

Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and Vulnerability Assessment for The Community of Little Diomede

Bering Strait Area, Alaska

PWSID # 340141.001

July 2004

Drinking Water Protection Program Report #1526 Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

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The Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP) is producing Source Water Assessments in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996. Each assessment includes a delineation of the source water area, an inventory of potential and existing contaminant sources that may impact the water, a risk ranking for each of these contaminants, and an evaluation of the potential vulnerability of these drinking water sources.

These assessments are intended to provide public water systems owners/operators, communities, and local governments with the best available information that may be used to protect the quality of their drinking water. The assessments combine information obtained from various sources, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), public water system owners/operators, and other public information sources. The results of this assessment are subject to change if additional data becomes available. It is anticipated this assessment will be updated every five years to reflect any changes in the vulnerability and/or susceptibility of public drinking water source. If you have any additional information that may affect the results of this assessment, please contact the Program Coordinator of DWPP, (907) 269-7521.

CONTENTS

SECTION	Executive Summary	1
	Drinking Water System And Area Overview	1
	Little Diomede Drinking Water Protection Area	1
	Inventory of Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources	2
	Ranking of Contaminant Risks	2
	Vulnerability of the Drinking Water System	2
	References	5

TABLES

TABLE	1. Definition of Zones	1
	2. Susceptibility of the Water Source	3
	3. Little Diomede Contaminant Risks	3
	4. Little Diomede Overall Vulnerability	3

APPENDICES

APPENDIX

- A. Little Diomede Drinking Water Protection Area (Map 1)
 - B. Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Rankings (Tables 1 7)
 - C. Little Diomede Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources (Map 2)
 - D. Vulnerability Analysis and Contaminant Risks (Charts 1 14)

Source Water Assessment for the Little Diomede Public Water System Bering Strait Area, Alaska

Drinking Water Protection Program Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Little Diomede public water system is a Class A (community) water system that obtains water from a spring located on the hillside at the southern end of Inalik. The Little Diomede protection area is approximately 90 acres in size and received a susceptibility rating of "low". The aquifer in this area received a susceptibility rating of "medium". Potential and existing sources of the following contaminants were evaluated for the Source Water Assessment: bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, heavy metals, cyanide, and other inorganic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, volatile organic chemicals, and other organic chemicals. Residential areas and above ground fuels tanks were identified as potential sources of contaminants for the drinking water source. This evaluation included all available water sampling data submitted to ADEC by the system operator. The samples may have been collected from either raw water or post-treated water. Combining the susceptibility of the surface water source with the contaminant risks, this water system has received a vulnerability rating of "low" for all contaminant categories except nitrates/nitrites, which received a vulnerability rating of "high".

DRINKING WATER SYSTEM AND AREA OVERVIEW

Little Diomede (Sec. 08, T004N, R049W, Kateel River Meridian) is located in the Bering Straits, 135 miles northwest of Nome. It is only 2.5 miles from Big Diomede Island, Russia, and the international boundary lies between the two islands (Please see the inset of Map 1 in Appendix A for location).

Summer temperatures average 40 to 50; winter temperatures average from -10 to 6. Annual precipitation is 10 inches, with 30 inches of snowfall. During summer months, cloudy skies and fog prevail (ADCED, 2004).

The Little Diomede water system is a Class A (community) water system that operates year round and obtains water from a spring located on the hillside at the southern end of Inaluk (See Map 1 of Appendix A). The system serves approximately 180 people.

Water drawn from the spring is treated and stored in a steel tank and families haul water from this source. The tank is filled for winter use, but the water supply typically runs out around March. The washeteria is then closed and residents are required to melt snow and ice for drinking water. The City has requested funds for a 600,000-gallon steel tank and to improve the water catchment system. The school has requested funding for a 500,000-gallon water storage tank to alleviate demands on the City water supply, and as a community back-up.

The operator indicated that the current estimated usage for the system is approximately 952,000 gallons. This includes refills for the community school.

LITTLE DIOMEDE DRINKING WATER PROTECTION AREA

Identifying the pathways most likely for surface contamination to reach water intake areas is the first step in determining the water system's risk. These are initially determined by looking at the drainage area contributing overland water flow to a spring source intake. The entire drainage area is also known as the "drinking water protection area". Please refer to pages 9-10 of the "Guidance Manual for Class A Public Water Systems" for additional information.

The protection area established for spring source intakes by the ADEC is usually separated into three zones, limited by the watershed boundary. These zones correspond to differing distances from the spring intake location. The ADEC Drinking Water Protection Program's Technical Advisory Committee developed guidelines for derivation of these zones in 1998. The following is a summary of the three protection area zones:

Table 1. Definition of Zones

Zone	Definition
А	Areas within 1000-ft of the spring intake
В	Areas within 1-mile of the spring intake
С	The watershed boundary

The protection area for the Little Diomede intake includes each of these Zones (See Map 1 of Appendix A).

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 Little Diomede protection area. This inventory was completed through a search of agency records and other publicly available information. There is a wide array of potential contamination sources to surface water. These contaminants are found within agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial areas, but *can also occur within areas that have little or no development*.

For Class A public water system assessments, six categories of drinking water contaminants were inventoried. They include:

- Bacteria and viruses;
- Nitrates and/or nitrites;
- Volatile organic chemicals;
- Heavy metals, cyanide, and other inorganic chemicals;
- Synthetic Organic Chemicals; and
- Other Organic Chemicals.

Sources identified in the Little Diomede protection area are displayed on Map 2 of Appendix C and summarized in Table 1 of Appendix B.

RANKING OF CONTAMINANT RISKS

Once potential and existing sources of contamination have been identified, they are assigned a ranking according to what category and level of risk they represent. Ranking of contaminant risks for "potential" or "existing" sources of contamination is a function of the toxicity and the volume of specific contaminants associated with that source. Rankings include:

- Low;
- Medium;
- High; and
- Very High.

The time-of-travel for contaminants within the water is dependent on the physical and chemical characteristics of each contaminant. Bacteria and Viruses are only inventoried in Zones A and B because of their short life span. Only "Very High" and "High" rankings are inventoried within Zones B and C due to the probability of contaminant dilution by the time the contaminants reach the water intake.

The remaining tables in Appendix B (if necessary) contain the ranking of potential and existing sources of contamination with respect to bacteria and viruses,

nitrates and/or nitrites, volatile organic chemicals, heavy metals, cyanide, and other inorganic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, and other organic chemicals.

VULNERABILITY OF THE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

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

- Natural susceptibility of the spring; and
- Contaminant risks.

Appendix D contains 14 charts, which together form the 'Vulnerability Analysis' for the public drinking water Source Water Assessment. Chart 1 analyzes the 'Susceptibility of the spring outlet/intake" to contamination by looking at the climate, terrain, and intake location. Chart 2 analyzes the "Susceptibility of the Aquifer" by looking at some basic aquifer characteristics. 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 intake area. Chart 4 contains the 'Vulnerability Analysis for Bacteria and Viruses', which is a composite score of the Vulnerability Analysis and the overall Susceptibility. Charts 5 through 14 repeat the Contaminant Risks and Vulnerability Analyses for nitrates and nitrites, volatile organic chemicals, heavy metals, cvanide, and other inorganic chemicals. synthetic organic chemicals, and other organic chemicals, respectively.

A score for the Natural Susceptibility of the spring is reached by considering the properties of the spring and the surrounding area. The derivation of this information is presented below and the data for this source is shown in Charts 1 and 2 of Appendix D.

Susceptibility of the Spring (0 - 25 points)

 $^+$

Susceptibility of the Aquifer (0 - 25 points)

=

Natural Susceptibility of the Spring (0-50 Points)

A ranking is assigned for the Surface Water Susceptibility according to the point score:

Surface Water Source Susceptibility Ratings						
40 to 50 pts	Very High					
30 to 39 pts	High					
20 to 29 pts	Medium					
0 to 19 pts	Low					

Table 2. Susceptibility of the Water Source

S	Score	Rating
Susceptibility of the Spring	5	Low
Susceptibility of the Aquifer	14	Medium
Natural Susceptibility	19	Low

For contaminants, risks to a drinking water source depend on the type, number or density, and distribution of the contaminant sources. The Contaminant Risk score has been derived from an examination of existing, and historical contamination sources that have been detected in the protection area through routine sampling. It also evaluates potential sources of contamination. Flow charts are used to assign a point score, and ratings are assigned in the same way as the susceptibility:

Contaminant Risk Ratings					
40 to 50 pts	Very High				
30 to < 40 pts	High				
20 to < 30 pts	Medium				
< 20 pts	Low				

Table 3 summarizes the Contaminant Risks for each category of drinking water contaminants.

Table 3. Little Diomede Contaminant Risks

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	12	Low
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	50	Very High
Volatile Organic Chemicals	12	Low
Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and		
Other Inorganic Chemicals	12	Low
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	12	Low
Other Organic Chemicals	12	Low

Finally, an overall vulnerability score is assigned for each contaminant type by combining each of the contaminant risk scores with the susceptibility score:

Susceptibility of the Water Source

$$(0-50 \text{ points})$$

+

Contaminant Risks (0 – 50 points) =

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

Again, rankings are assigned according to a point score:

Overall Vulnerability Ratings						
80 to 100 pts	Very High					
60 to < 80 pts	High					
40 to < 60 pts	Medium					
< 40 pts	Low					

Table 4 contains the overall vulnerability scores and ratings for each of the six categories of drinking water contaminants. Note: scores are rounded off to the nearest five.

