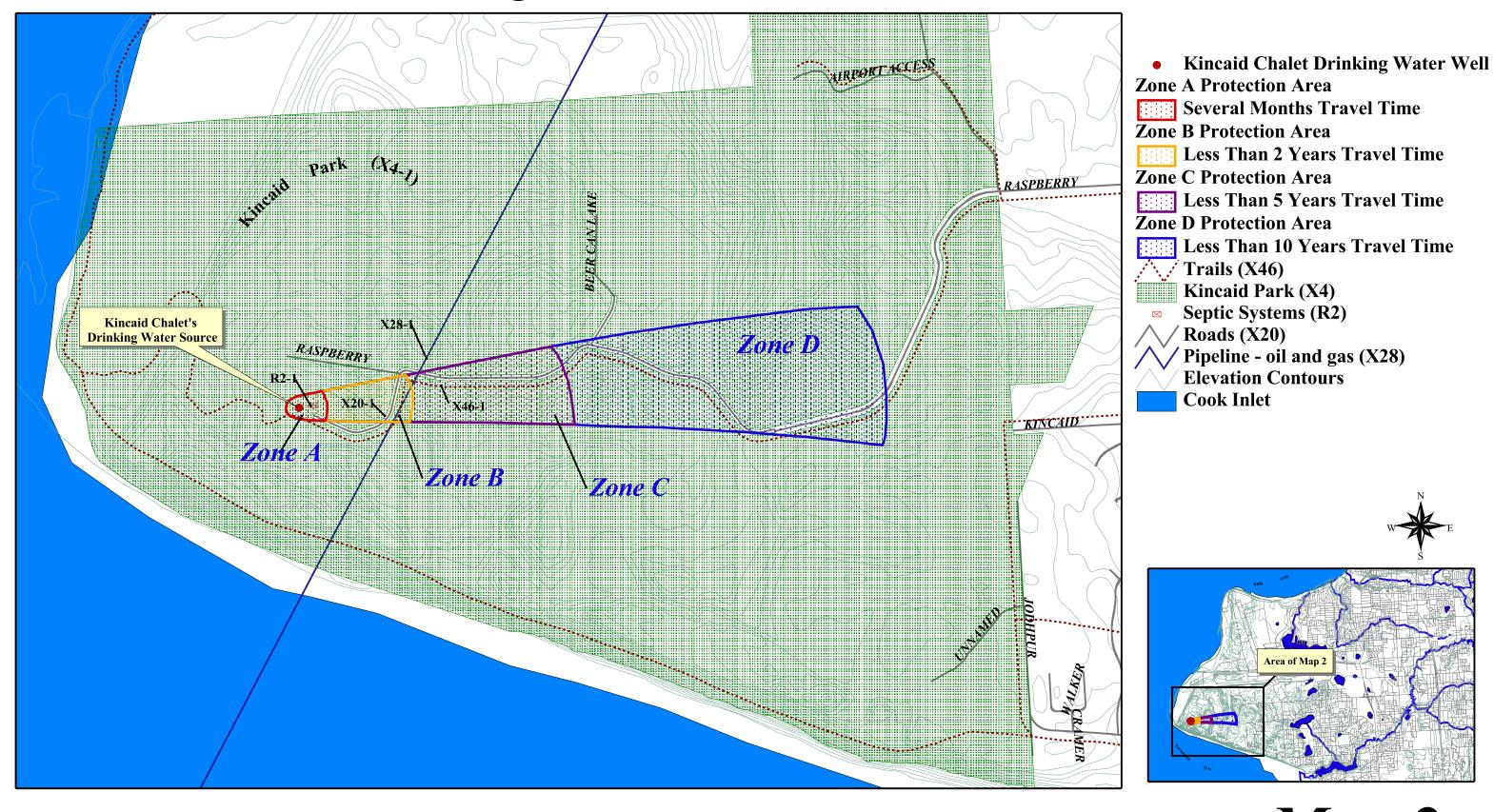
Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for MOA Kincaid Park Chalet Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone		Overall Rank after Analysis	Location	Map Number	Comments
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	A	Low	1	Raspberry	2	
Pipelines (oil and gas)	X28	X28-1	В	Medium	2	Intersecting Zones B and C	2	
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R2-1	A	Low	3	Zone A	2	

