

Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and Vulnerability Assessment for Riverview RV Park Drinking Water System, Fairbanks area, Alaska PWSID 313306

July 2003

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM REPORT Report 1031 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.

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Drinking Water Protection Program Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This source water assessment provides an evaluation of the vulnerability of the public water system serving the Riverview RV Park to potential contamination. This Class B (non-community) water system consists of one well on Badger Road in Fairbanks, Alaska. The well received a natural susceptibility rating of Medium. This rating is a combination of a susceptibility rating of Low for the actual wellhead and a Very High rating for the aquifer in which the well is drawing water from. Identified potential and current sources of contamination for the Riverview RV Park public water system include: residential heating oil storage tanks, residential septic systems, roads, residential area, a construction trade area, and an ADEC-recognized contaminated site. These are considered as sources of bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals. Combining the natural susceptibility of the well with the contaminant risk, the public water system for Riverview RV Park received an overall vulnerability rating of **Medium** for all three categories: bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals.

RIVERVIEW RV PARK PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

Riverview RV Park public water system is a Class B (non-community) water system. The system consists of one well on Badger Road in Fairbanks, Alaska (T1S, R1E, Section 15) (See Map 1 of Appendix A). Fairbanks is the largest town in the Fairbanks North Star Borough which is near the center of Alaska (Please see the inset of Map 1 in Appendix A for location). The Borough's current population is 82,840 making it the second-largest population center in the state (ADCED, 2002). Communities located within the Borough include : College, Eielson Air Force Base, Ester, Fairbanks, Fox, Harding Lake, Moose Creek, North Pole, Pleasant Valley, Salcha, and Two Rivers.

The majority of residents located in the area surrounding the city of Fairbanks use individual water wells or hauled water, and septic systems (ADCED, 2002). Heating oil (typically stored in both above and below ground 275 to 500-gallon tanks) is used for heating homes and buildings. Refuse is transported to the Fairbanks North Star Borough landfill. The Fairbanks area includes two distinct topographic areas: the alluvial plain between the Tanana River and the Chena River, and the uplands north of this alluvial plain. The Riverview RV Park water system is located in the alluvial plain at an elevation of approximately 450 feet above sea level.

According to the most recent sanitary survey (10/10/01) for this well, the depth of the well is 58 feet below the ground surface and is screened in gravel. The alluvial plain consists of alternating layers of silt, sand and gravel up to over 500 feet thick, in some locations overlain by 1 to 10 feet of silt or sandy silt or a few feet of peat (Glass and others, 1996). Discontinuous permafrost (perennially frozen areas) is also common in the alluvial plain. The depth to permafrost in these areas ranges between 2 and 45 feet below the ground surface with the thickness of the permafrost ranging between 5 and 265 feet (Pewe, T.L. 1958. Geology of the Fairbanks (D-2) Quadrangle, Alaska. USGS). Areas with discontinuous permafrost may locally affect the ground water flow directions.

Primarily the Tanana River, but also the Chena River contribute water to this alluvial aquifer. The Chena River typically only contributes water when its stage is high and the Tanana is low (Nelson, 1978). The Tanana River gets approximately 85% of its water from snowmelt of the Alaska Range and 15% from the Yukon-Tanana uplands (Anderson, 1970).

RIVERVIEW RV PARK DRINKING WATER PROTECTION AREA

The pathways most likely for surface contamination to reach the groundwater are identified as the first step in determining a drinking water system's risk. These areas are determined by looking at the characteristics of the soil, groundwater, aquifer, and well.

The most probable area for contamination to reach the drinking water well is the area that contributes water to the well, the groundwater capture zone. The groundwater capture zone is located in the area circling the well (the area influenced by pumping) and also the area of the water table upgradient of the well, usually forming a parabola shape.

There are many different ways of calculating the size of capture zones using various assumptions. The Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP) uses a combination of two simple, very general groundwater flow equations, the Thiem and uniform flow equations for all groundwater wells screened in unconsolidated material. The orientation of the capture zone is then drawn using a water table elevation map (if available) or a land surface elevation map of the area. The capture zone calculated by the DWPP is only a best guess using the information and resources available to us, and may differ slightly from the actual capture zone.

The parameters used to calculate the shape of this capture zone are general for the whole alluvial plain and were obtained from various United State Geological Survey (USGS) reports, well logs in the area, and the Groundwater textbook by Freeze and Cherry (Freeze and Cherry, 1979).

The water table in the area of the Riverview RV Park, the area between the Tanana and the Chena Rivers, is primarily influenced by the level of water flow in each river. The capture zones were drawn based on three separate configurations of the water table during various stages of the rivers: a period of high stage in the Chena River (October 14-17, 1986), high stage in the Tanana River (July 16-17, 1987), and low stages in both rivers (March 30-April 3, 1988) (Glass and others, 1996). High water levels in the Chena usually occur in the spring due to runoff from the uplands and in late summer due to rainstorms (Nelson, 1978). The Tanana usually experiences high flow during the hot, dry periods of mid-summer when maximum snowmelt from the Alaska Range occurs (Nelson, 1978). Groundwater in this area generally flows toward the northwest, from the Tanana River to the Chena River, however flow is reversed very near the Chena River during its high stage periods (Glass and others, 1996). These flow reversals are of short duration (i.e. days versus months) and of limited extent, generally within 1000 feet of the river (Nakanishi, et all, 1998).

Because of uncertainties and changing site conditions, a factor of safety is added to the groundwater capture zone to form the drinking water protection area for the well.

The protection areas established for wells are usually separated into four zones, limited by the watershed. These zones correspond to times-of-travel (TOT) of the water moving through the aquifer to the well (plus the factor of safety).

The following is a summary of the four zones for wells and the calculated time-of-travel for each:

Table 1. Definition of Zones

-	
Zone	Definition
А	¹ / ₄ the distance for the 2-yr. time-of-travel
В	Less than 2 years time-of-travel
С	Less than 5 years time-of-travel
D	Less than 10 years time-of-travel

The time of travel for contaminants within the water varies with their unique physical and chemical characteristics.

The drinking water protection area outlined for the Riverview RV Park on Map 1 of Appendix A will serve as the focus for voluntary protection efforts.