Table 4. Little Diomede Overall Vulnerability

core	Rating
30	Low
65	High
30	Low
30	Low
30	Low
30	Low
	30 65 30 30 30

Bacteria and Viruses

The contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses is "low". Typically, coliform detection in raw water samples collected from surface water sources is normal. (See Chart 2 – Contaminant Risks for Bacteria and Viruses in Appendix D).

Coliforms (a bacteria) are found naturally in the environment and although they aren't necessarily a health threat, they are an indicator of other potentially harmful bacteria in the water, more specifically, fecal coliforms and E. coli which only come from human and animal fecal waste. Harmful bacteria can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms (EPA, 2003). Positive samples increase the overall vulnerability of the drinking water source, indicating that the source is susceptible to bacteria and virus contamination.

No two consecutive positive bacteria counts have been detected in the sampling period April 2000 - April 2004. A possible source of bacteria could be from paved/gravel roads or from residential areas.

After combining the contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses with the natural susceptibility of the source, the overall vulnerability of the source to bacteria and virus contamination becomes "low".

Nitrates and Nitrites

The contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites is "very high" (See Chart 4 - Contaminant Risks for Nitrates and/or Nitrites in Appendix D). Nitrates are very mobile, moving at approximately the same rate as water.

Nitrate/nitrite sampling data from 2001-2002 did not show any samples that exceeded 79% of the MCL. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for nitrates is 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L). The MCL is the maximum level of contaminant that is allowed to exist in drinking water and still be consumed by humans without harmful health effects (EPA, 2003).

A possible source of nitrates/nitrites could be from residential areas or from paved/gravel roads.

After combining the contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites with the natural susceptibility of the source, the overall vulnerability of the source to contamination is "high".

Volatile Organic Chemicals

The contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals is "low" (See Chart 6 – Contaminant Risks for Volatile Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

Chloroform was detected at levels below the MCL during sampling in 2002, although this chemical typically originates during the process of water treatment and not from the source waters. The MCL for chloroform is 0.2 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Possible sources of volatile organic chemicals could be from residential areas, paved/gravel roads, or above ground fuel tanks.

After combining the contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the

source, the overall vulnerability of the source to contamination is "low".

Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and Other Inorganic Chemicals

The contaminant risk for heavy metals is "low". Copper and lead sampling results from 2001 & 2002 do not show any levels that exceed the MCL (See Chart 8 – Contaminant Risks for Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and Other Inorganic Chemicals in Appendix D). The MCL for copper is 1.3 mg/l. and the MCL for lead is 0.015 mg/l.

The most common source of these chemicals is the infrastructure of the distribution system following the treatment process. Residential areas or paved/gravel roads are also potential sources of heavy metals.

After combining the contaminant risk for heavy metals with the natural susceptibility of the source, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is "low".

Synthetic Organic Chemicals

The contaminant risk for synthetic organic chemicals is "low". After combining the contaminant risk with the natural susceptibility of the source, the overall vulnerability to synthetic organic chemicals of the source is "low" (See Chart 11 – Contaminant Risks for Synthetic Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

Review of the historical sampling data indicates no recent sampling for SOC's at Little Diomede.

Other Organic Chemicals

The contaminant risk for other organic chemicals is "low". After combining the contaminant risk with the natural susceptibility of the source, the overall vulnerability to other organic chemicals of the source is "low" (See Chart 13 – Contaminant Risks for Other Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

Review of the historical sampling data indicates that no other organic chemicals have been sampled recently.

Using the Source Water Assessment

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 Little Diomede 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 drinking water source.

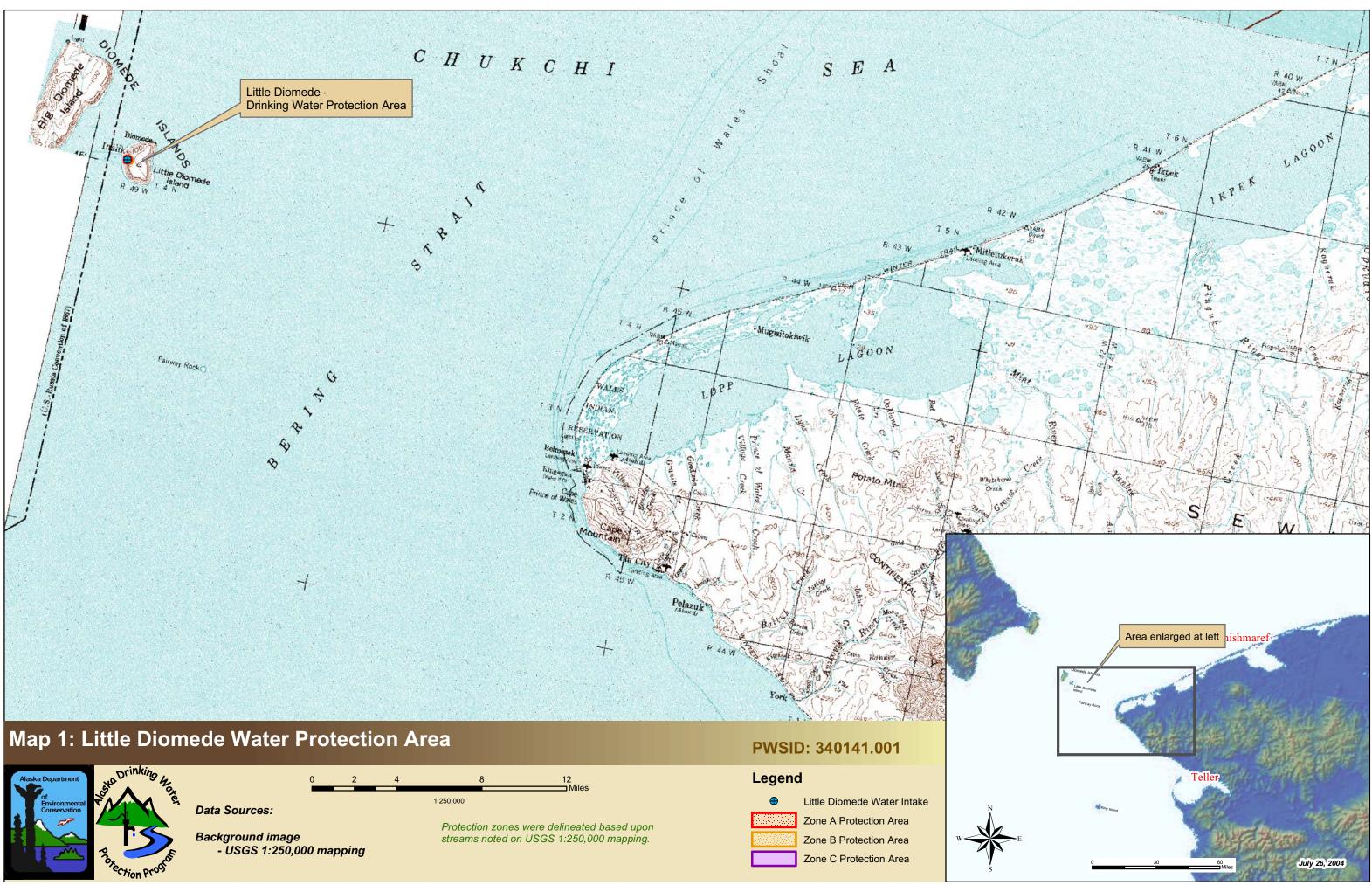
REFERENCES

Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development (ADCED), 2004 [WWW document]. URL http://www.dced.state.ak.us/cbd/commdb/CF_COMDB.htm

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2004 [WWW document]. URL http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html.

APPENDIX A

Little Diomede Drinking Water Protection Area Location Map (Map 1)





APPENDIX B

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Rankings (Tables 1 - 7)

Contaminant Source Inventory for Little Diomede WS

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Map Number	Comments
Residential Areas	R01	R07 1-2	А	2	Assumed from 1996 Community Profile Mapping.
Tanks, fuel, residential (above ground)	R07	R07 1-10	А	2	Assumed from 1996 Community Profile Mapping.

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

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Little Diomede WS Sources of Bacteria and Viruses

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Residential Areas	R01	R07 1-2	А	Low	2	Assumed from 1996 Community Profile Mapping.

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

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Little Diomede WS Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Residential Areas	R01	R07 1-2	А	Low	2	Assumed from 1996 Community Profile Mapping.

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 340141.001

Little Diomede WS Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Tanks, fuel, residential (above ground)	R07	R07 1-10	А	Low	2	Assumed from 1996 Community Profile Mapping.
Residential Areas	R01	R07 1-2	А	Low	2	Assumed from 1996 Community Profile Mapping.

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

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Little Diomede WS Sources of Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Residential Areas	R01	R07 1-2	А	Low	2	Assumed from 1996 Community Profile Mapping.

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

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Little Diomede WS Sources of Synthetic Organic Chemicals

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Residential Areas	R01	R07 1-2	А	Low	2	Assumed from 1996 Community Profile Mapping.