APPENDIX C

Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential & Existing Contaminant Sources for the Kincaid Chalet

Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential & Existing Contaminant Sources for The Kincaid Chalet



2000

2000

4000 Feet

Map 2

APPENDIX D

Vulnerability Analysis

Chart 1. Susceptibility of the wellhead - The Kincaid Chalet

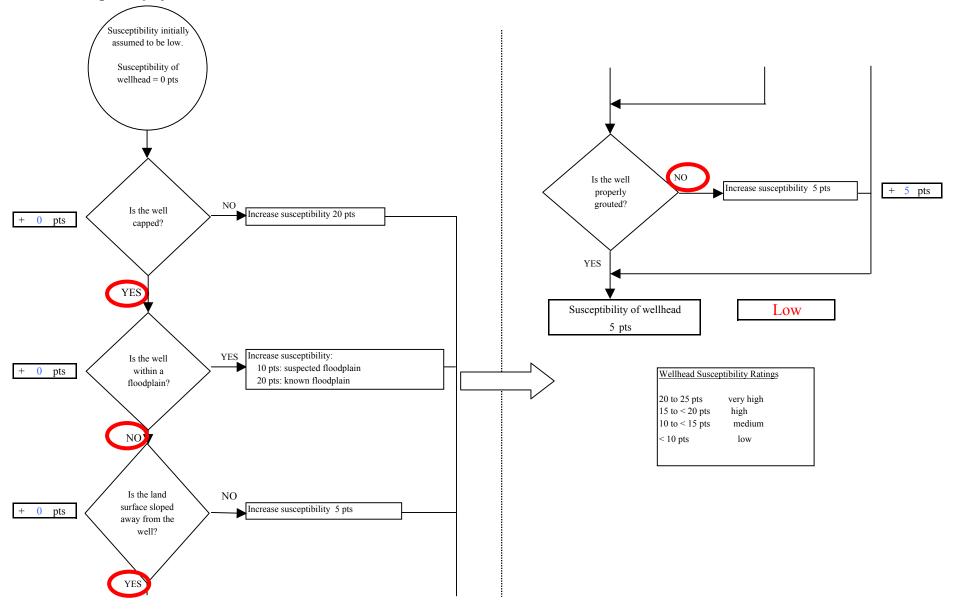


