

Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and
Vulnerability Assessment for
Alaska Airlines Gustavus,
Gustavus, Alaska
PWSID #111476

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM REPORT NO. 703

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Source Water Assessment for Alaska Airlines Gustavus Gustavus, Alaska PWSID #111476

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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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Source Water Assessment for Alaska Airlines Gustavus, Gustavus, Alaska

Drinking Water Protection Program Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The public water system for Alaska Airlines Gustavus is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system consisting of one well. The Alaska Airlines Gustavus is located at the Gustavus Airport. The wellhead received a susceptibility rating of **Low** and the aquifer a susceptibility rating of **High**. Combining these two ratings produces a **Medium** rating for the natural susceptibility of the wells. Identified potential and current sources of contaminants for Alaska Airlines Gustavus public drinking water source includes: wastewater collection systems; aboveground diesel and heating oil tanks; and paved highways and roads. 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 sources for Alaska Airlines Gustavus received a vulnerability rating of **Medium** for bacteria and viruses, nitrates and nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals.

ALASKA AIRLINES GUSTAVUS PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

Alaska Airlines Gustavus public water system is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system. The system consists of one well that is currently in service at the Alaska Airlines facility in Gustavus, Alaska (please see the inset of Map 1 in Appendix A for location). The population of Gustavus is approximately 380.

Gustavus averages about 75 inches of precipitation per year; and approximately 103 inches of snow. The groundwater aquifers underlying the area are recharged through the infiltration of precipitation and surface water. Groundwater aquifers in the region generally occur in the fractured bedrock and unconsolidated sediments deposited by glaciers and/or rivers.

The Gustavus area topography varies from near sea level along Icy Strait on one side to 4,300 feet to the Chilkat Range and Fairweather Mountains surrounding Gustavus.

According to a Water System Inventory information and a Site Plan from 1997, there is one well. This well was installed in 1997 at a depth of 17 feet below ground surface. The well casing is 1¼-inches in diameter and connects to 1¼ inch diameter well point.

The Survey for the water system indicates that the land surface is appropriately sloped away from the well providing adequate surface water drainage. Because the well is a driven well point, the well is not likely grouted according to ADEC guidelines. Proper grouting provides added protection against contaminants traveling along the well casing and into source waters.

This system operates seasonally from June through September and serves approximately 0 residents and 100 non-residents through the service connection.

ALASKA AIRLINES GUSTAVUS DRINKING WATER PROTECTION AREA

In order to evaluate whether a drinking water source is at risk, we must first evaluate what are the most likely pathways for surface contamination to reach the groundwater. 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 recharge area. This area is designated as the Drinking Water Protection Area (DWPA). Because releases of contaminants within the DWPA are most likely to impact the drinking water well, this area will serve as the focus for voluntary protection efforts.

An analytical calculation was used to determine the size and shape of the DWPA. The input parameters describing the attribute of the aquifer in this calculation were adopted from the U.S. Geological Survey (Patrick, Brabets, and Glass, 1989), and State of Alaska Department of Water Resources (Jokela, et. al., 1991). Additional methods were also used to take into account any uncertainties in groundwater flow and aquifer characteristics to arrive at a meaningful DPWA (Please refer to the Guidance Manual for Class B Public Water Systems for additional information).

The DWPA's established for wells by the ADEC are usually separated into four zones. These zones correspond to differences in the time-of-travel (TOT) of the water moving through the aquifer to the well.

The TOT for contaminants within the water varies and is dependent on the physical and chemical characteristics of each contaminant. The following is a summary of the four protection area zones for wells and the calculated time-of-travel for each:

Table 1. Definition of Zones

Zone	Definition
A	¼ the distance for the 2-yr. time-of-travel
B	Less than the 2 year time-of-travel
C	Less Than the 5 year time-of-travel
D	Less than the 10 year time-of-travel

The DWPA for Alaska Airlines Gustavus extends approximately 1.3 miles north of the well location. Development in the vicinity of the well occurs in Zones A, B, and C (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 Alaska Airlines Gustavus DWPA. This inventory was completed through a search of agency records and other publicly-available information. Potential sources of contamination to the drinking water aquifer include 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 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 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 function of toxicity and volumes of specific contaminants associated with that source. Rankings include:

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

The TOT for contaminants within the water varies and 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 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 potential and existing sources of contamination with respect to bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals.

VULNERABILITY OF ALASKA AIRLINES GUSTAVUS 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 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 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 well for the Alaska Airlines Gustavus is completed in an unconfined aquifer. Because unconfined aquifers are recharged by surface water and precipitation that migrates downward from the surface, contaminants at the surface have the potential to adversely impact this aquifer. Table 2 shows the Susceptibility scores and ratings for Alaska Airlines Gustavus

Table 2. Susceptibility

	Score	Rating
Susceptibility of the Wellhead	5	Low
Susceptibility of the Aquifer	18	High
Natural Susceptibility	23	Medium

Contaminant risks to a drinking water source depend on the type, number or density, and distribution of contaminant sources. This score has been derived from an examination of existing and historical contamination that has been detected at the drinking water source 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 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	25	Medium
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	27	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	50	Medium
Nitrates and Nitrites	50	Medium
Volatile Organic Chemicals	50	Medium

Bacteria and Viruses

The contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses is **Medium** with the wastewater collection systems, and paved highways and roads located within Zone A representing the risk to the drinking water well (See Chart 3 – Contaminant Risks for Bacteria and Viruses in Appendix D).