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

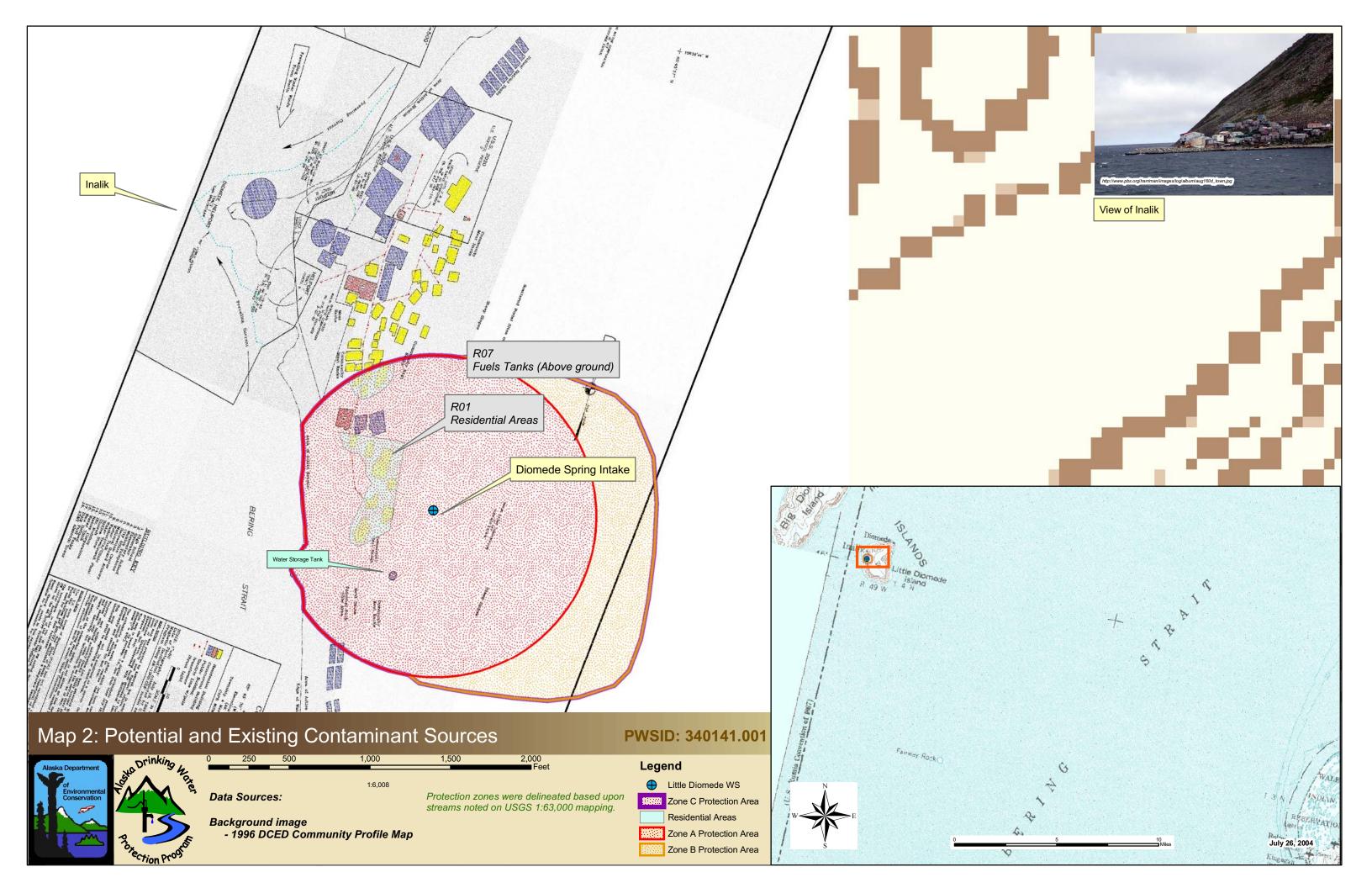
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	Little	e Diomede WS				
	Sources of Ot	her Organic C	hemical	ls		
Contaminant		Risk Ranking	Map	C		

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Residential Areas	R01	R07 1-2	А	Low	2	Assumed from 1996 Community Profile Mapping.

APPENDIX C

Little Diomede Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources (Map 2)



APPENDIX D

Vulnerability Analysis and Contaminant Risks (Charts 1-14)

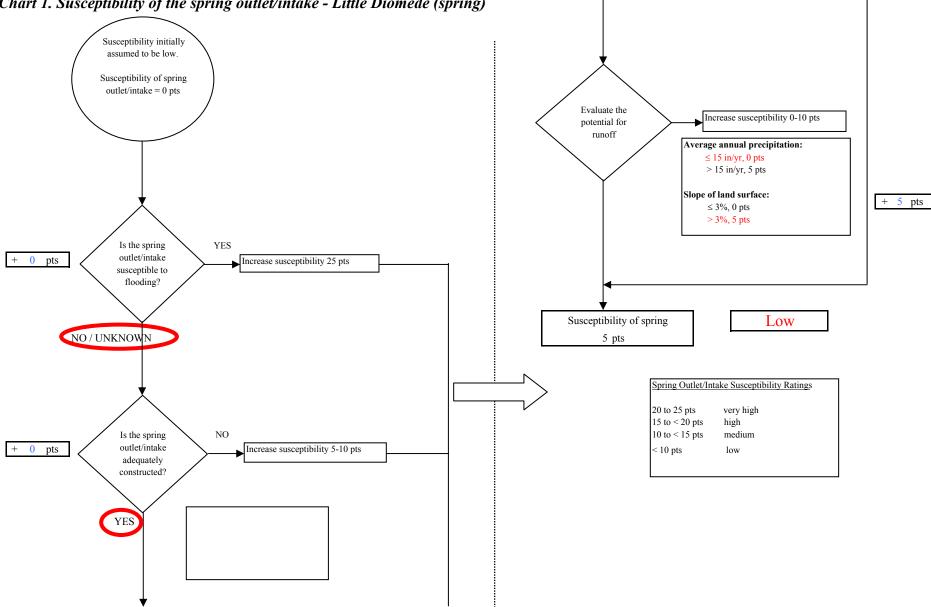
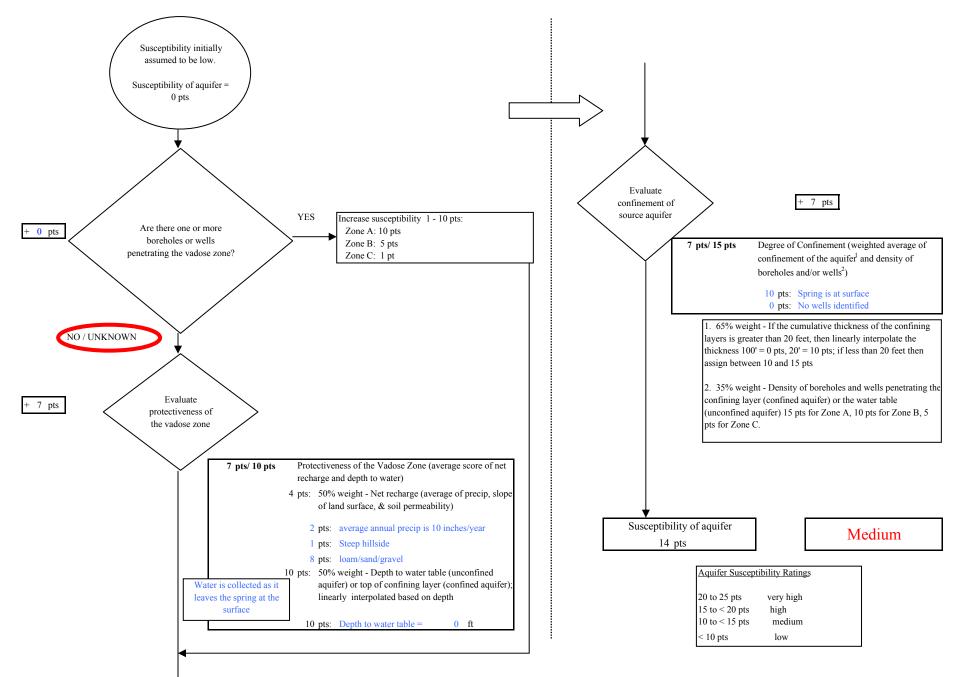


Chart 1. Susceptibility of the spring outlet/intake - Little Diomede (spring)

Chart 2. Susceptibility of the aquifer - Little Diomede (spring)