Chart 2. Susceptibility of the aquifer - Kincaid Chalet

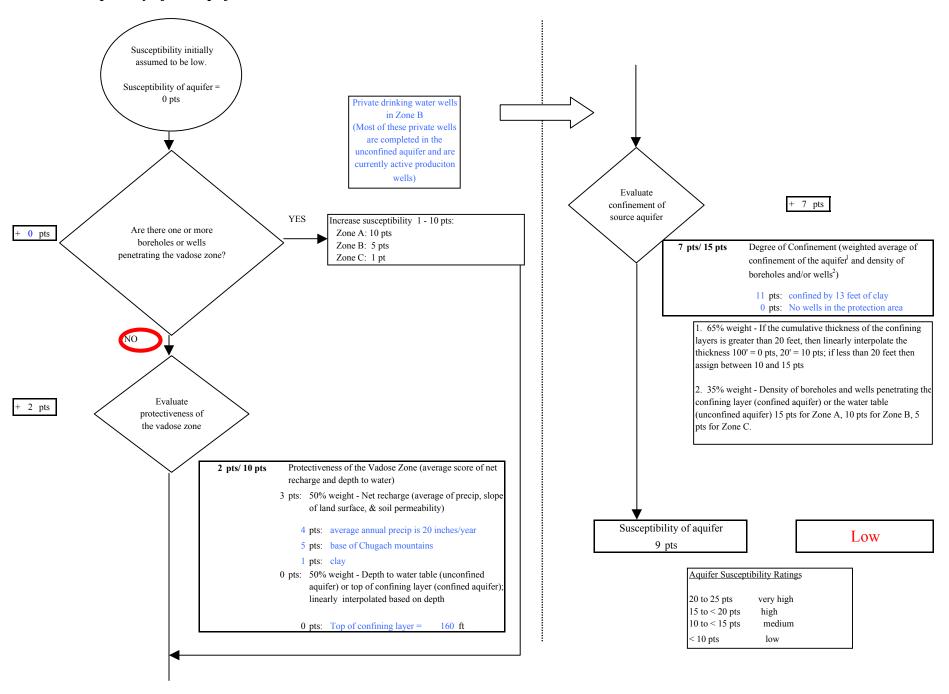
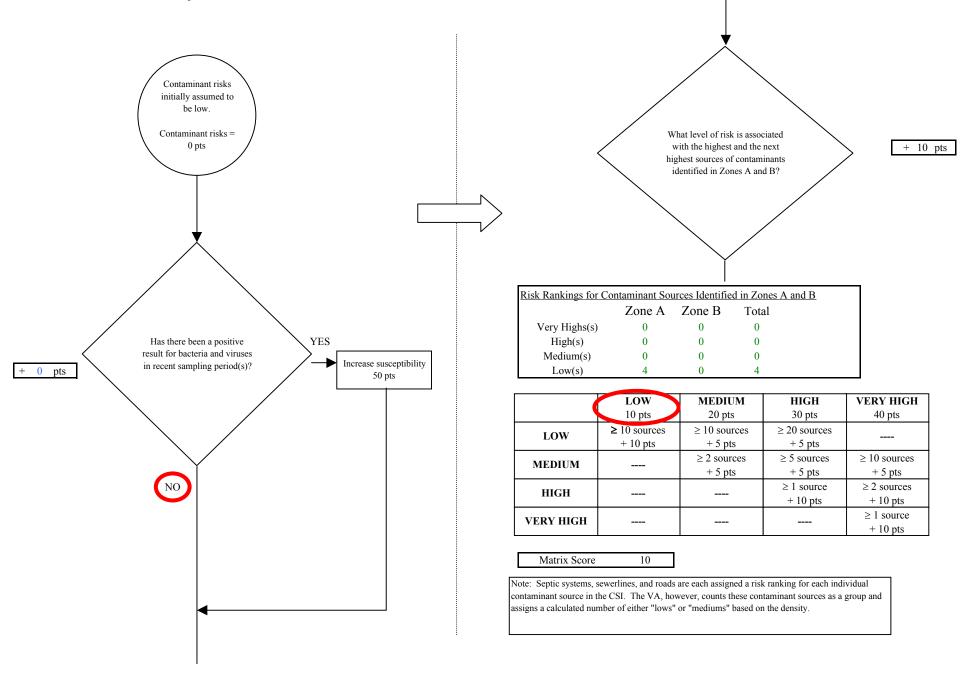
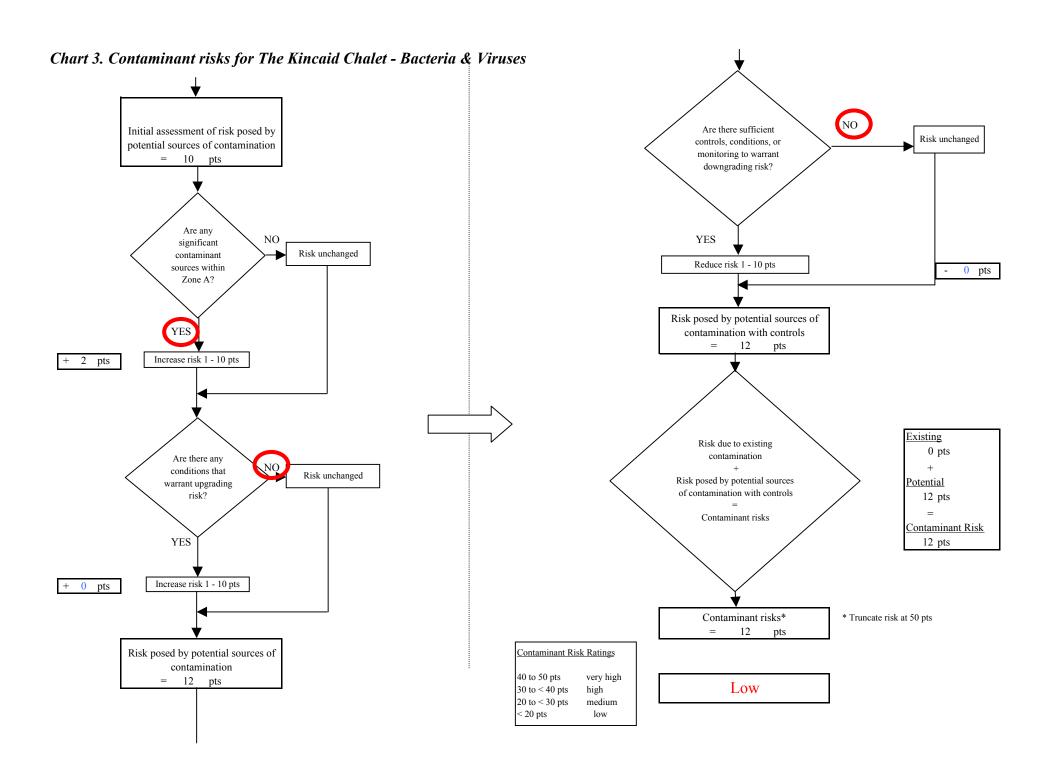
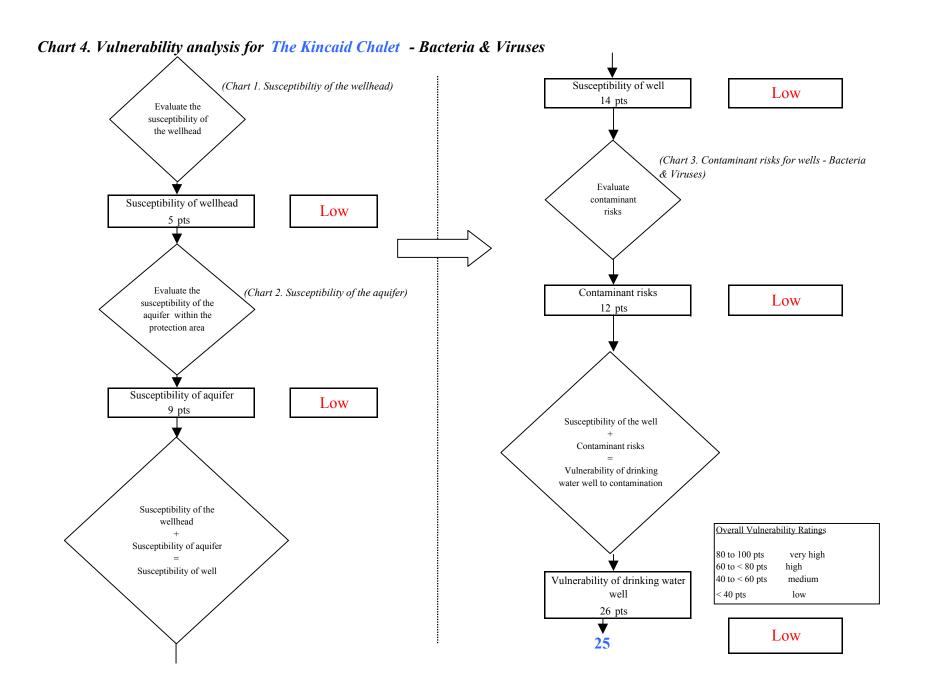