Only a small amount of bacteria and viruses are required to endanger public health. Bacteria and viruses sampling data were not detected in recent water sampling of the system at the Alaska Airlines Gustavus. However, after combining the contaminant risks with the overall natural susceptibility of the well, the vulnerability of the well to contamination by bacteria and viruses is **Medium**.

Nitrates and Nitrites

The contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites is **Medium** with the wastewater collection systems, and paved highways and roads representing the risk to this source of public drinking water (See Chart 5 - Contaminant Risks for Nitrates and/or Nitrites in Appendix D).

Sampling history for Alaska Airlines Gustavus indicates that nitrates have been detected in the water, but only in very low concentrations (most recently at 0.249 mg/L on 3/24/03) or 3% Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). 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. Due to the high solubility and weak retention by soil, nitrates are very mobile, moving at approximately the same rate as water.

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

Volatile Organic Chemicals

The contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals is **Medium** with the wastewater collection systems, aboveground diesel and heating oil tanks; and paved highways and roads creating the only known risk for volatile organic chemicals (See Chart 7 – Contaminant Risks for Volatile Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

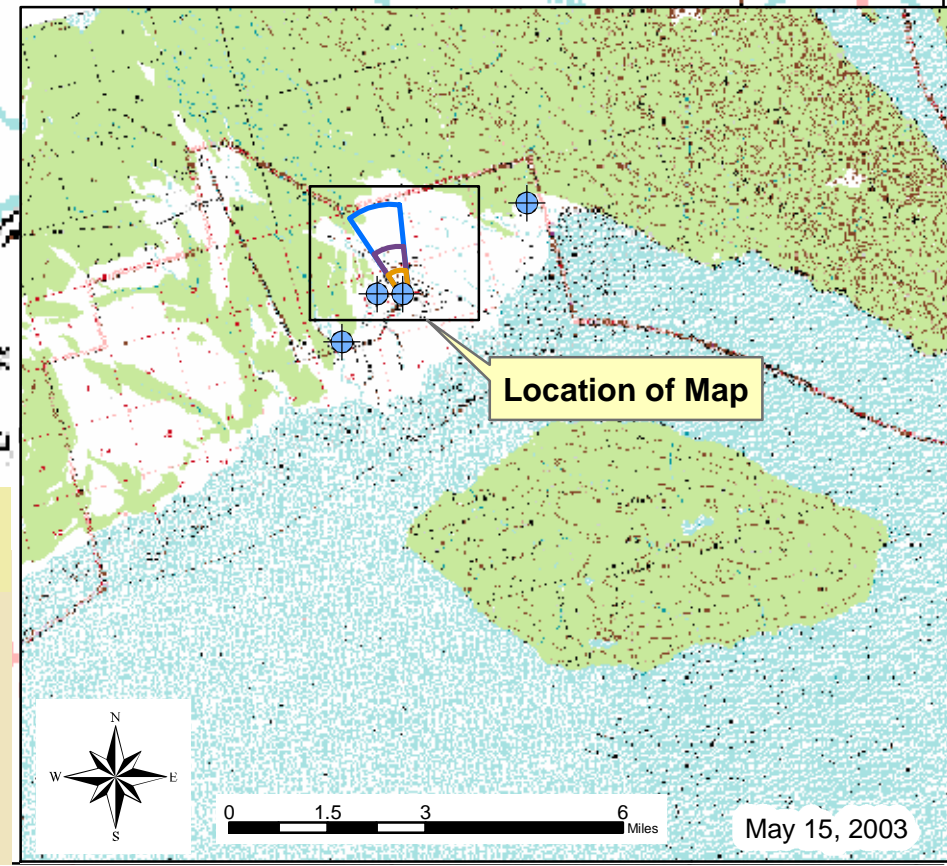
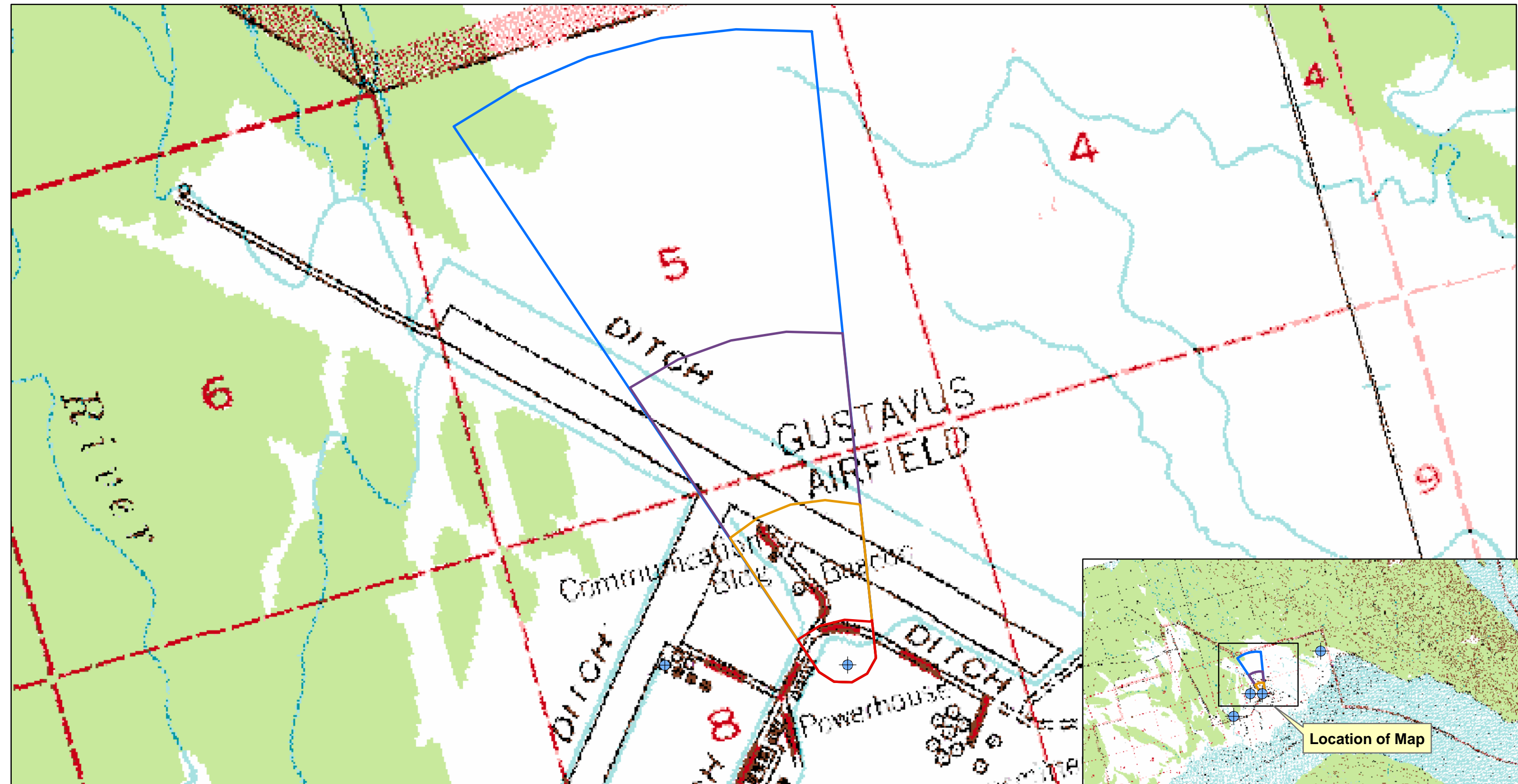
Recent sample data for the drinking water at Alaska Airlines Gustavus indicates volatile organic chemicals were not detected in recent water sampling of the system. However, after combining the contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination by volatile organic chemicals is **Medium**.