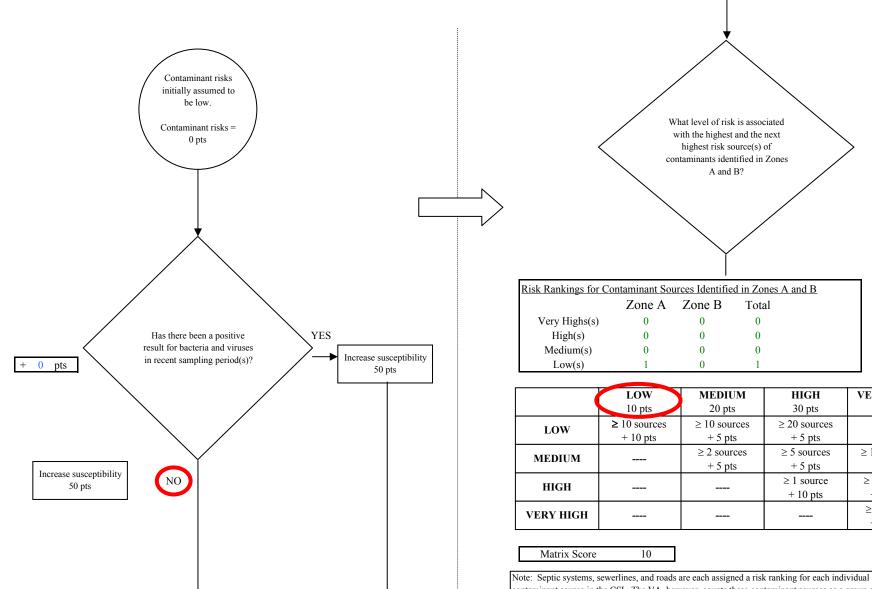


Chart 3. Contaminant risks for Little Diomede (spring) - Bacteria & Viruses

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. + 10 pts

VERY HIGH

40 pts

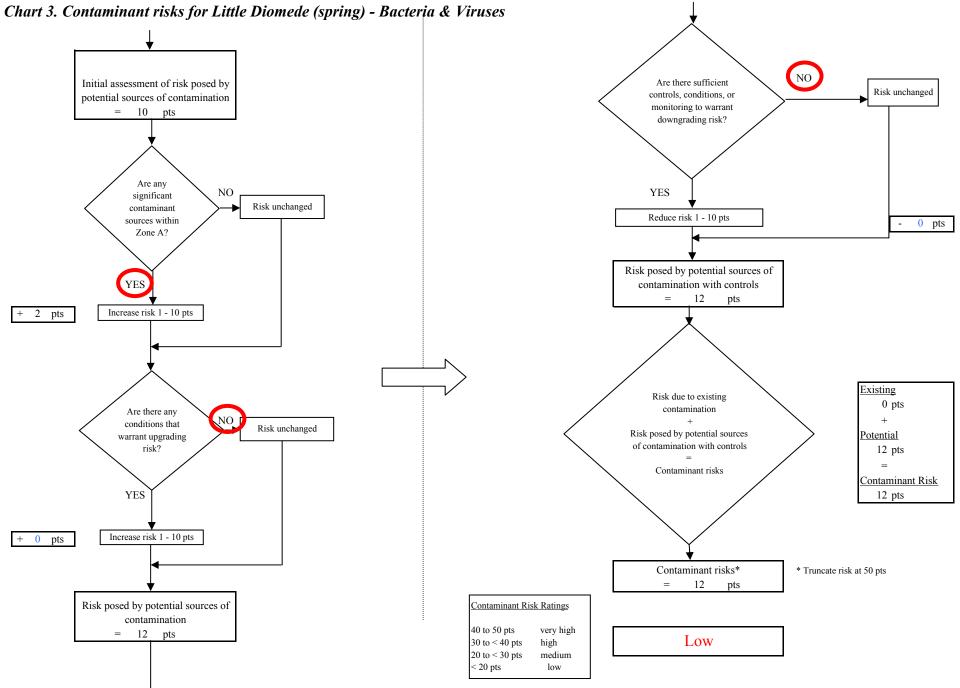
 ≥ 10 sources

+ 5 pts

 ≥ 2 sources

+10 pts $\geq 1 \text{ source}$

+ 10 pts



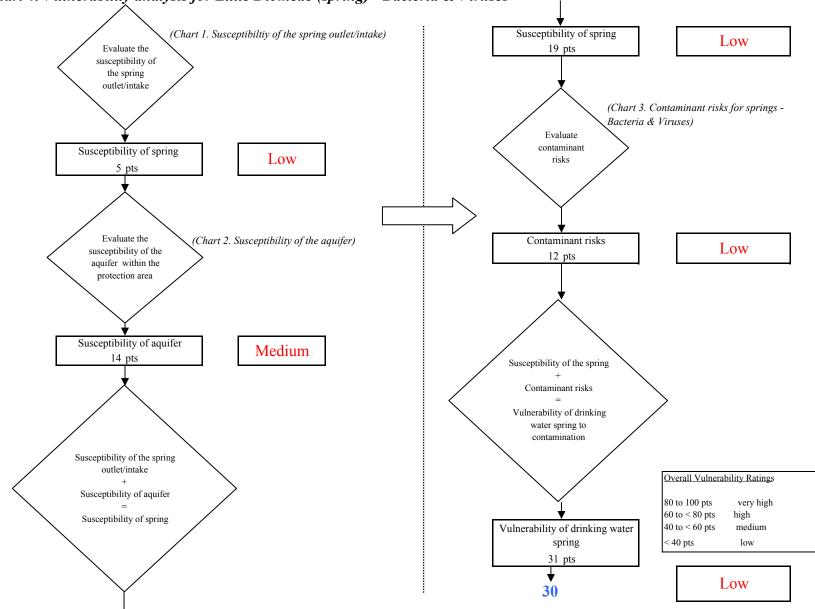
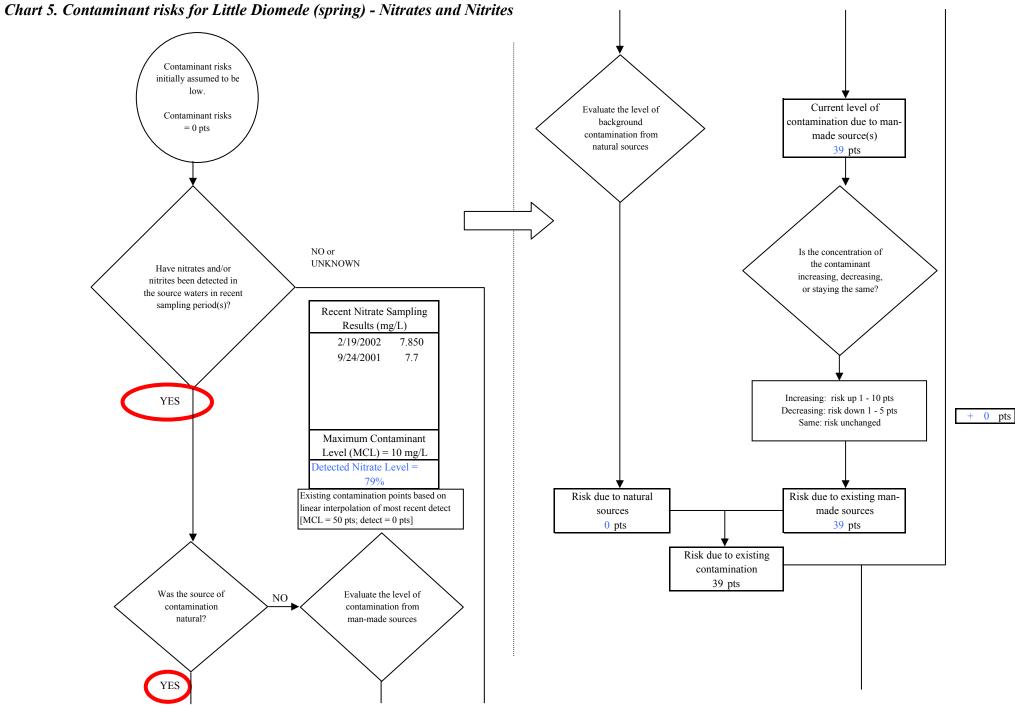
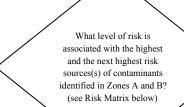


Chart 4. Vulnerability analysis for Little Diomede (spring) - Bacteria & Viruses









10 pts

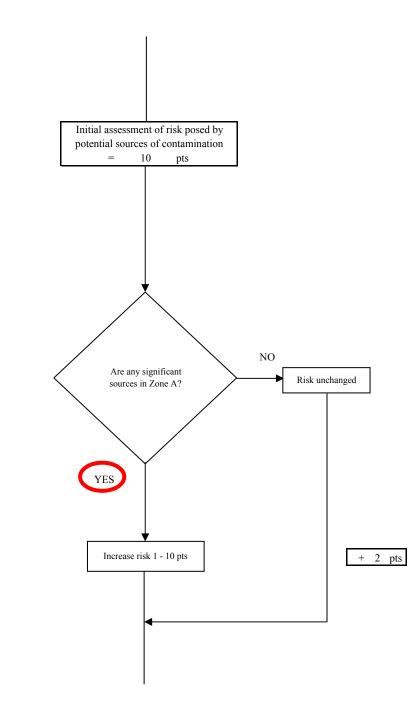
Risk Levels for Contaminant Sources identified in Zones A and B							
	Zone A	Zone B	Total				
Very Highs(s)	0	0	0				
High(s)	0	0	0				
Medium(s)	0	0	0				
Low(s)	1	0	1				

	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			\geq 1 source + 10 pts	≥ 2 sources + 10 pts
VERY HIGH				\geq 1 source + 10 pts

Matrix Score

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.