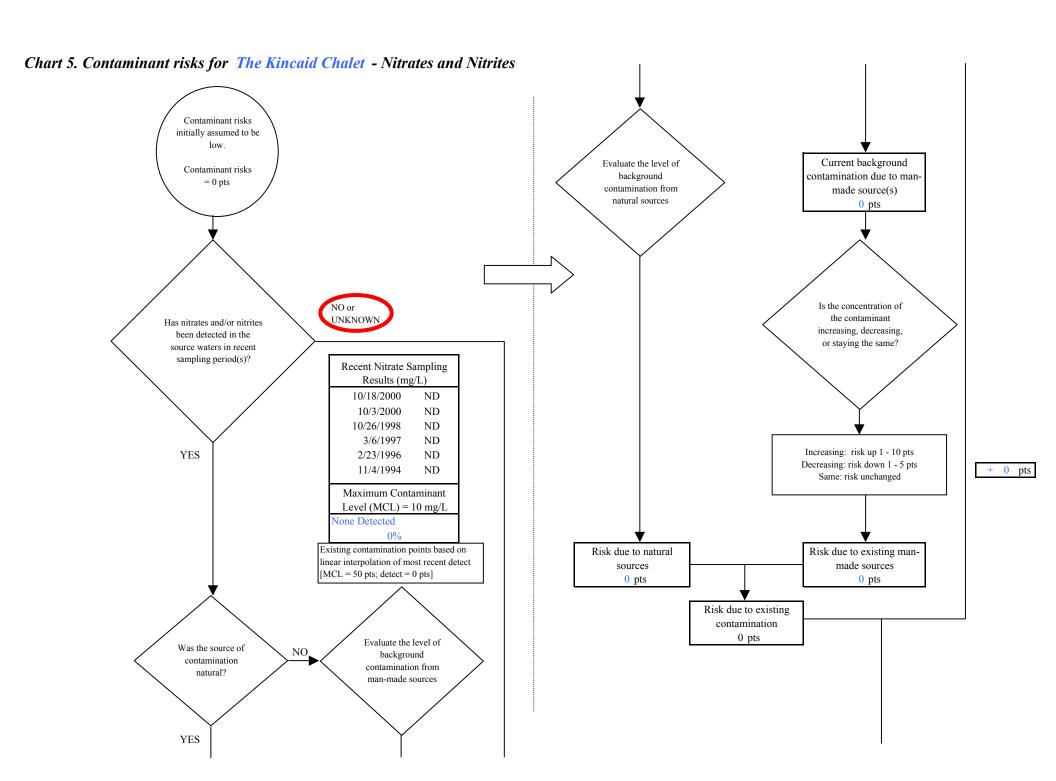
Chart 3. Contaminant risks for The Kincaid Chalet - Bacteria & Viruses