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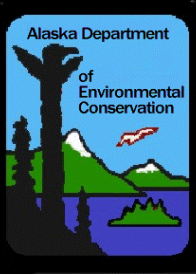
APPENDIX A

Alaska Airlines Gustavus Drinking Water Protection Area Location Map (Map 1)



Map 1: Alaska Airline Gustavus Drinking Water Protection Areas

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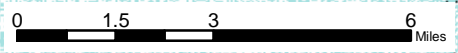
Data Sources:
Background image - USGS 1:63,000 mapping

Protection zones were delineated based upon streams noted on USGS 1:63,000 mapping.

Legend

- Public Drinking Water Systems
- Zone A Protection Area**
 Several Months Travel Time
- Zone B Protection Area**
 Less than 2 Years Travel Time

- Zone C Protection Area**
 Less than 5 Years Travel Time
- Zone D Protection Area**
 Less than 10 Years Travel Time



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APPENDIX B

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Alaska Airlines Gustavus (Tables 1-4)

Table 1

*Contaminant Source Inventory for
Alaska Airlines Gustavus*

PWSID 111476.001

<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-1	A	2	Gustavus Airport Sewer Lift Station
Tanks, diesel (above ground)	T06	T06-1	A	2	Gustavus Airport Diesel Fuel Tank
Tanks, diesel (above ground)	T06	T06-2	A	2	Gustavus Airport Diesel Fuel Tank
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-1	A	2	Gustavus Airport Nonresidential Heating Oil Tank
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	A	2	Road to Gustavus Airport Landing Strip
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-2	A	2	Road to Gustavus Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3	B	2	Second Road to Gustavus Airport Landing Strip
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-4	B	2	Gustavus Airport Landing Strip

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 111476.001

Table 2

*Alaska Airlines Gustavus
Sources of Bacteria and Viruses*

<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Risk Ranking for Analysis</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-1	A	Medium	2	Gustavus Airport Sewer Lift Station
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	A	Low	2	Road to Gustavus Airport Landing Strip
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-2	A	Low	2	Road to Gustavus Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3	B	Low	2	Second Road to Gustavus Airport Landing Strip
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-4	B	Low	2	Gustavus Airport Landing Strip

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 111476.001

Table 3

*Alaska Airlines Gustavus
Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites*

<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Risk Ranking for Analysis</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-1	A	Medium	2	Gustavus Airport Sewer Lift Station
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	A	Low	2	Road to Gustavus Airport Landing Strip
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-2	A	Low	2	Road to Gustavus Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3	B	Low	2	Second Road to Gustavus Airport Landing Strip
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-4	B	Low	2	Gustavus Airport Landing Strip