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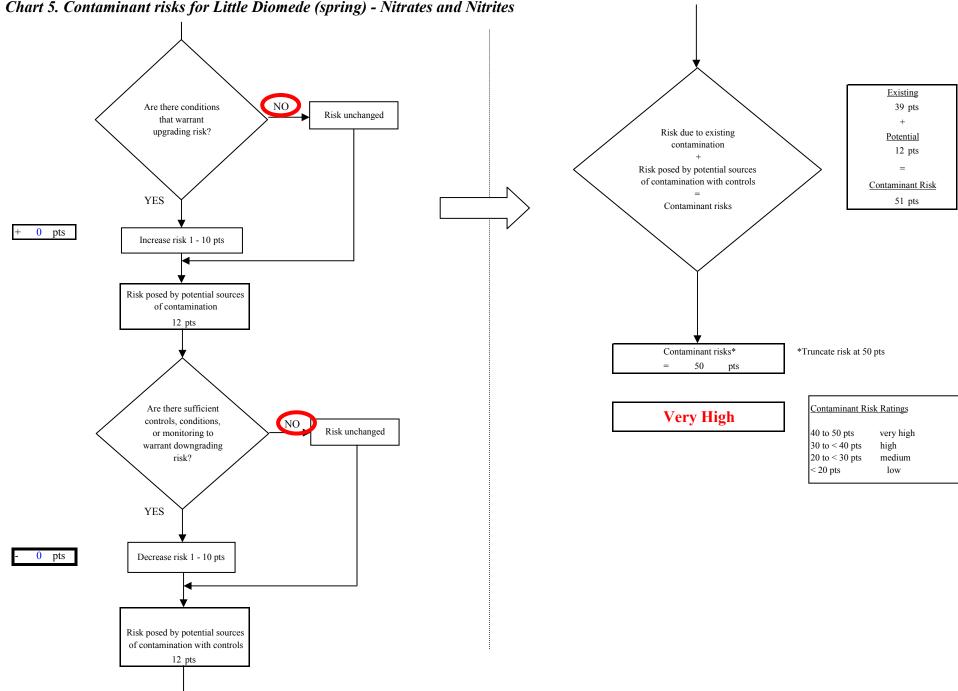


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for Little Diomede (spring) - Nitrates and Nitrites

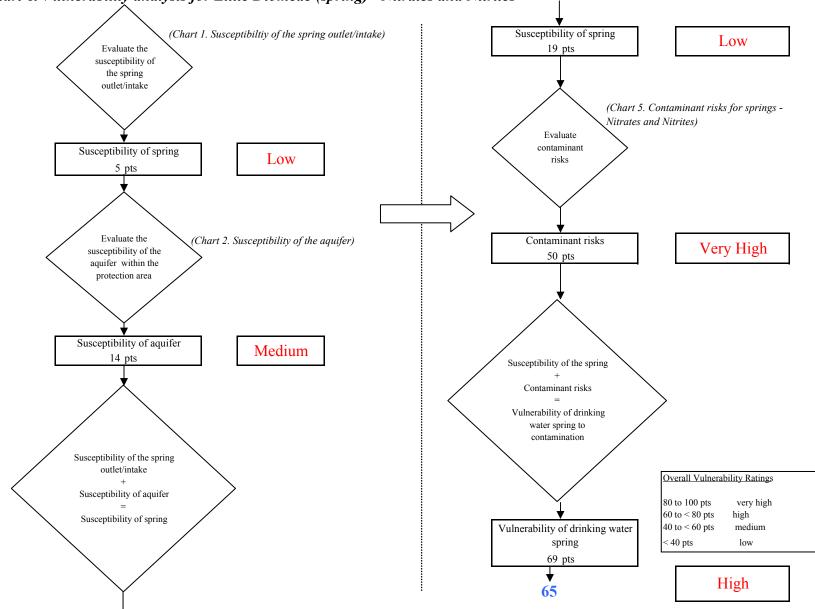
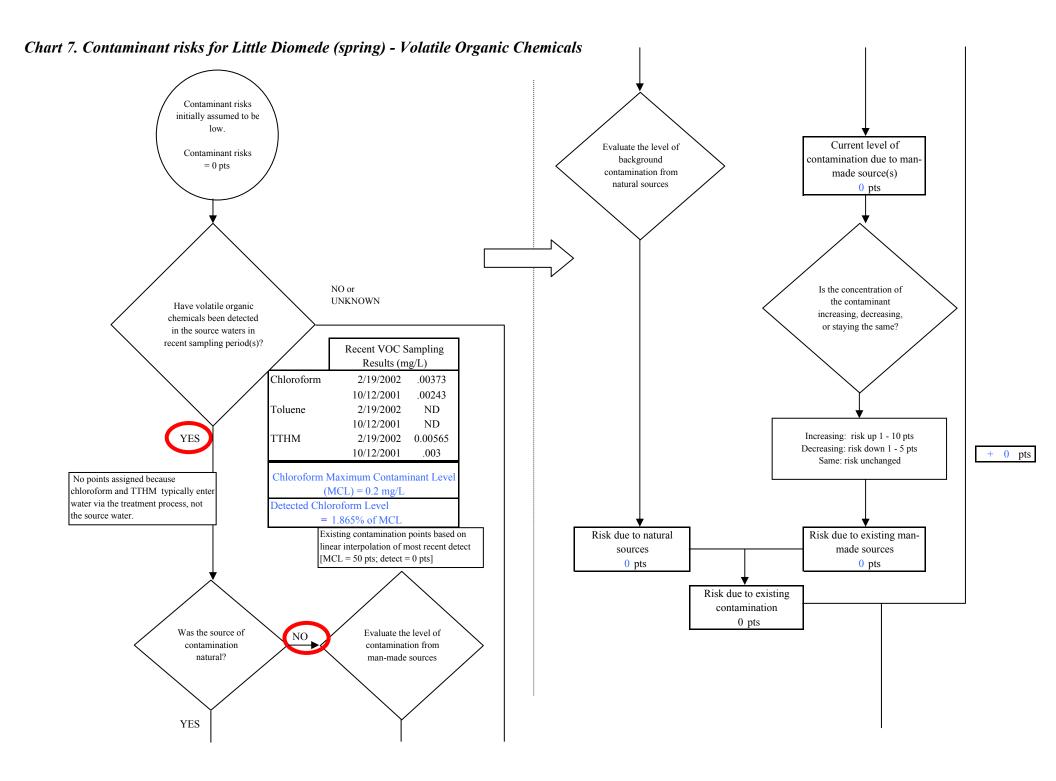


Chart 6. Vulnerability analysis for Little Diomede (spring) - Nitrates and Nitrites



Page 10 of 25

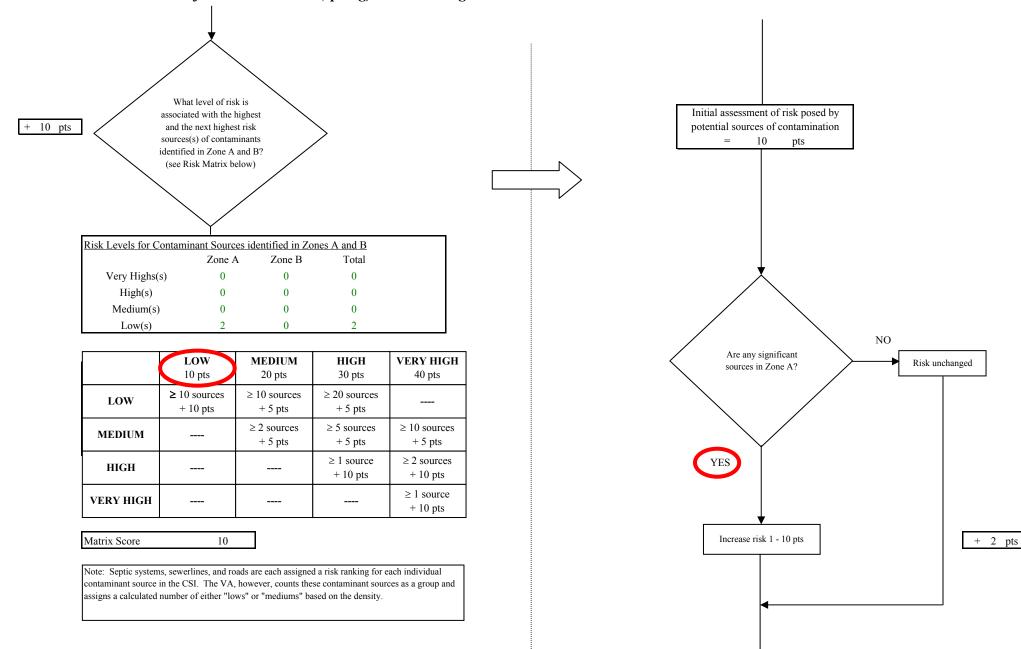
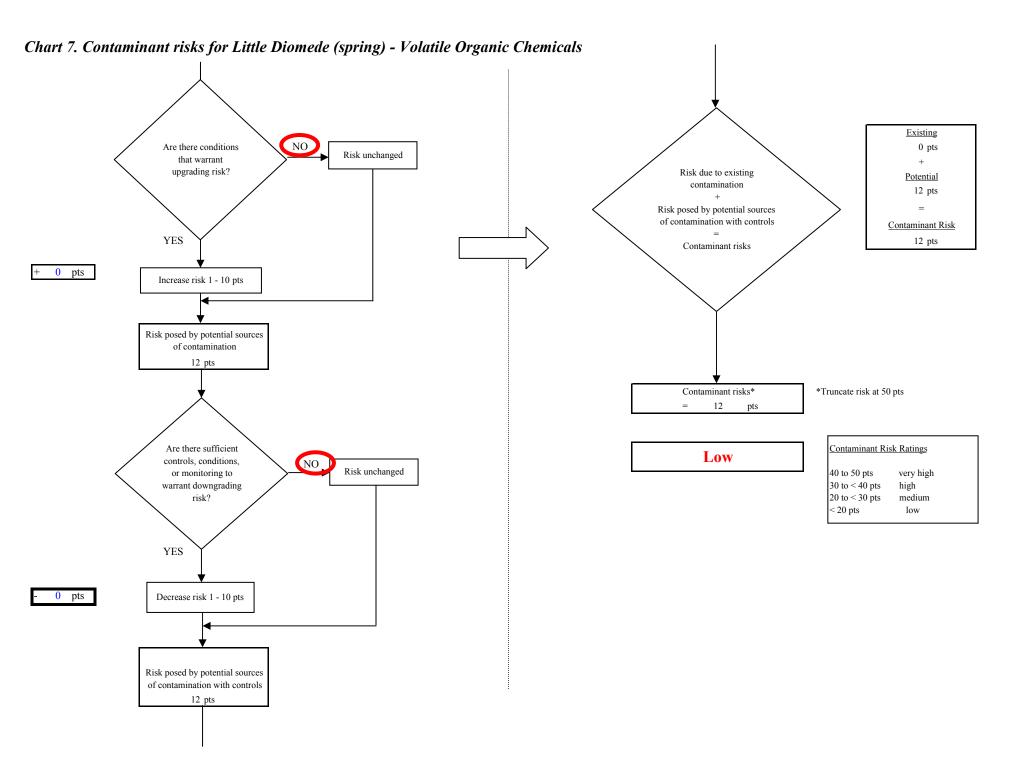