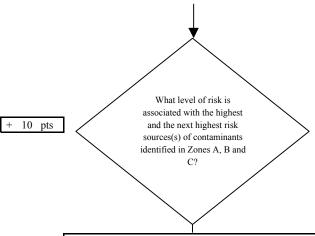
Page 2 of 2





Page 1 of 3

Chart 5. Contaminant risks for The Kincaid Chalet - Nitrates and Nitrites

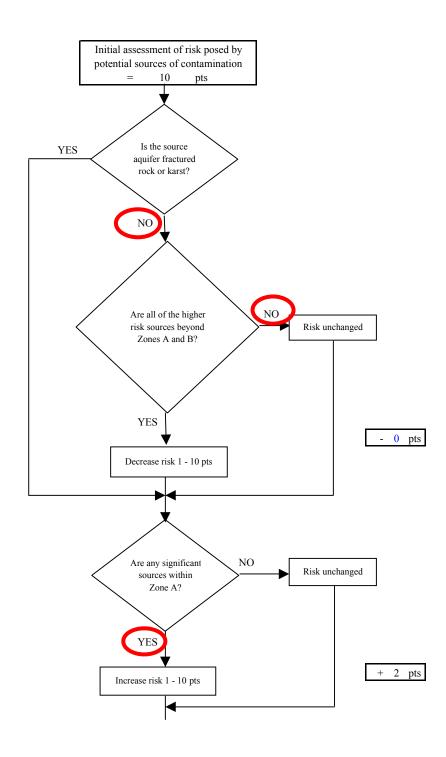


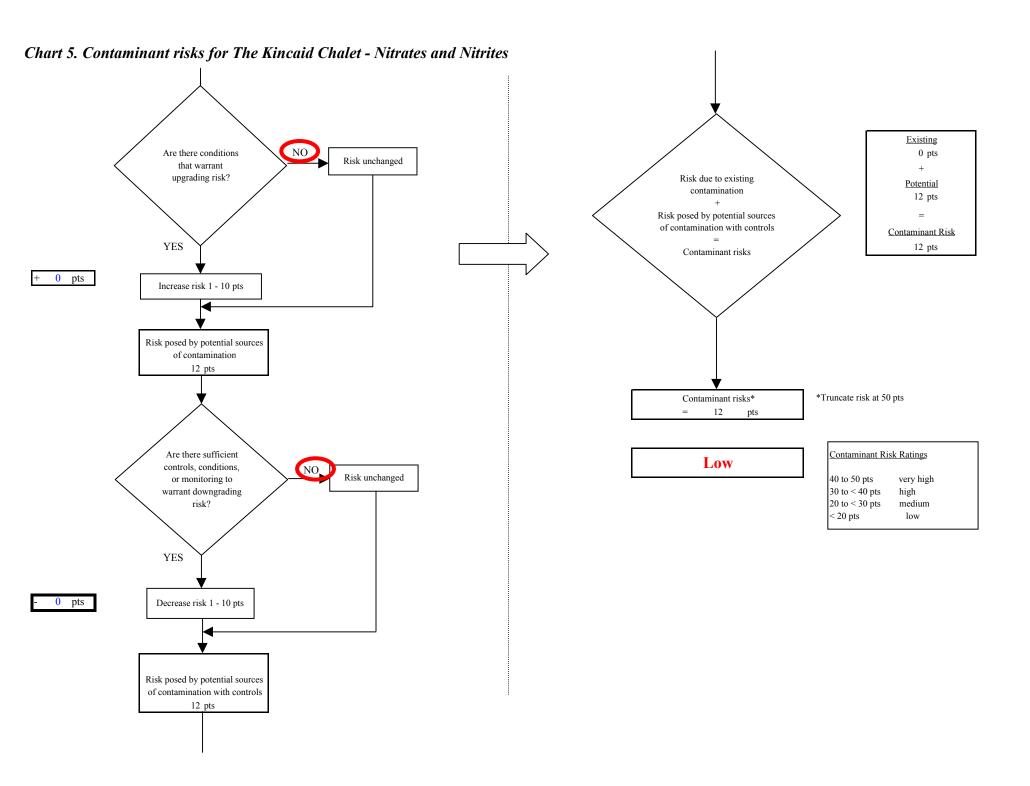
Risk Levels for Contaminant Sources identified in Zones A, B and C							
	Zone A	Zones B&C	Total				
Very Highs(s)	0	0	0				
High(s)	0	0	0				
Medium(s)	0	0	0				
Low(s)	4	0	4				

	LOW 10 pts	MEDIUM 20 pts	HIGH 30 pts	VERY HIGH 40 pts
LOW	≥ 10 sources + 10 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts	≥ 20 sources + 5 pts	
MEDIUM		≥ 2 sources + 5 pts	≥ 5 sources + 5 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts
HIGH			≥ 1 source + 10 pts	≥ 2 sources + 10 pts
VERY HIGH				≥ 1 source + 10 pts