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 111476.001

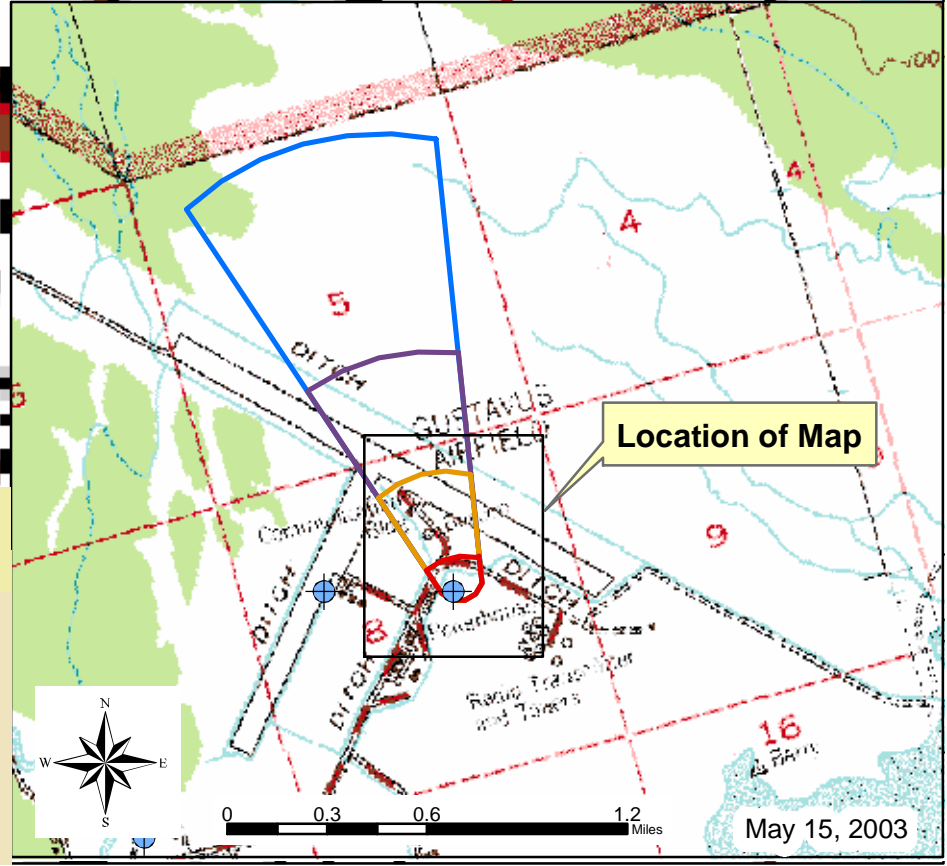
Table 4

*Alaska Airlines Gustavus
Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals*

<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Risk Ranking for Analysis</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01-1	A	Low	2	Gustavus Airport Sewer Lift Station
Tanks, diesel (above ground)	T06	T06-1	A	Medium	2	Gustavus Airport Diesel Fuel Tank
Tanks, diesel (above ground)	T06	T06-2	A	Medium	2	Gustavus Airport Diesel Fuel Tank
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-1	A	Low	2	Gustavus Airport Nonresidential Heating Oil Tank
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	A	Low	2	Road to Gustavus Airport Landing Strip
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-2	A	Low	2	Road to Gustavus Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3	B	Low	2	Second Road to Gustavus Airport Landing Strip
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-4	B	Low	2	Gustavus Airport Landing Strip

APPENDIX C

Alaska Airlines Gustavus Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources (Map 2)



Map 2: Drinking Water Protection Areas for Alaska Airline Gustavus and Potential and Existing Sources of Contamination

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Data Sources: Background image - USGS 1:63,000 mapping

Protection zones were delineated based upon streams noted on USGS 1:63,000 mapping.

- Legend**
- Public Drinking Water Systems
 - Sewer Lift Station (D01)
 - Diesel Tank (T06)
 - Nonresidential Heating Oil Tank (T14)
 - Zone A Protection Area**
 - Several Months Travel Time
 - Zone B Protection Area**
 - Less than 2 Years Travel Time
 - Zone C Protection Area**
 - Less than 5 Years Travel Time
 - Zone D Protection Area**
 - Less than 10 Years Travel Time

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APPENDIX D

Vulnerability Analysis for Alaska Airlines Gustavus Public Drinking Water Source (Charts 1-8)