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for Little Diomede (spring) - Volatile Organic Chemicals



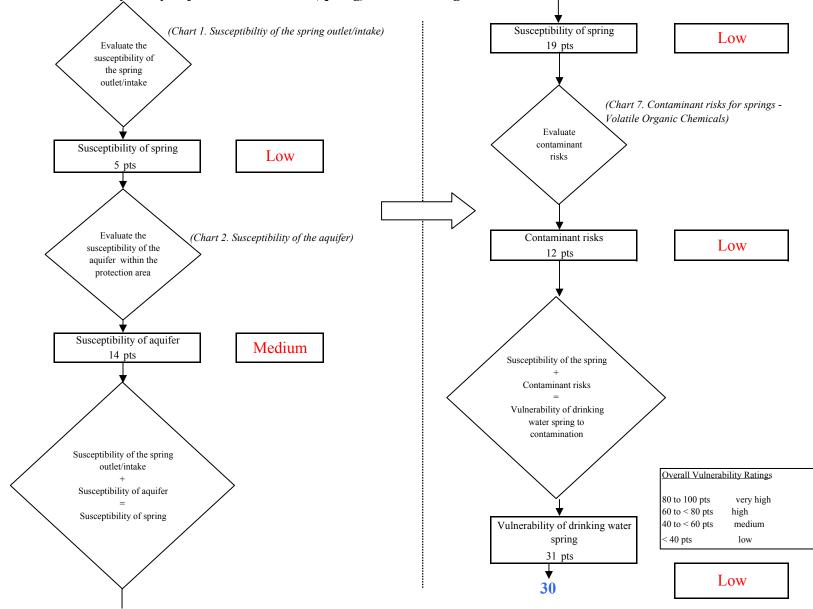
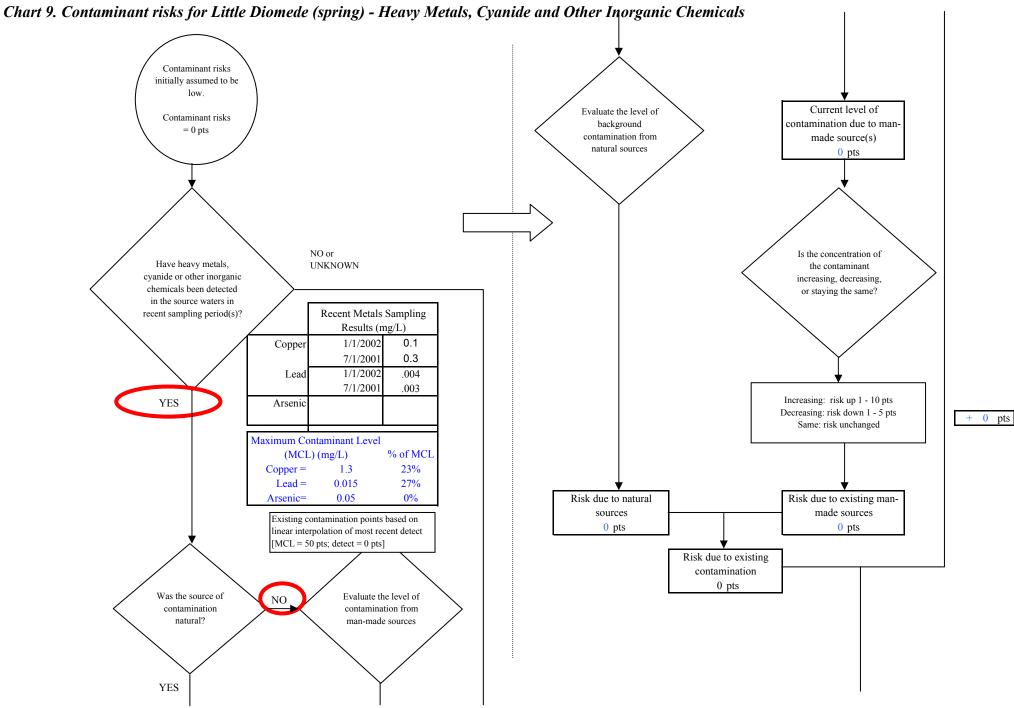


Chart 8. Vulnerability analysis for Little Diomede (spring) - Volatile Organic Chemicals



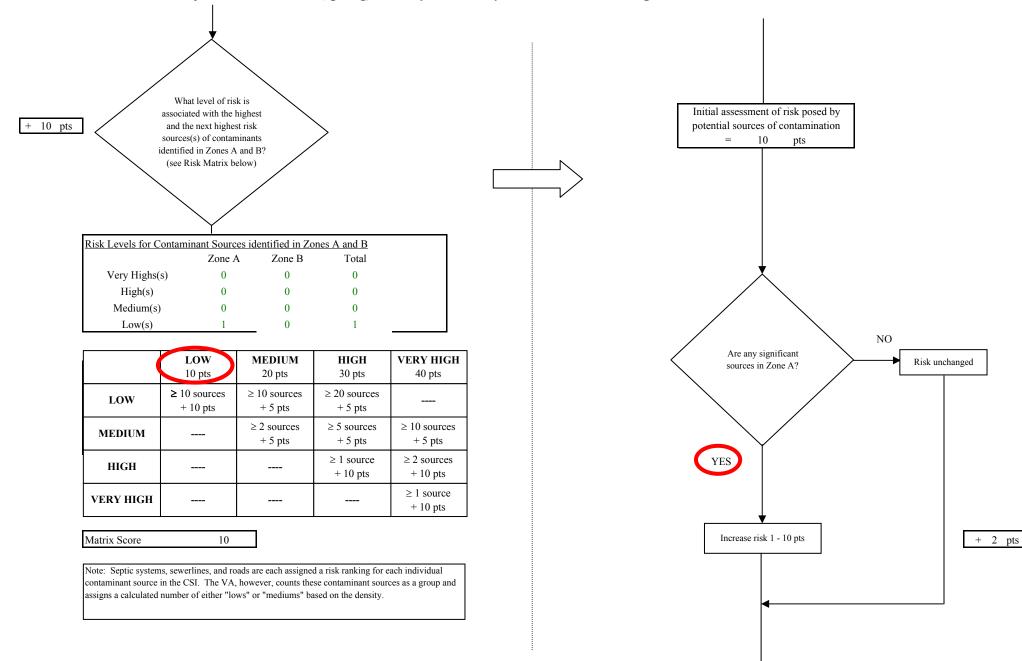


Chart 9. Contaminant risks for Little Diomede (spring) - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals