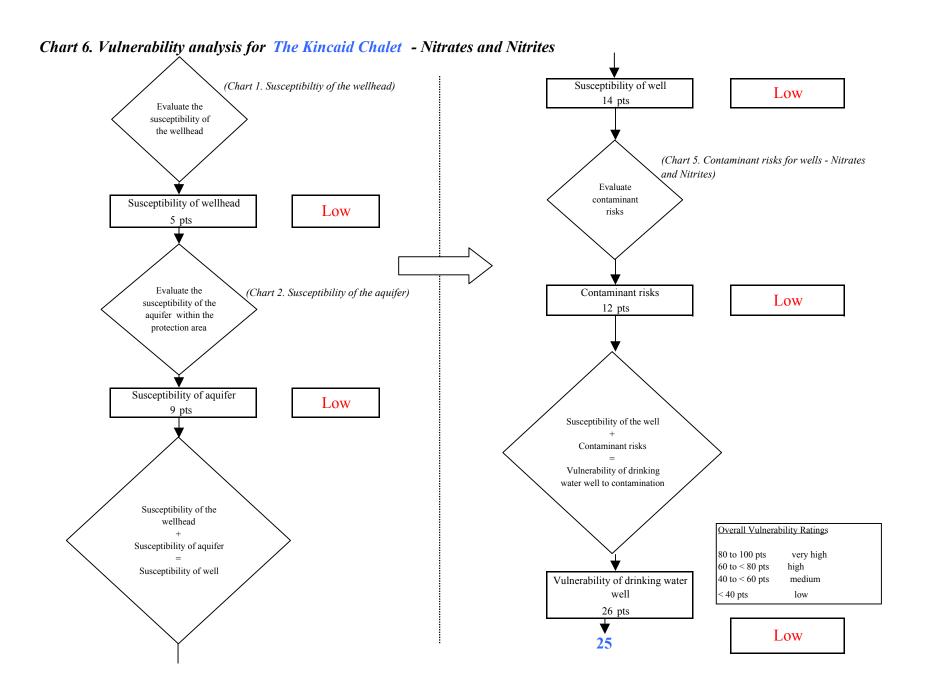
Matrix Score 10

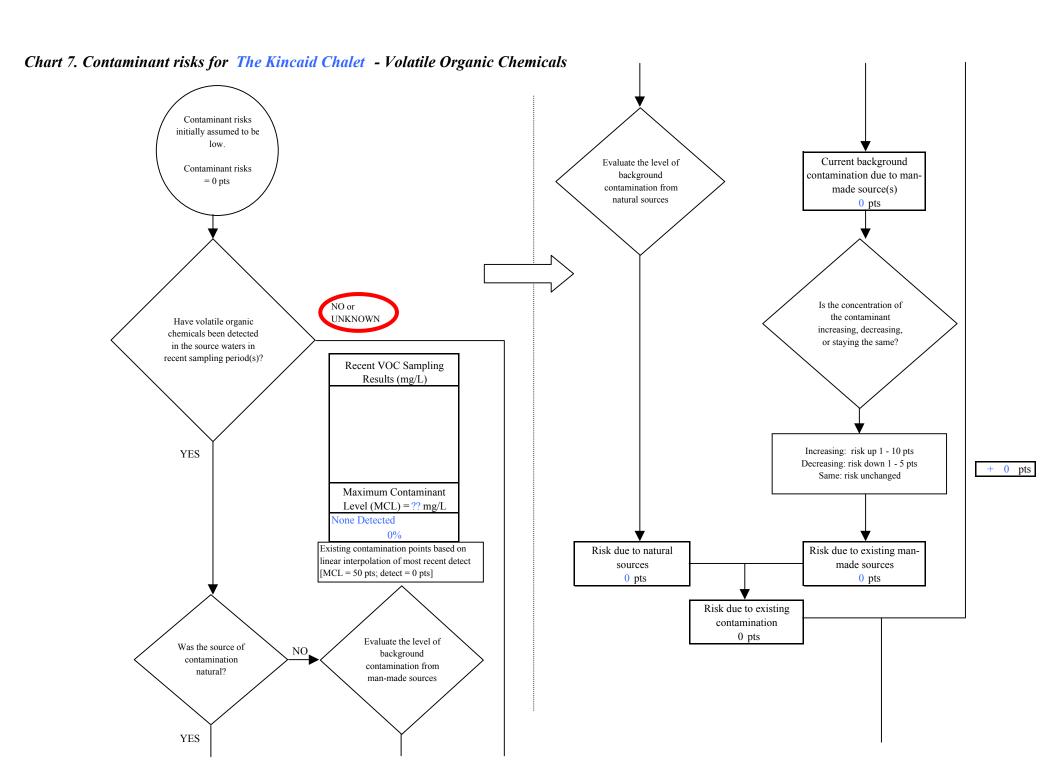
Note: Septic systems, sewerlines, and roads are each assigned a risk ranking for each individual contaminant source in the CSI. The VA, however, counts these contaminant sources as a group and assigns a calculated number of either "lows" or "mediums" based on the density.