INVENTORY OF POTENTIAL AND EXISTING CONTAMINANT SOURCES

The Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP) has completed an inventory of potential and existing sources of contamination within the Riverview RV Park protection area. This inventory was completed through a search of agency records and other publicly available information. 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 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

The sources are displayed on Map 2 of Appendix C and summarized in Table 1 of Appendix B.

RANKING OF CONTAMINANT RISKS

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

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

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 the outer Zone D due to the probability of contaminant dilution by the time the contaminants get to the well.

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

VULNERABILITY OF RIVERVIEW RV PARK DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

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

- Natural susceptibility; and
- Contaminant risks.

Appendix D contains eight charts, which together form the 'Vulnerability Analysis' for a source water assessment for a public drinking water source. 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 properties of the aquifer and the presence of other wells or boreholes in the area. 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 the water system's contaminant sample results. Lastly, Chart 4 combines the results of the first three charts to produce the 'Vulnerability Analysis for Bacteria and Viruses'. Charts 5 through 8 contain the Contaminant Risks and Vulnerability Analyses for nitrates and nitrites and volatile organic chemicals, respectively.

A score for the Natural Susceptibility is reached by considering the properties of the well and the aquifer.

Susceptibility of the Wellhead (0 – 25 Points) (Chart 1 of Appendix D)

Susceptibility of the Aquifer (0 - 25 Points)(Chart 2 of Appendix D)

=

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

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

Natural Susceptibility Ratings					
40 to 50 pts	Very High				
30 to < 40 pts	High				
20 to < 30 pts	Medium				
< 20 pts	Low				

The wellhead for the Riverview RV Park received a Low Susceptibility rating. The most recent sanitary survey (10/10/01) indicates the well is capped with a sanitary seal, the land surface is sloped away from the well, and the well is grouted. A sanitary seal prevents potential contaminants from entering the well while sloping of the land surface and grouting help to prevent potential contaminants from traveling down the outside of the well casing.

The aquifer the Riverview RV Park well is completed in received a Very High Susceptibility rating. The highly transmissive aquifer material and the high water table in the area allow contaminants to travel downward from the surface with the precipitation and surface water runoff. Table 2 summarizes the Susceptibility scores and ratings for Riverview RV Park.

Table 2. Susceptibility

	Score	Rating
Susceptibility of the	0	Low
Wellhead		
Susceptibility of the	21	Very High
Aquifer		
Natural Susceptibility	21	Medium
		1.10010111

The Contaminant Risk has been derived from an evaluation of the routine sampling results of the water system and the presence of potential sources of contamination. Contaminant risks to a drinking water source depend on the type and distribution of contaminant sources. Flow charts are used to assign a point score, and ratings are assigned in the same way as for the natural 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. Contaminant Risks

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	20	Medium
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	20	Medium
Volatile Organic Chemicals	25	Medium

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

> Natural Susceptibility (0 – 50 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 (0 - 100) and ratings for each of the three categories of drinking water contaminants. Note: scores are rounded off to the nearest five.

Table 4. Overall Vulnerability

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	40	Medium
Nitrates and Nitrites	40	Medium
Volatile Organic Chemicals	45	Medium

Bacteria and Viruses

The residential septic systems in the protection area represent the greatest risk to the drinking water well.

Only a small amount of bacteria and viruses are required to endanger public health. Coli forms are found naturally in the environment and although they aren't necessarily a health threat, it is an indicator of other potentially harmful bacteria in the water, more specifically, fecal coli forms and E. coli which only come from human and animal fecal waste (EPA, 2002). Harmful bacteria can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms (EPA, 2002). Coliforms have not been detected in this water system within the past 5 years.

After combining the contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is medium.

Nitrates and Nitrites

The residential septic systems in the protection area also represent the greatest risk to to nitrates and nitrites for this source of public drinking water.

Nitrates are very mobile, moving at approximately the same rate as water. Nitrates have not been detected in recent sampling history for the Riverview RV Park well.

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

Volatile Organic Chemicals

The residential heating oil tanks represent the greatest risk for volatile organic chemical contamination to the well.

Both underground and above ground heating oil storage tanks are the standard way of heating homes and businesses in the area surrounding Fairbanks. The most common causes of fuel leaks of these heating oil systems are overfilling the tank, ruptured fuel lines, leaking storage tanks, damaged or faulty valves and vandalism. Regular system maintenance can help prevent many of these harmful fuel leaks.

The ADEC-recognized contaminated site in Zone C of the protection area is located at 1442 Holmes Road (RecKey 2000310129101). Petroleum contamination was discovered during an underground heating oil tank removal. Sampling of the soil and ground water revealed very low contaminant concentrations and the site was closed.