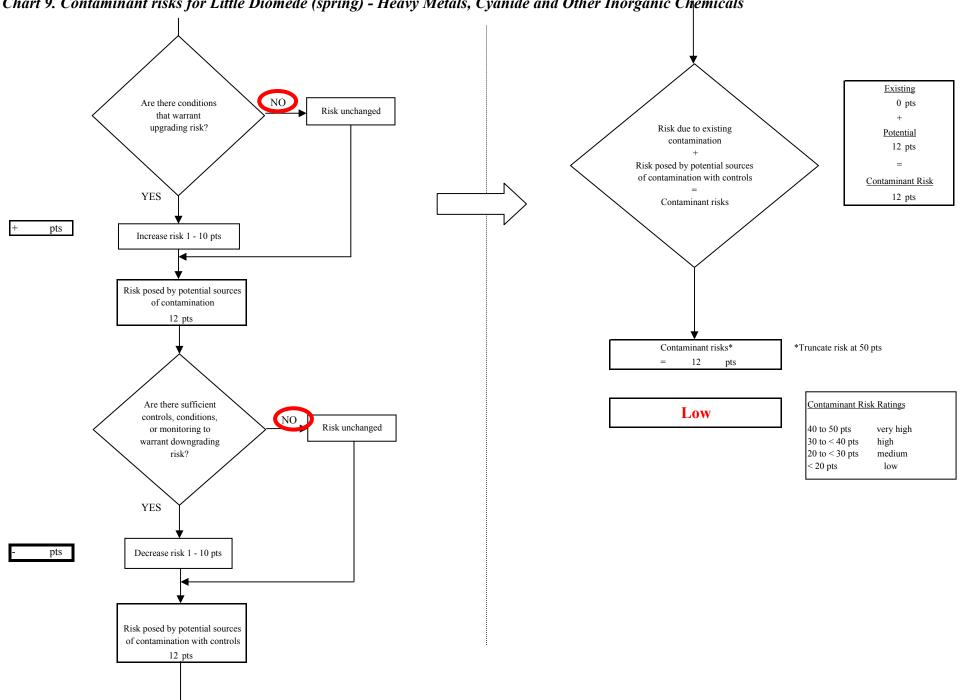


Chart 9. Contaminant risks for Little Diomede (spring) - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals

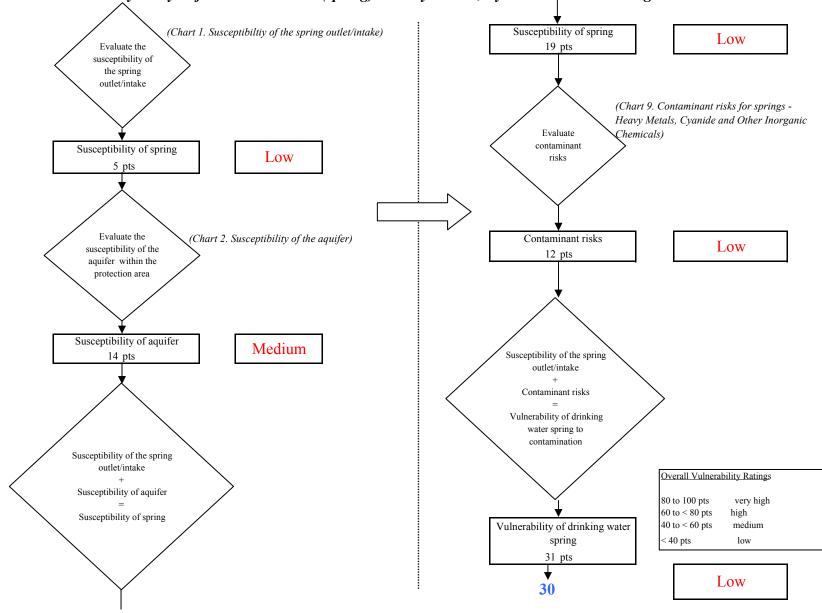
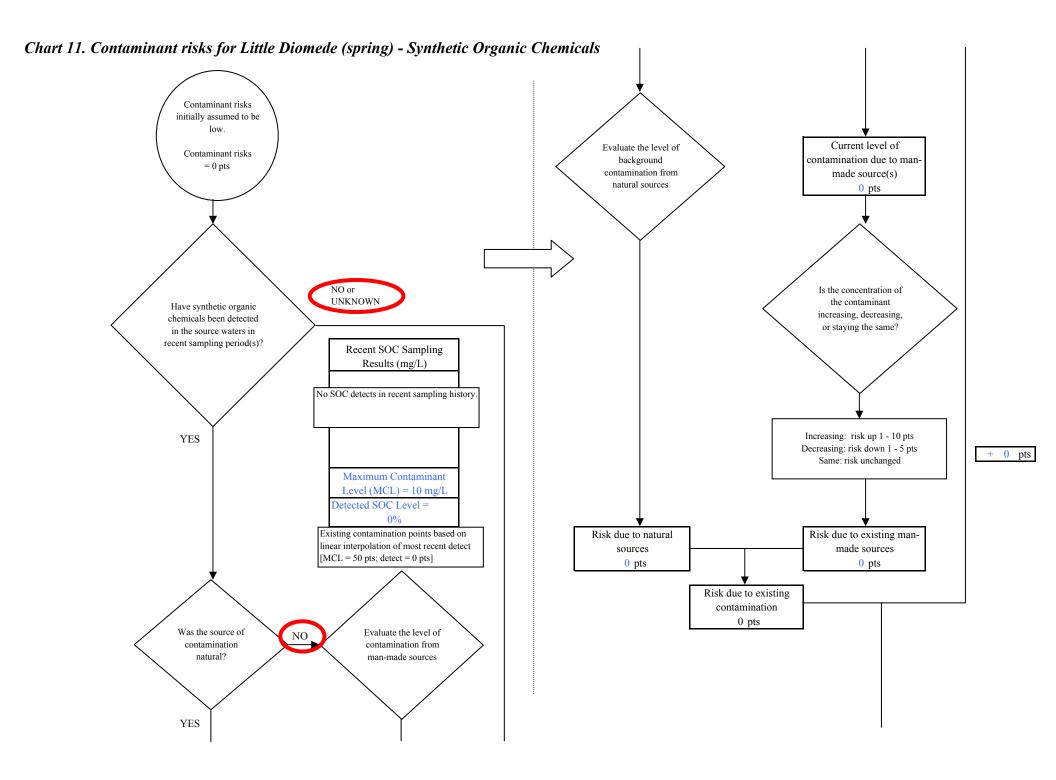
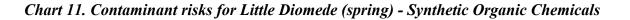
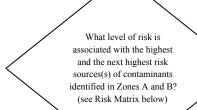


Chart 10. Vulnerability analysis for Little Diomede (spring) - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals







10 pts

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

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

Matrix Score

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.

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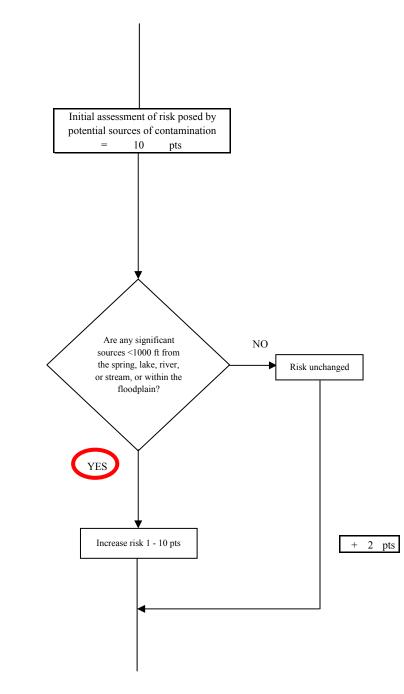
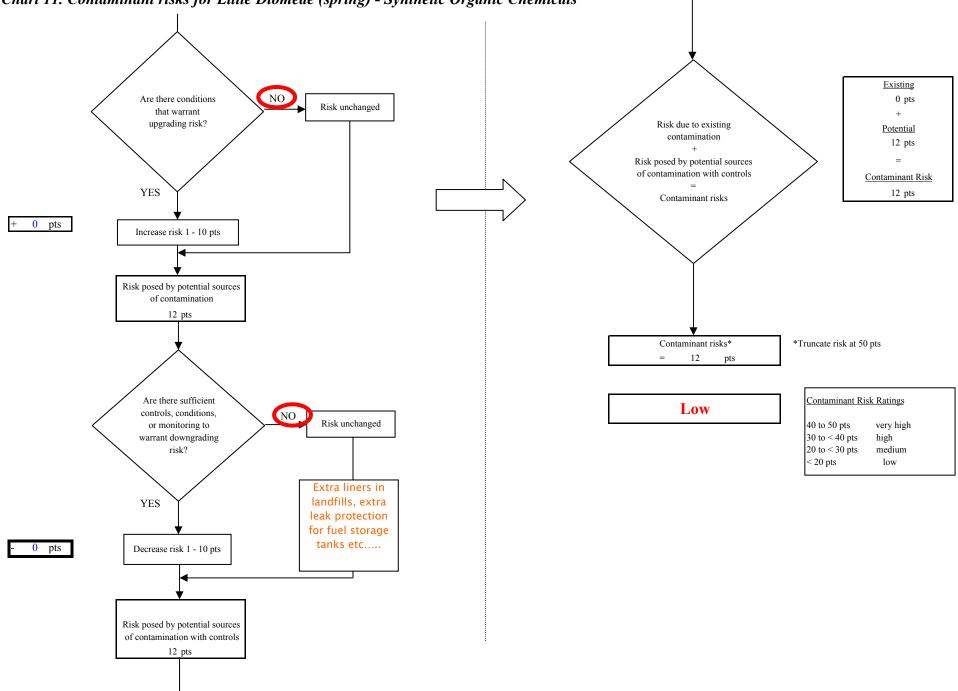


Chart 11. Contaminant risks for Little Diomede (spring) - Synthetic Organic Chemicals