Chart 1. Susceptibility of the wellhead - Alaska Airline Gustavus

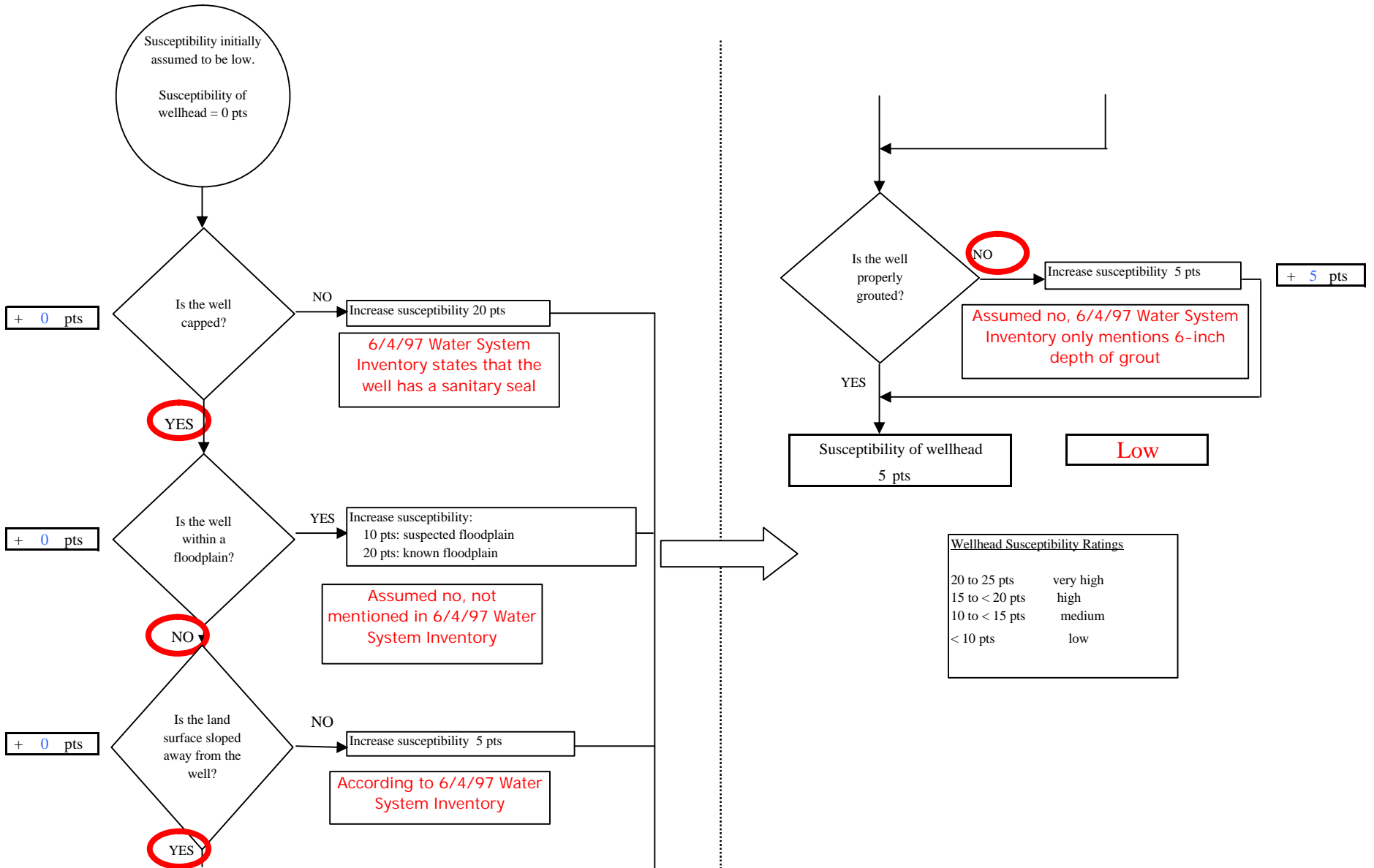