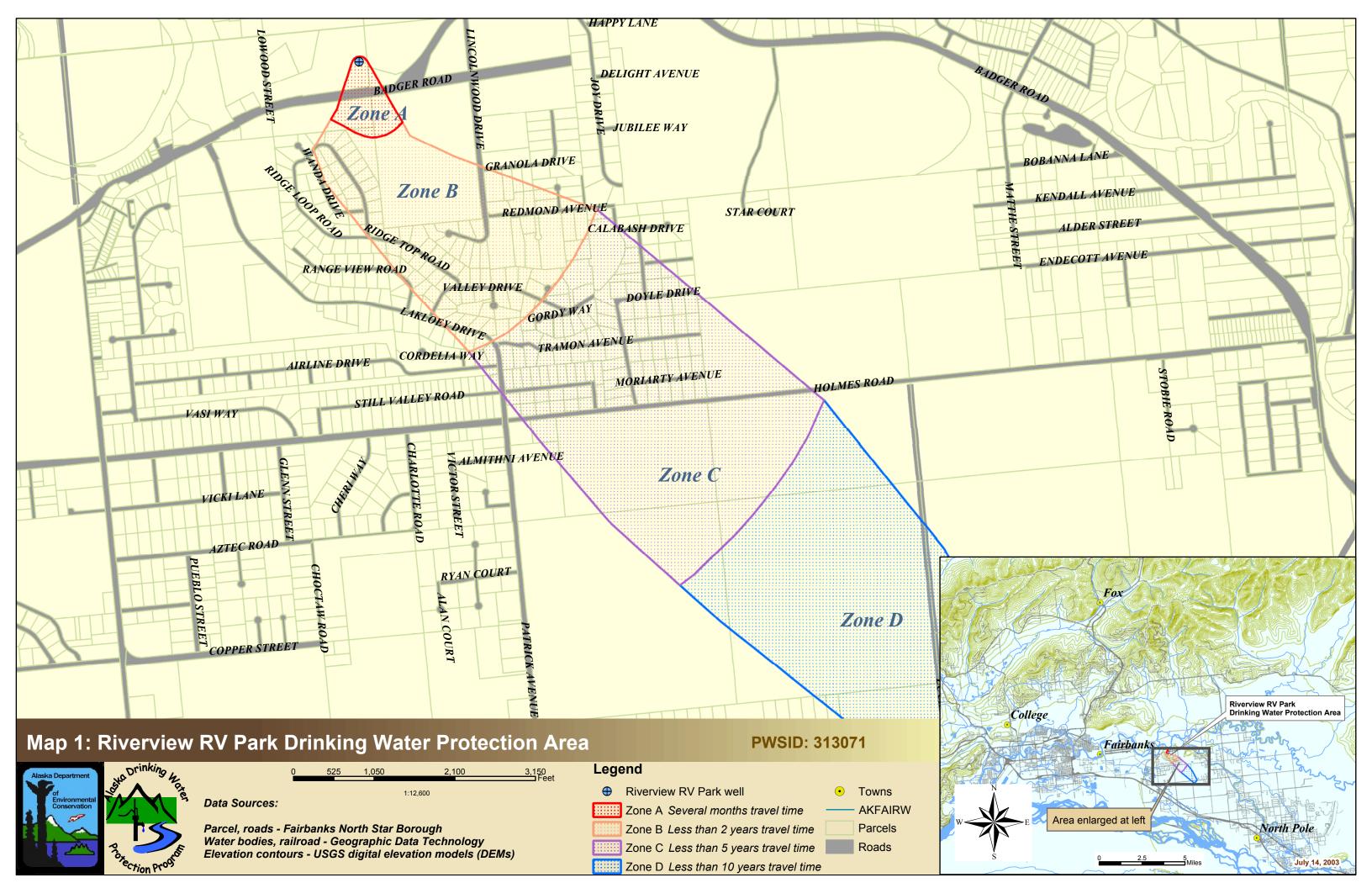
Volatile Organic Chemicals have not been sampled for in the Riverview RV Park public water system. After combining the contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is medium.

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APPENDIX A

Riverview RV Park Drinking Water Protection Area Location Map (Map 1)



APPENDIX B

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Riverview RV Park (Tables 1-4)

Contaminant Source Inventory for **Riverview RV Park**

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Map Number	Comments
Construction trade areas and materials	C09	C09-1			989 Lakloey Drive
Residential Areas	R01	R01-1			Estimated 75 acres of residential area based on tax parcels designated as residential
Residential Areas	R01	R01-2			Estimated 25 acres or residential area
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02				Assumed 40 septics
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02				Assumed 75 residential septics based on tax parcels designated as residential
Tanks, heating oil, residential (above ground)	R08				Assumed 40 heating oil storage tanks
Tanks, heating oil, residential (above ground)	R08				Assumed 75 residential heating oil tanks based on tax parcels designated as residential
Contaminated sites, DEC recognized, non-Superfund, non-RCRA	U04	U04-1			1442 Holmes Road; file number 100.38.156
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20				Gordy Way, Baskerville Street, Sherlock Lane, Still Valley Road, Tramon Avenue, Morlarty Avenue, Holmes Road, Doyle Drive
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20				Lincolnwood Drive, Ridge Loop Road, Redmond Avenue, Vally Drive, Lakloey Drive
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20				Badger Road

Table 2

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 313306.001

Riverview RV Park Sources of Bacteria and Viruses

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20			Low		Gordy Way, Baskerville Street, Sherlock Lane, Still Valley Road, Tramon Avenue, Morlarty Avenue, Holmes Road, Doyle Drive
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20			Low		Badger Road
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20			Low		Gordy Way, Baskerville Street, Sherlock Lane, Still Valley Road, Tramon Avenue, Morlarty Avenue, Holmes Road, Doyle Drive
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20			Low		Lincolnwood Drive, Ridge Loop Road, Redmond Avenue, Vally Drive, Lakloey Drive
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02			Low		Assumed 40 septics
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02			Low		Assumed 75 residential septics based on tax parcels designated as residential
Residential Areas	R01	R01-1		Low		Estimated 75 acres of residential area based on tax parcels designated as residential
Residential Areas	R01	R01-2		Low		Estimated 25 acres or residential area

Table 3

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 313306.001

Riverview RV Park Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20			Low		Badger Road
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02			Low		Assumed 40 septics
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20			Low		Gordy Way, Baskerville Street, Sherlock Lane, Still Valley Road, Tramon Avenue, Morlarty Avenue, Holmes Road, Doyle Drive
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20			Low		Lincolnwood Drive, Ridge Loop Road, Redmond Avenue, Vally Drive, Lakloey Drive
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20			Low		Gordy Way, Baskerville Street, Sherlock Lane, Still Valley Road, Tramon Avenue, Morlarty Avenue, Holmes Road, Doyle Drive
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02			Low		Assumed 75 residential septics based on tax parcels designated as residential
Residential Areas	R01	R01-1		Low		Estimated 75 acres of residential area based on tax parcels designated as residential
Residential Areas	R01	R01-2		Low		Estimated 25 acres or residential area