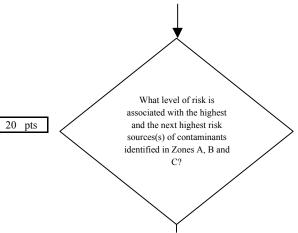
Page 3 of 3





Page 1 of 3

Chart 7. Contaminant risks for The Kincaid Chalet - Volatile Organic Chemicals

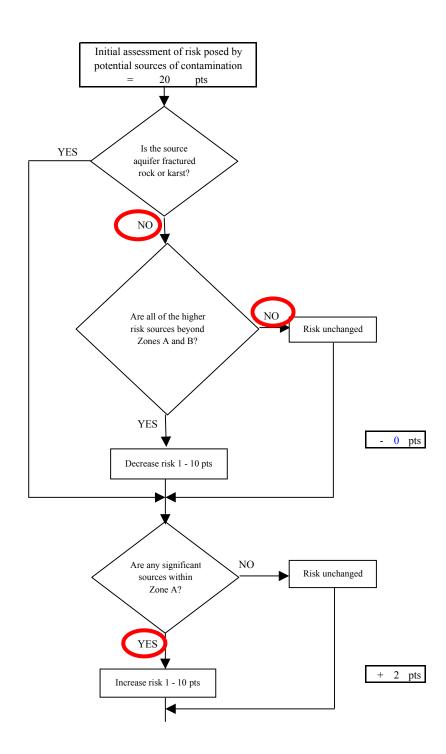


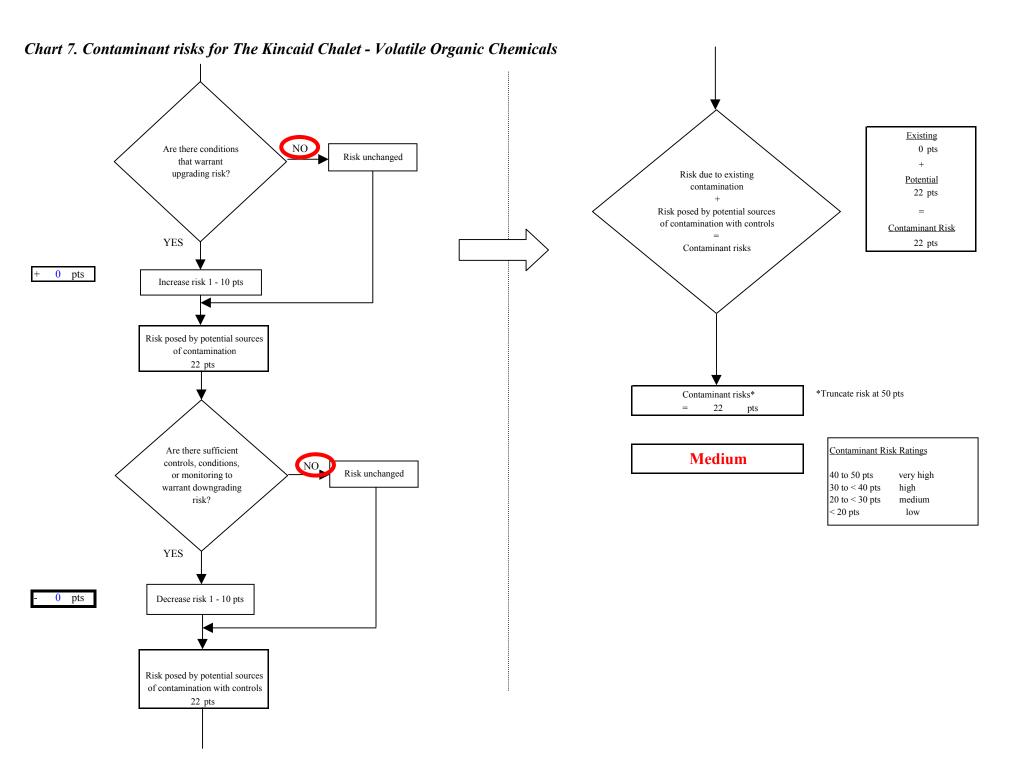
Risk Levels for Contaminant Sources identified in Zones A, B and C							
	Zone A	Zones B&C	Total				
Very Highs(s)	0	0	0				
High(s)	0	0	0				
Medium(s)	0	1	1				
Low(s)	2	0	2				

	LOW 10 pts	MEDIUM 20 pts	HIGH 30 pts	VERY HIGH 40 pts
LOW	≥ 10 sources + 10 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts	≥ 20 sources + 5 pts	
MEDIUM		≥ 2 sources + 5 pts	≥ 5 sources + 5 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts
HIGH			≥ 1 source + 10 pts	≥ 2 sources + 10 pts
VERY HIGH				≥ 1 source + 10 pts

Matrix Score 20

Note: Septic systems, sewerlines, and roads are each assigned a risk ranking for each individual contaminant source in the CSI. The VA, however, counts these contaminant sources as a group and assigns a calculated number of either "lows" or "mediums" based on the density.





Page 3 of 3