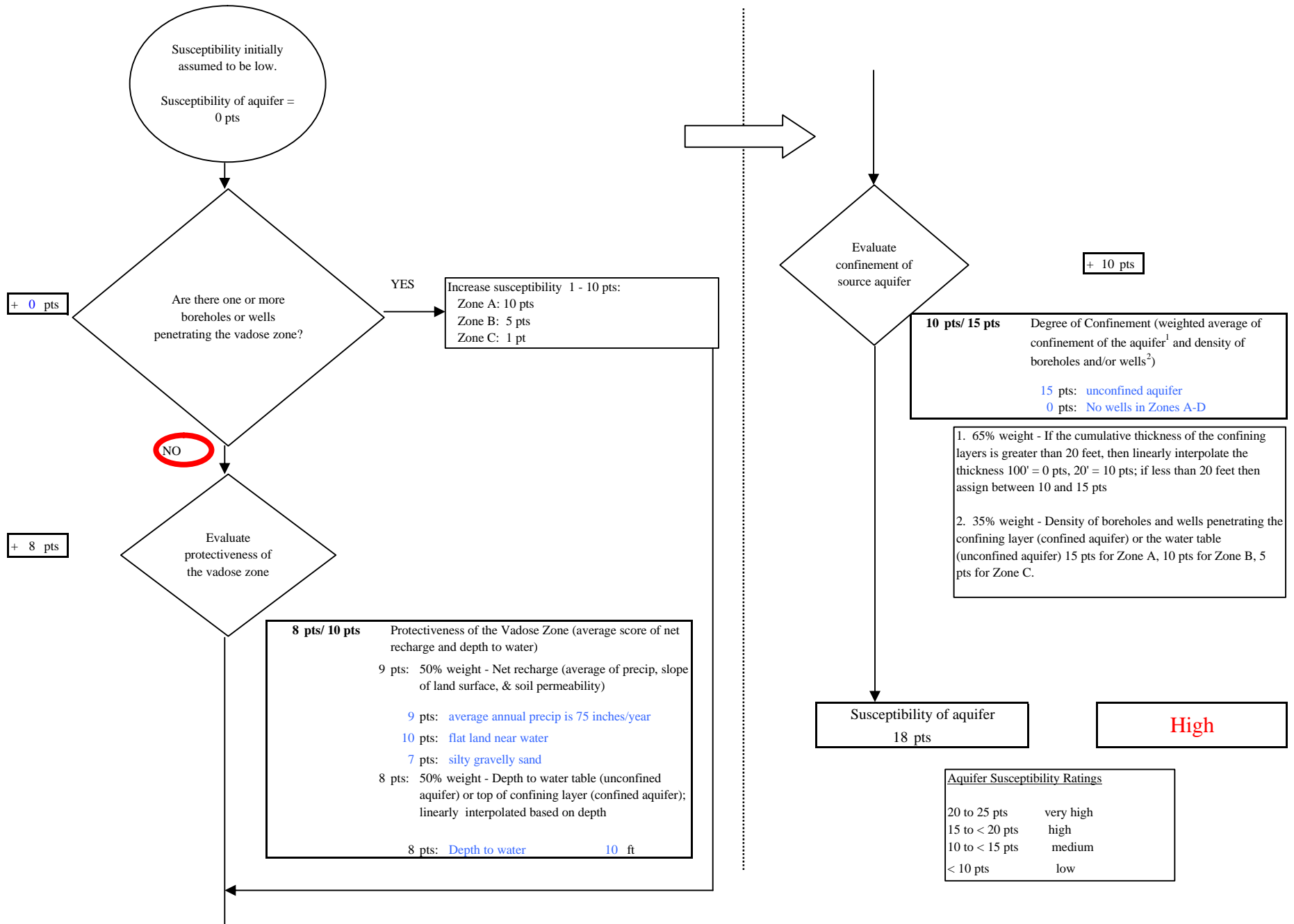
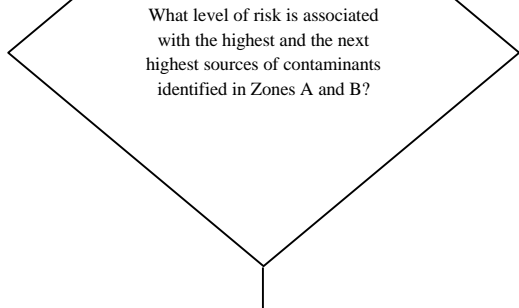
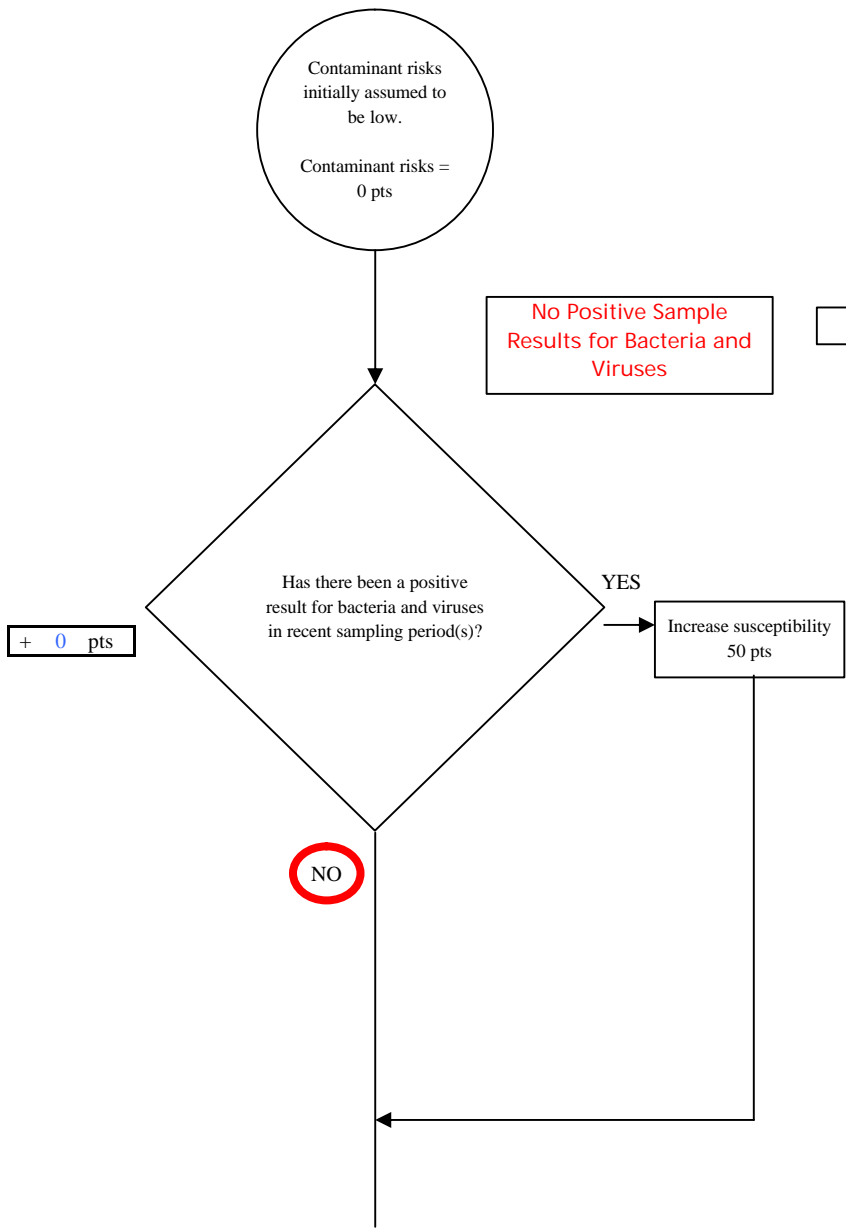