Table 4

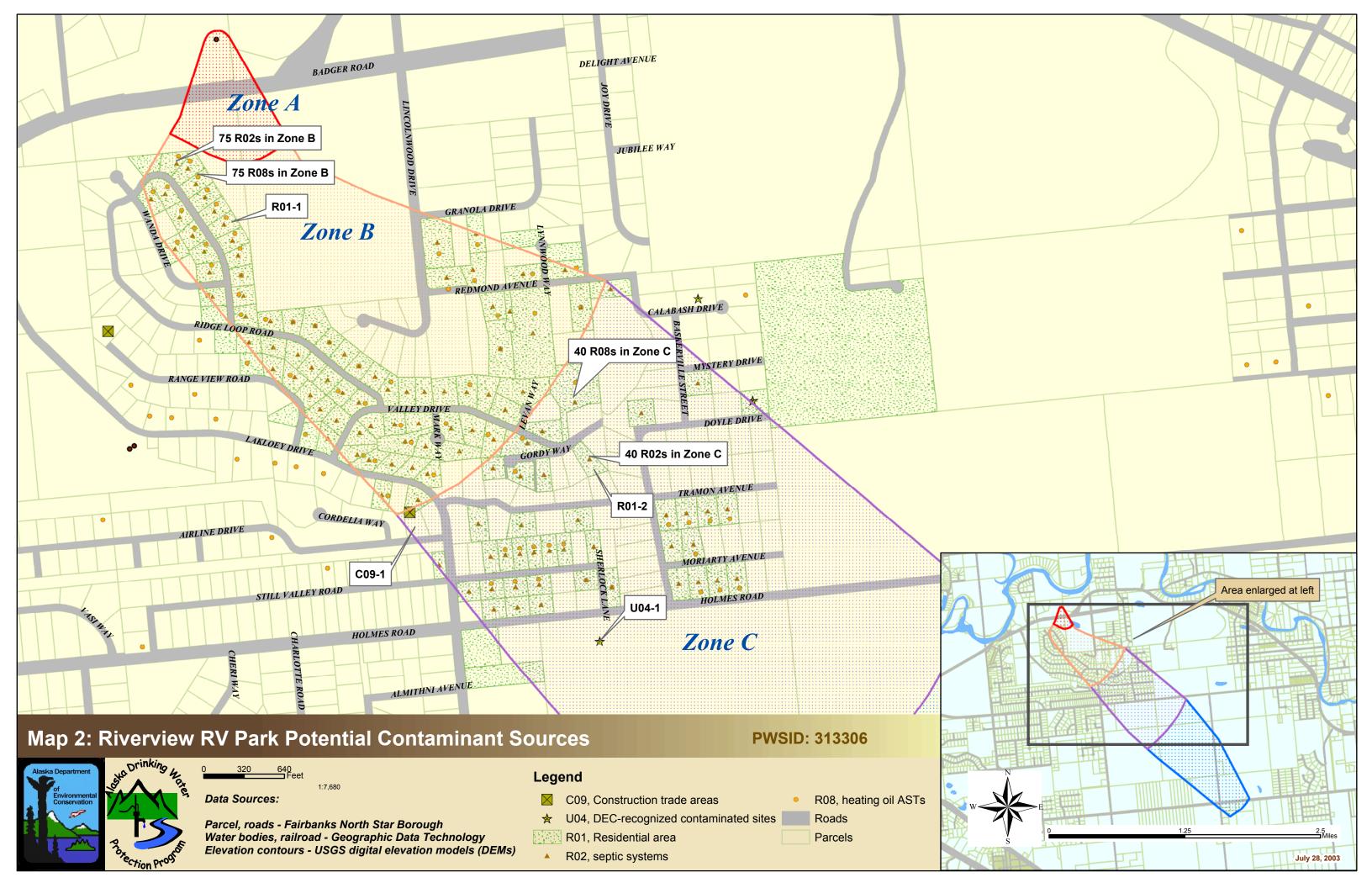
Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Riverview RV Park Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals

PWSID 313306.001

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02			Low		Assumed 75 residential septics based on tax parcels designated as residential
Tanks, heating oil, residential (above ground)	R08			Medium		Assumed 75 residential heating oil tanks based on tax parcels designated as residential
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20			Low		Badger Road
Tanks, heating oil, residential (above ground)	R08			Medium		Assumed 40 heating oil storage tanks
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02			Low		Assumed 40 septics
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20			Low		Lincolnwood Drive, Ridge Loop Road, Redmond Avenue, Vally Drive, Lakloey Drive
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20			Low		Gordy Way, Baskerville Street, Sherlock Lane, Still Valley Road, Tramon Avenue, Morlarty Avenue, Holmes Road, Doyle Drive
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20			Low		Gordy Way, Baskerville Street, Sherlock Lane, Still Valley Road, Tramon Avenue, Morlarty Avenue, Holmes Road, Doyle Drive
Construction trade areas and materials	C09	C09-1		Low		989 Lakloey Drive
Residential Areas	R01	R01-1		Low		Estimated 75 acres of residential area based on tax parcels designated as residential
Residential Areas	R01	R01-2		Low		Estimated 25 acres or residential area
Contaminated sites, DEC recognized, non-Superfund, non-RCRA	U04	U04-1		Low		1442 Holmes Road; file number 100.38.156

APPENDIX C

Riverview RV Park Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources (Map 2)



APPENDIX D

Vulnerability Analysis for Riverview RV Park Public Drinking Water Source (Charts 1-8)