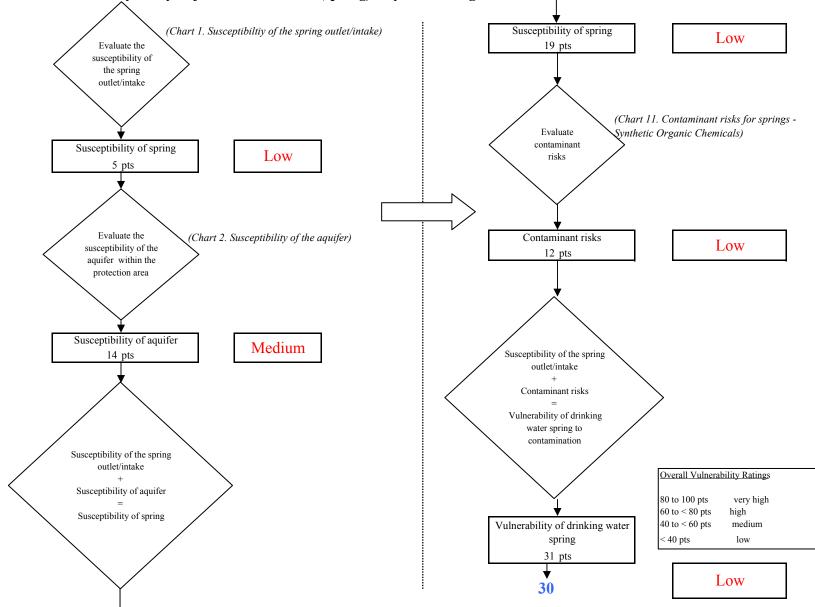
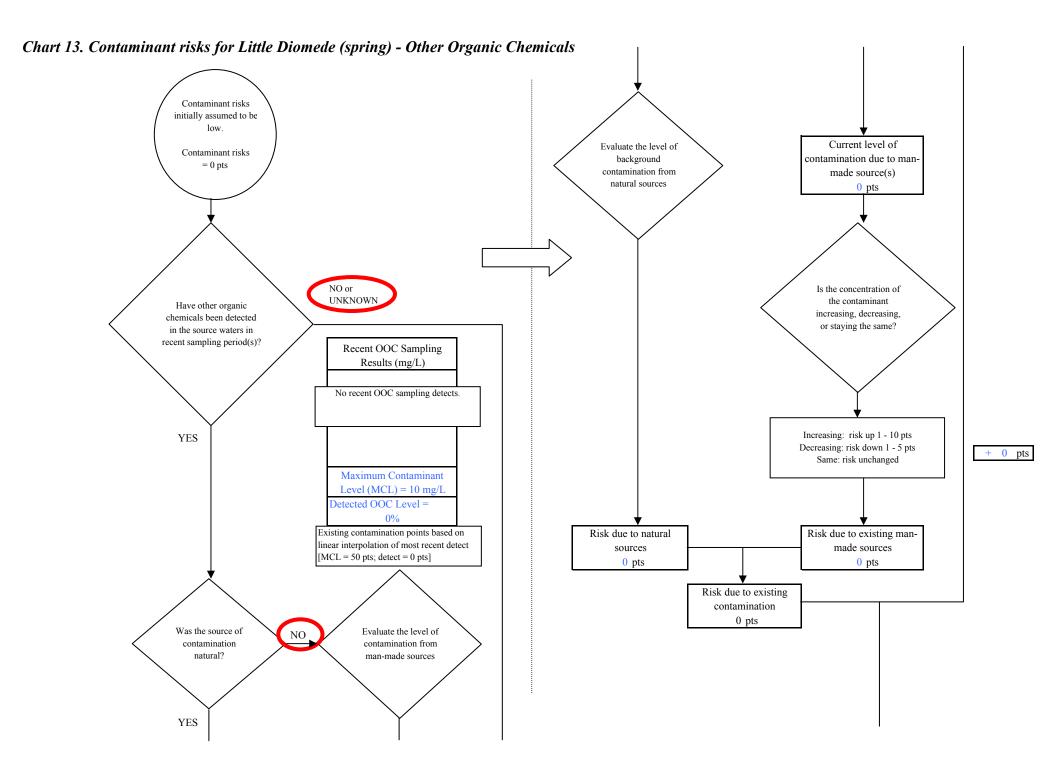
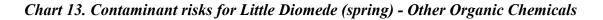
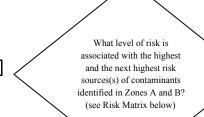


Chart 12. Vulnerability analysis for Little Diomede (spring) - Synthetic Organic Chemiçals







10 pts

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

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

Matrix Score

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.

10

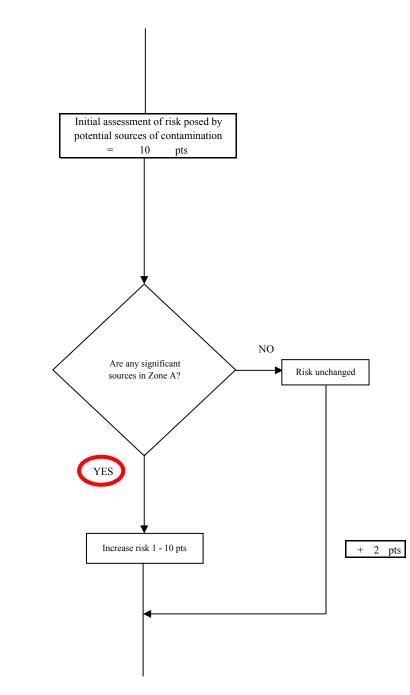
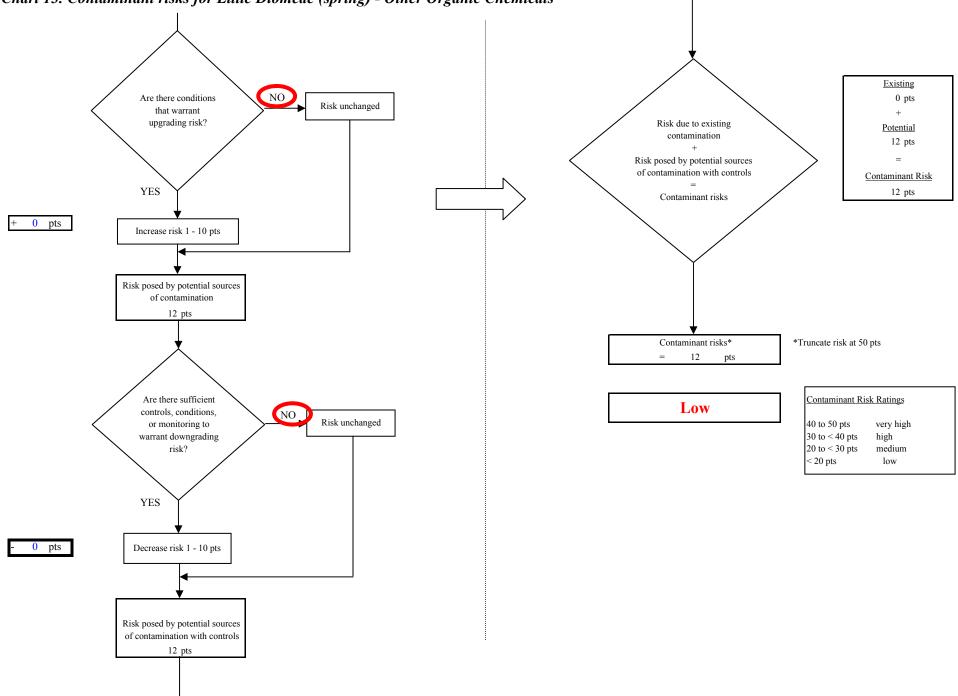


Chart 13. Contaminant risks for Little Diomede (spring) - Other Organic Chemicals



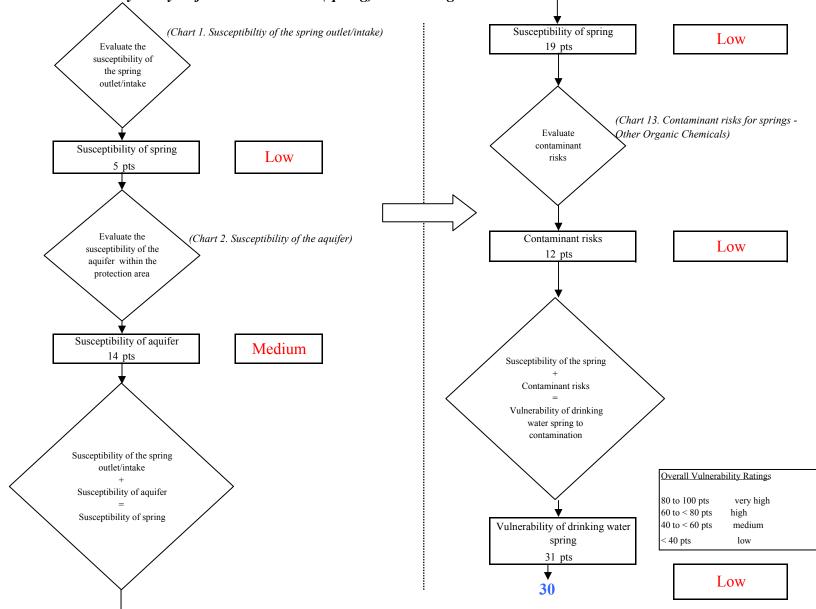


Chart 14. Vulnerability analysis for Little Diomede (spring) - Other Organic Chemicals,