Chart 2. Susceptibility of the aquifer - Alaska Airline Gustavus



Aquifer Susceptibility Ratings	
20 to 25 pts	very high
15 to < 20 pts	high
10 to < 15 pts	medium
< 10 pts	low

Chart 3. Contaminant risks for Alaska Airline Gustavus - Bacteria & Viruses



Risk Rankings for Contaminant Sources Identified in Zones A and B

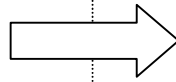
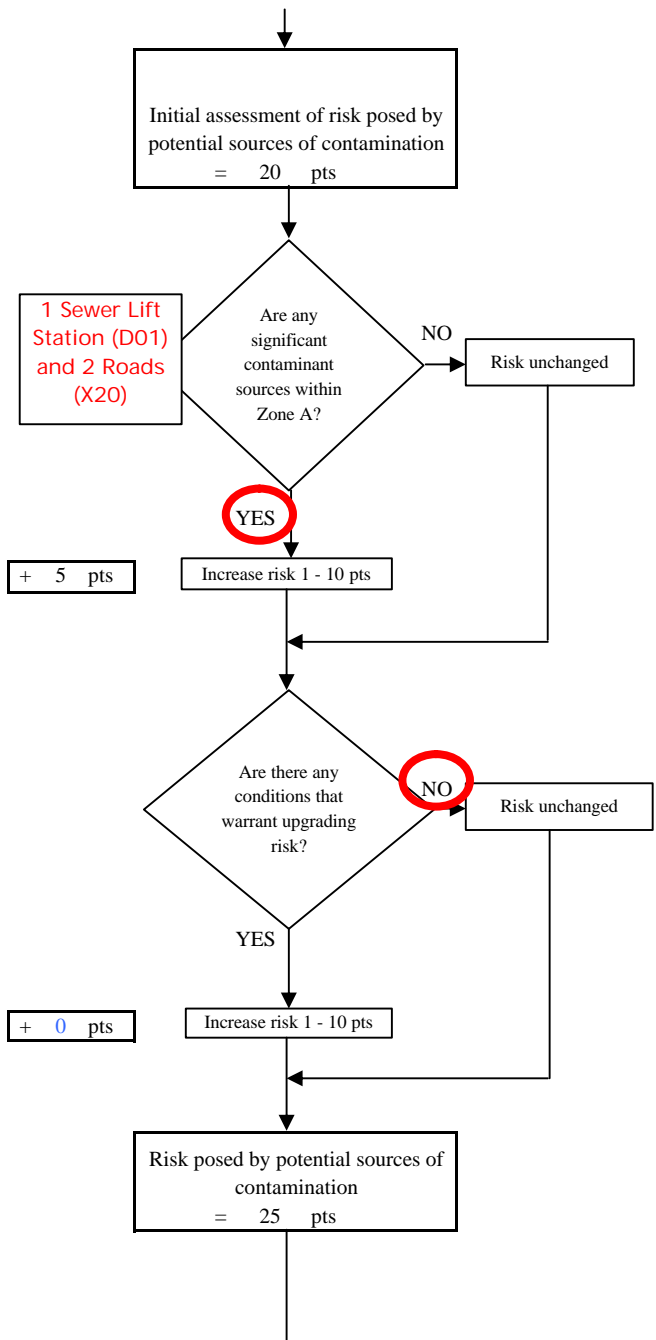
	Zone A	Zone B	Total
Very High(s)	0	0	0
High(s)	0	0	0
Medium(s)	1	0	1
Low(s)	1	1	2

	LOW 10 pts	MEDIUM 20 pts	HIGH 30 pts	VERY HIGH 40 pts
LOW	³ 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