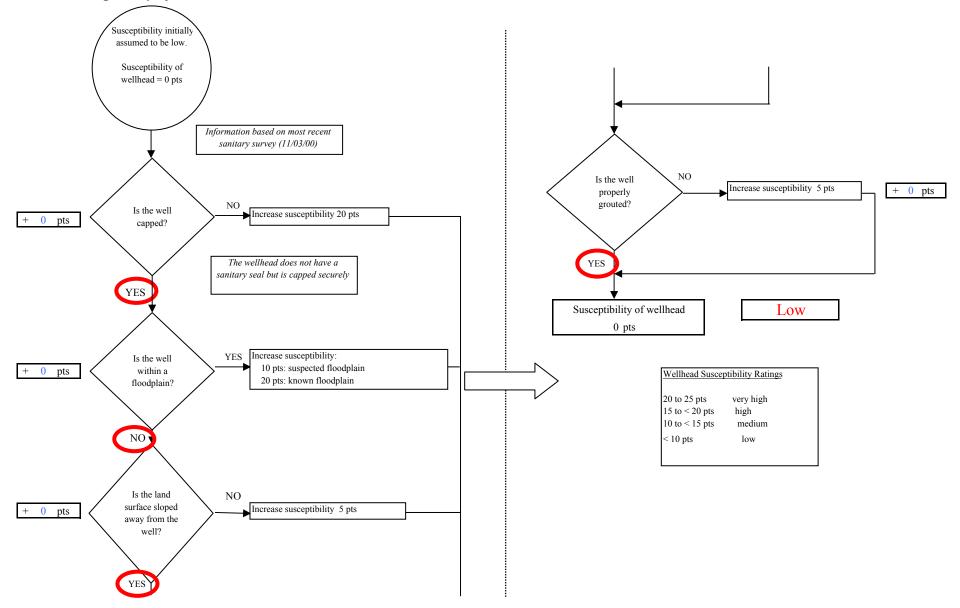
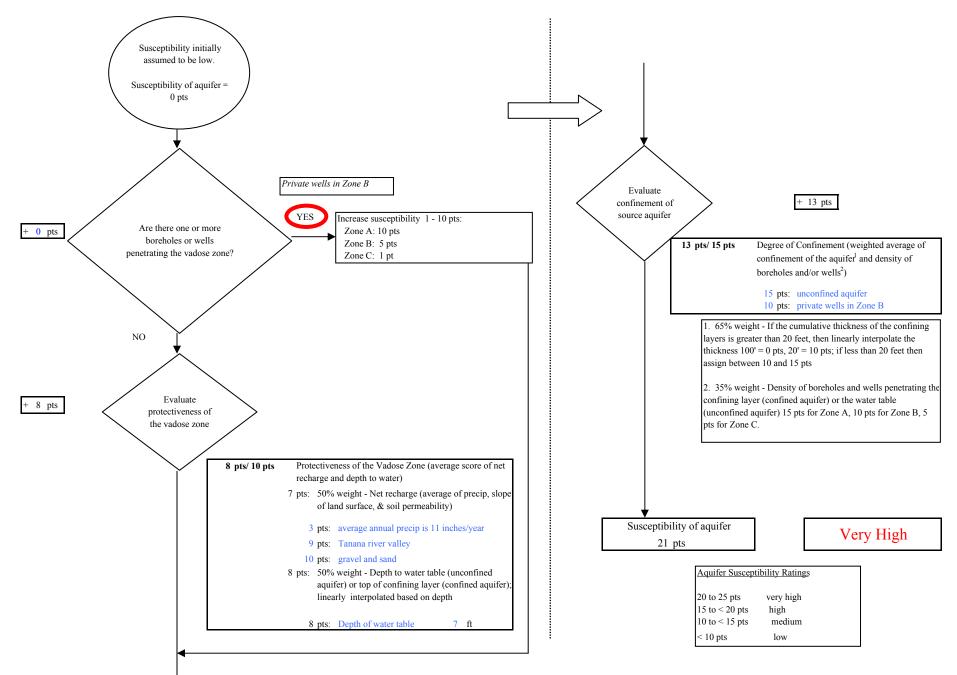
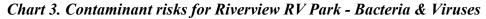
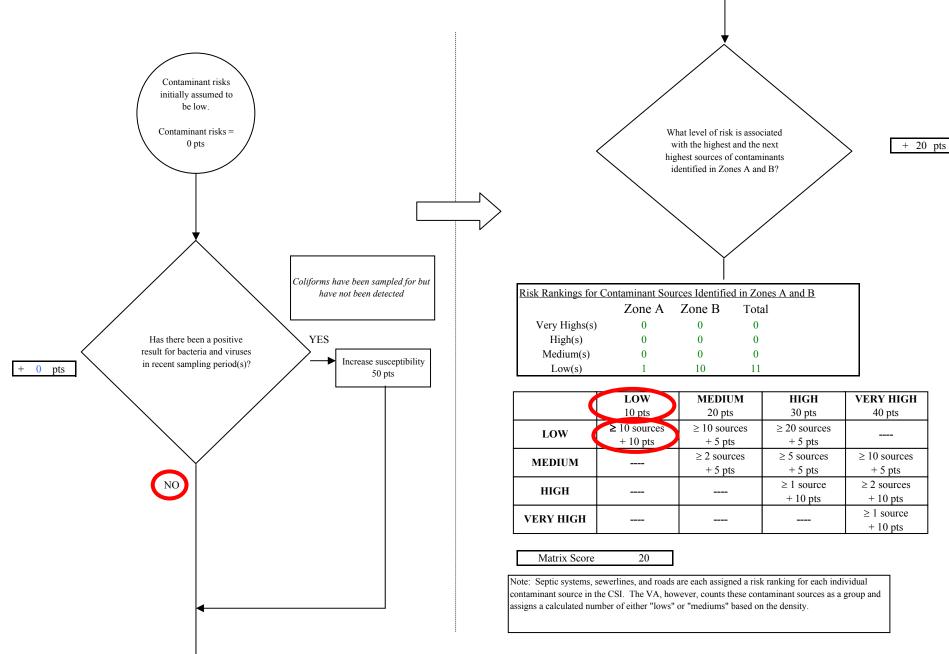


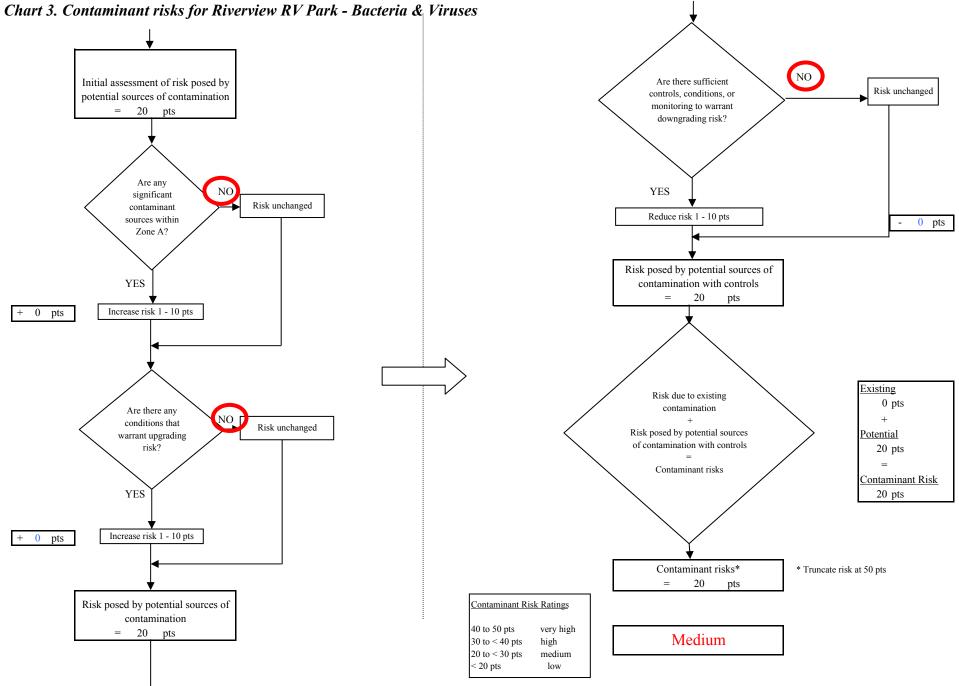
Chart 1. Susceptibility of the wellhead - Riverview RV Park

Chart 2. Susceptibility of the aquifer - Riverview RV Park









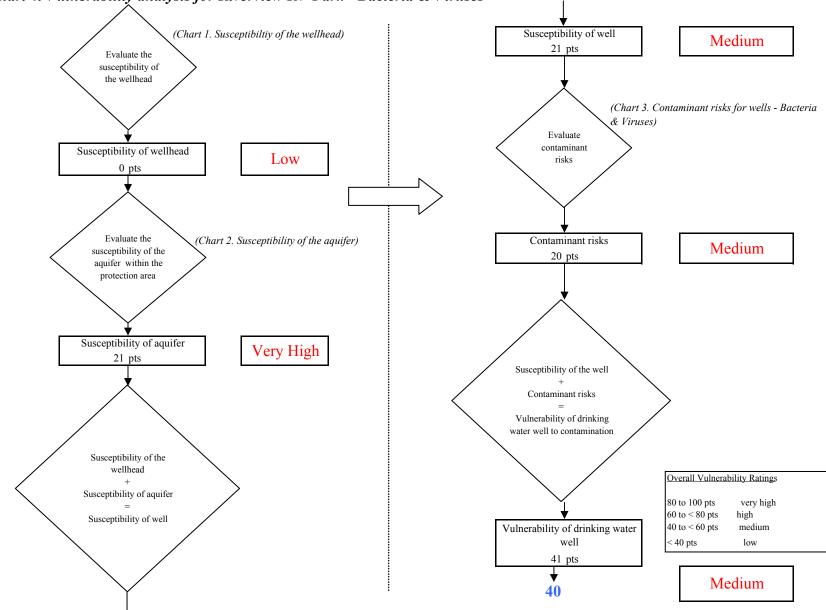


Chart 4. Vulnerability analysis for Riverview RV Park - Bacteria & Viruses

Chart 5. Contaminant risks for Riverview RV Park - Nitrates and Nitrites

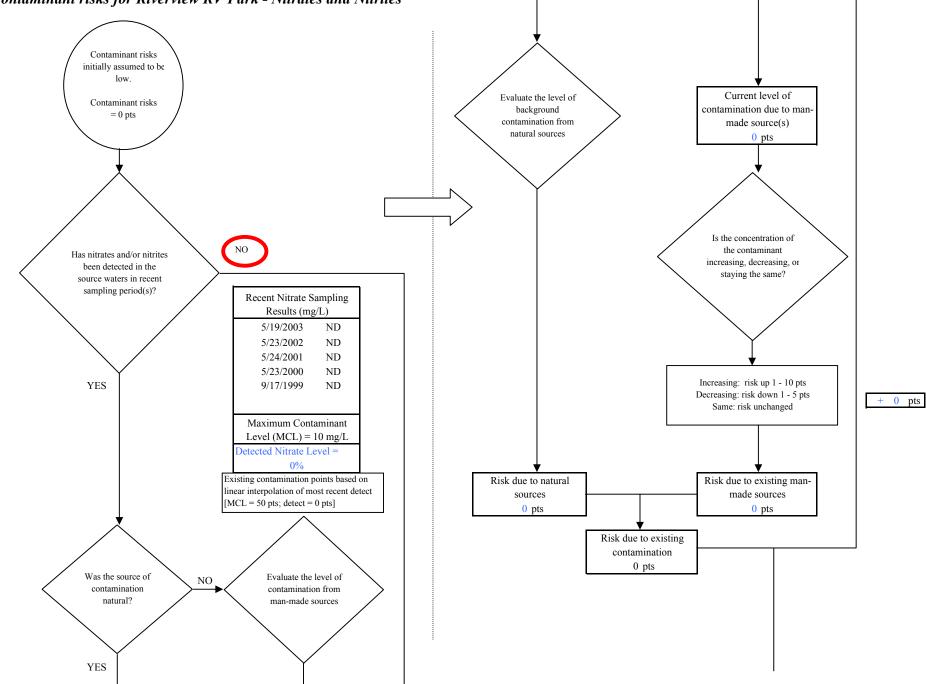
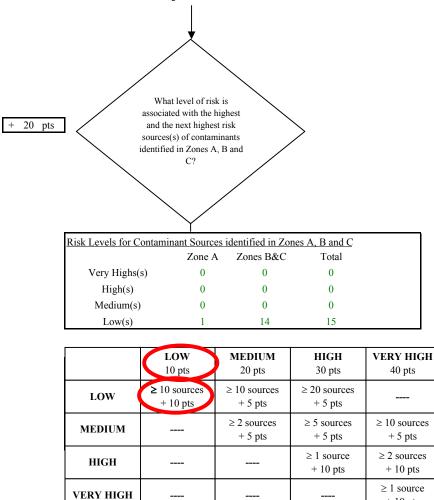


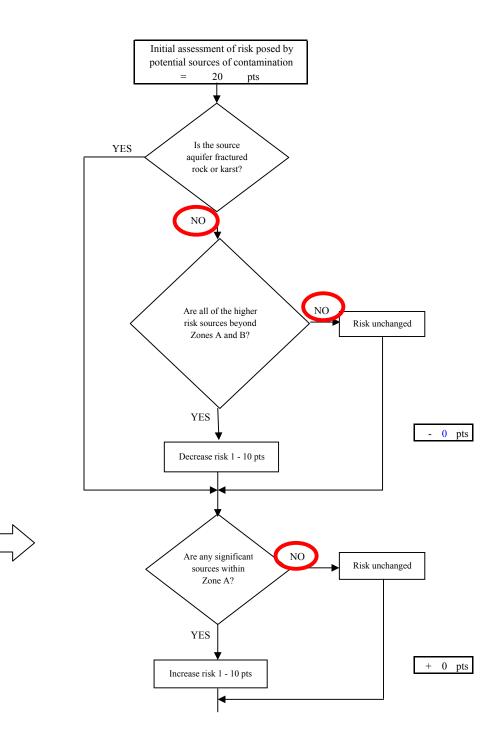
Chart 5. Contaminant risks for Riverview RV Park - Nitrates and Nitrites



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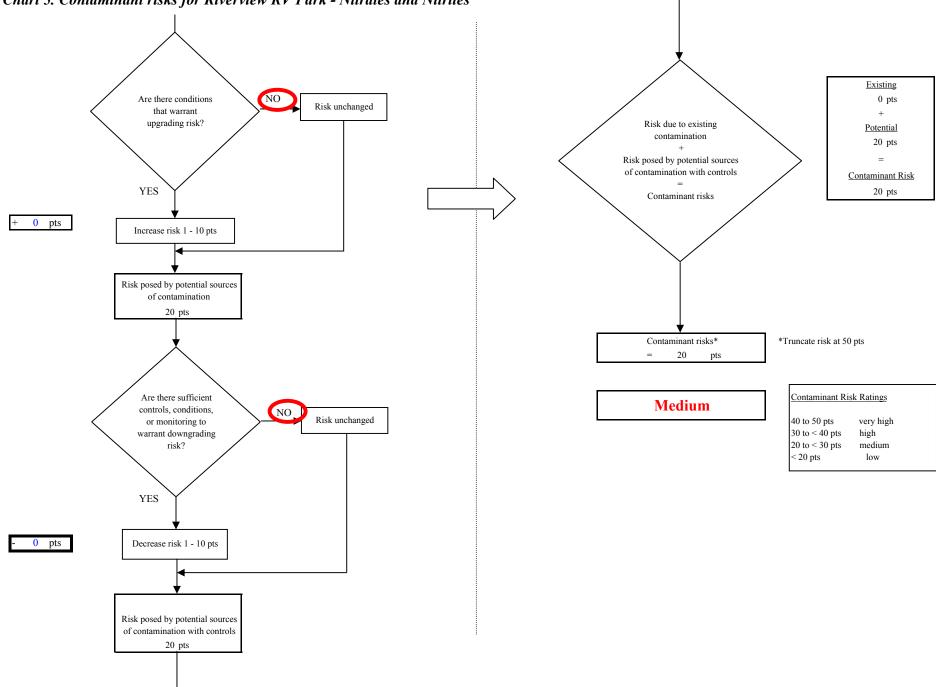
Matrix Score

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 pts

Chart 5. Contaminant risks for Riverview RV Park - Nitrates and Nitrites



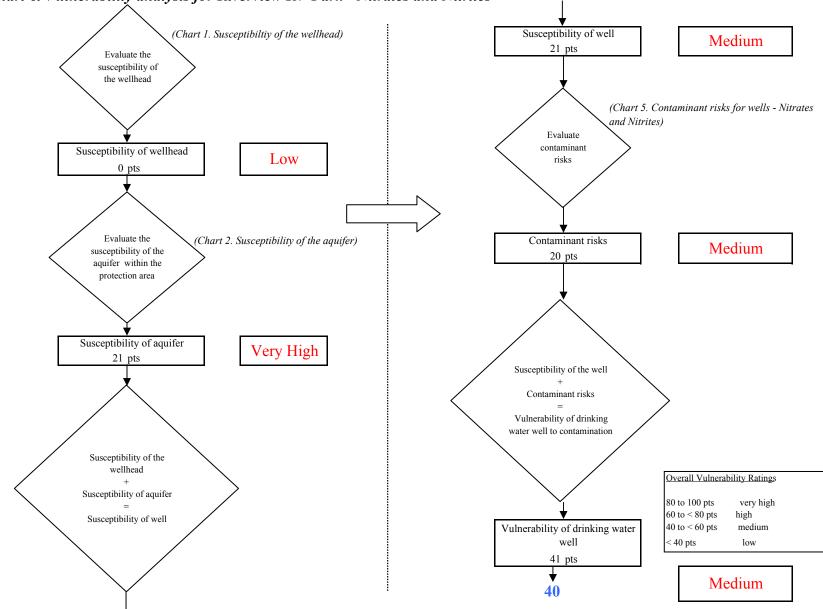
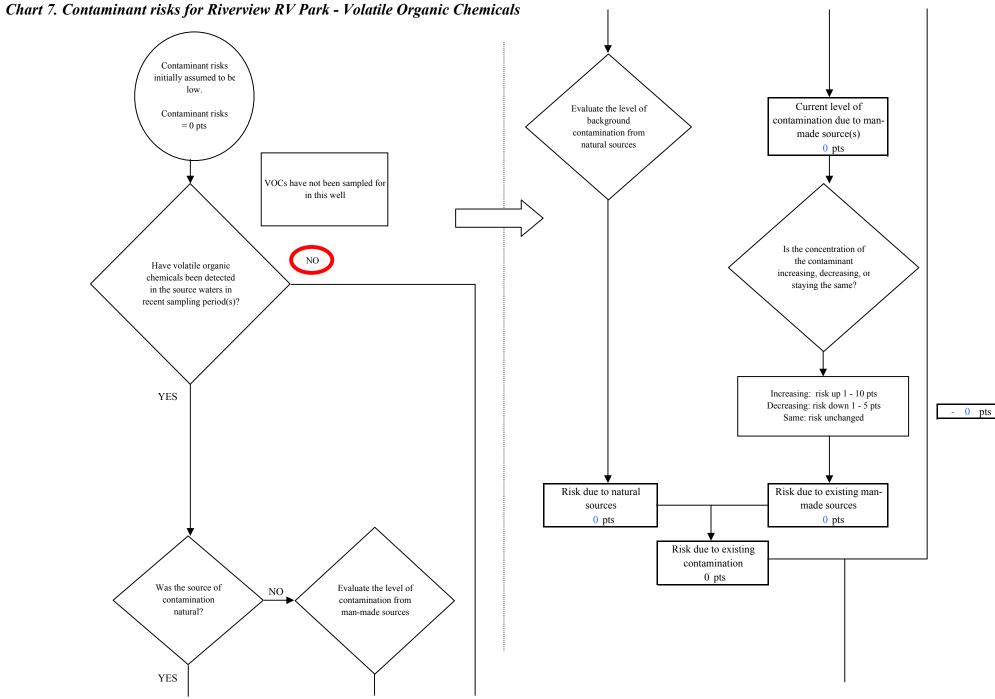
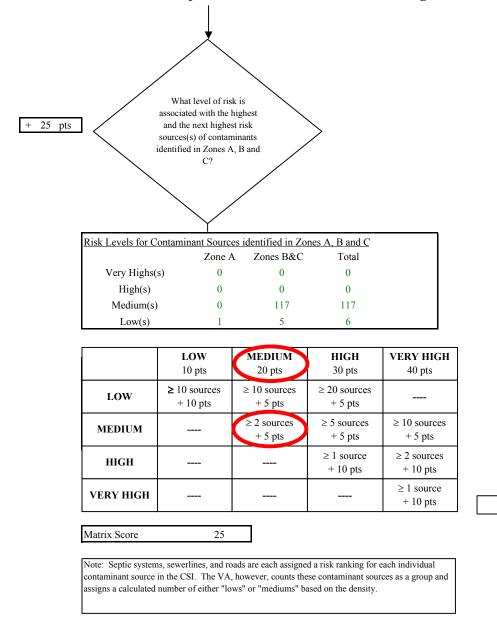


Chart 6. Vulnerability analysis for Riverview RV Park - Nitrates and Nitrites





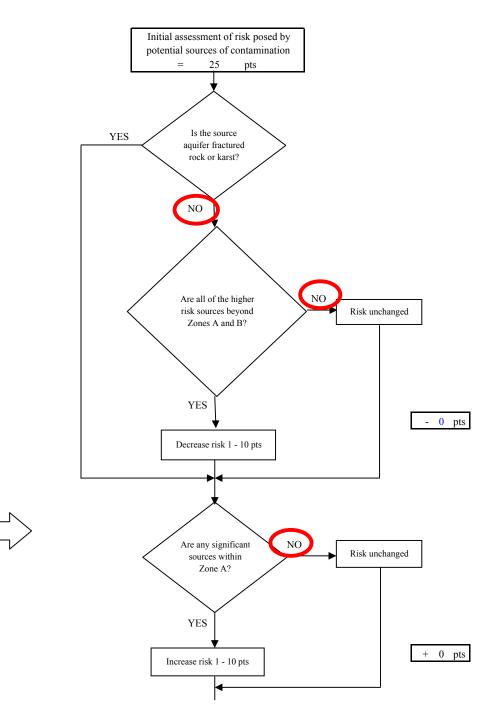
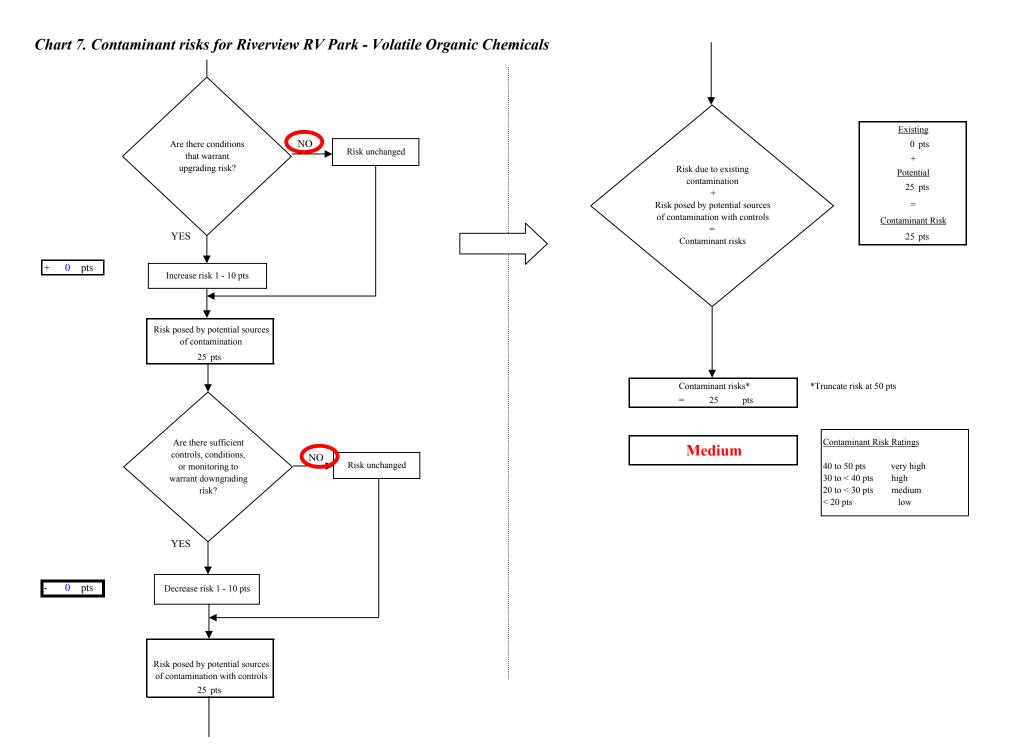


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for Riverview RV Park - Volatile Organic Chemicals



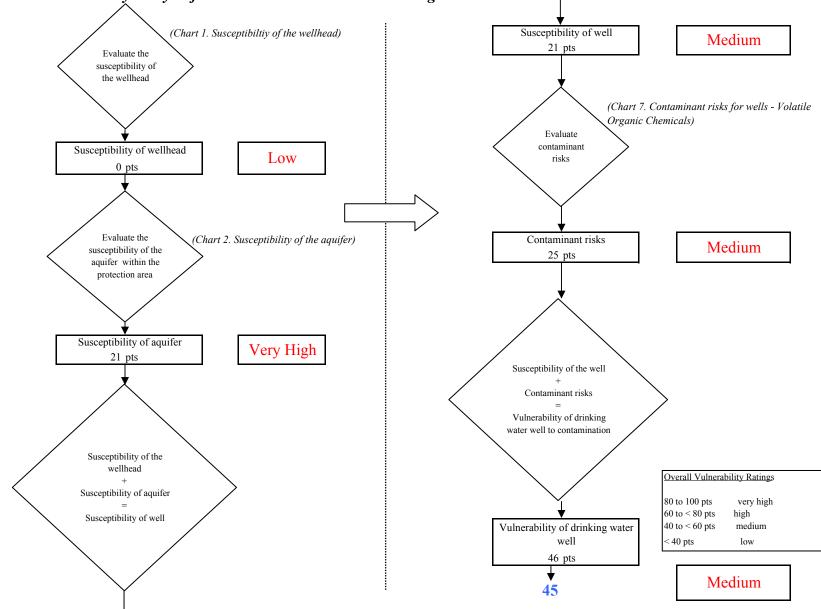


Chart 8. Vulnerability analysis for Riverview RV Park - Volatile Organic Chemicals