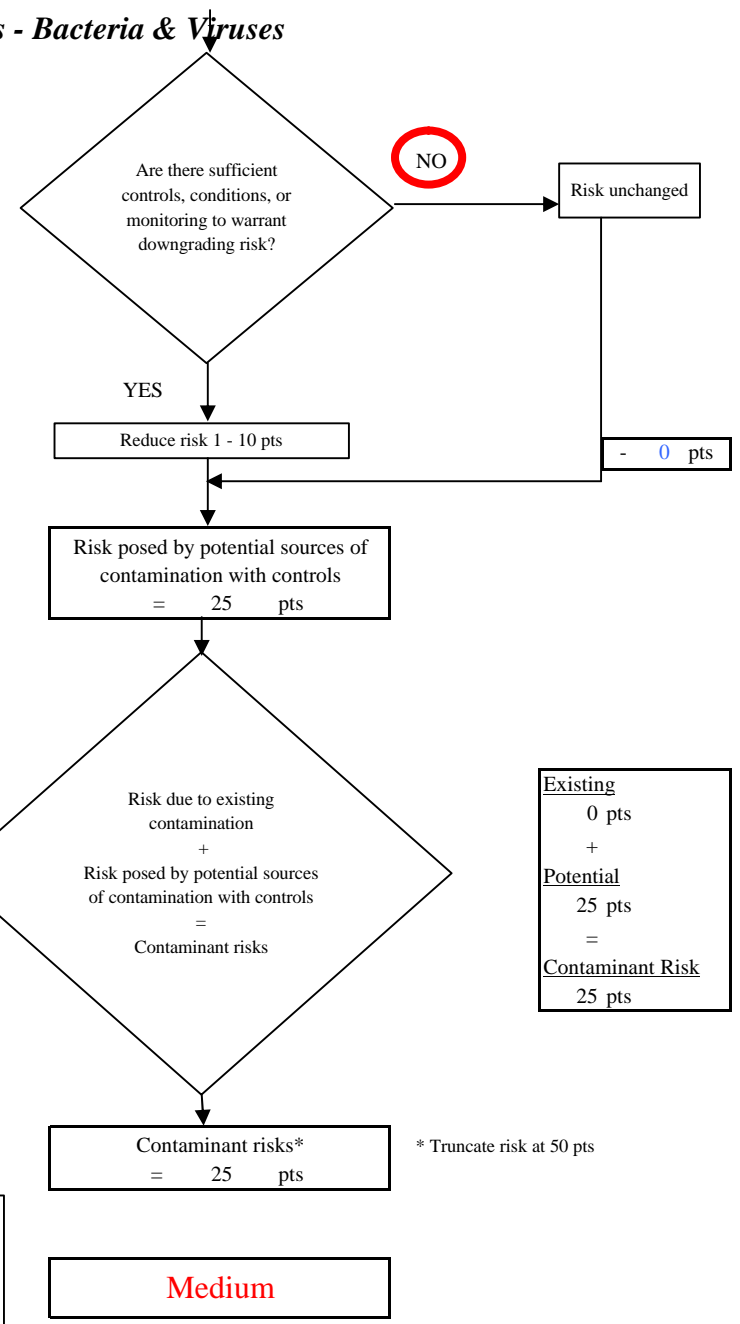
Matrix Score 20

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.

Chart 3. Contaminant risks for Alaska Airline Gustavus - Bacteria & Viruses



Contaminant Risk Ratings	
40 to 50 pts	very high
30 to < 40 pts	high
20 to < 30 pts	medium
< 20 pts	low



Existing	0 pts
+	
Potential	25 pts
=	
Contaminant Risk	25 pts

* Truncate risk at 50 pts

Chart 4. Vulnerability analysis for Alaska Airline Gustavus - Bacteria & Viruses

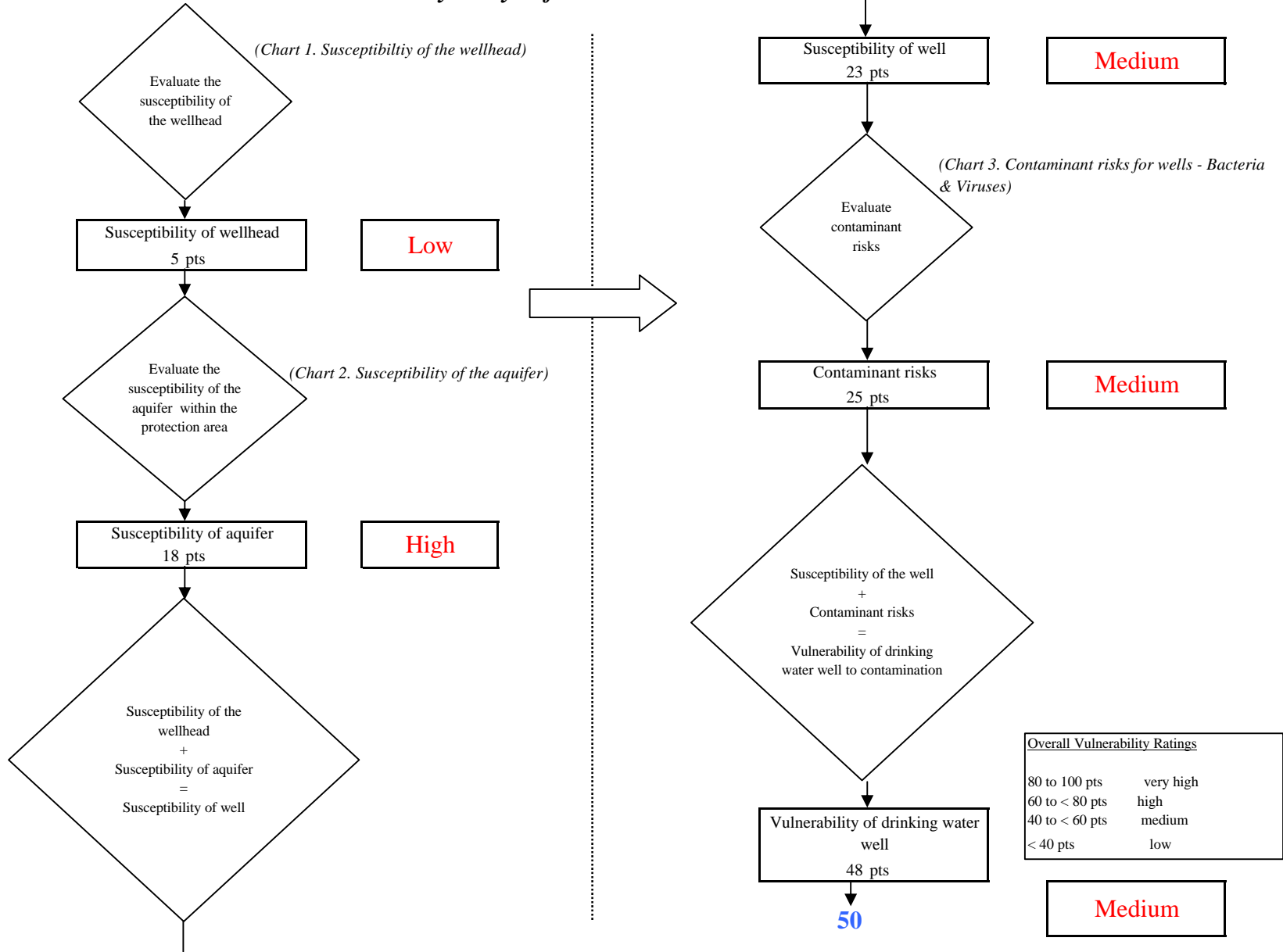


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for Alaska Airline Gustavus - Nitrates and Nitrites

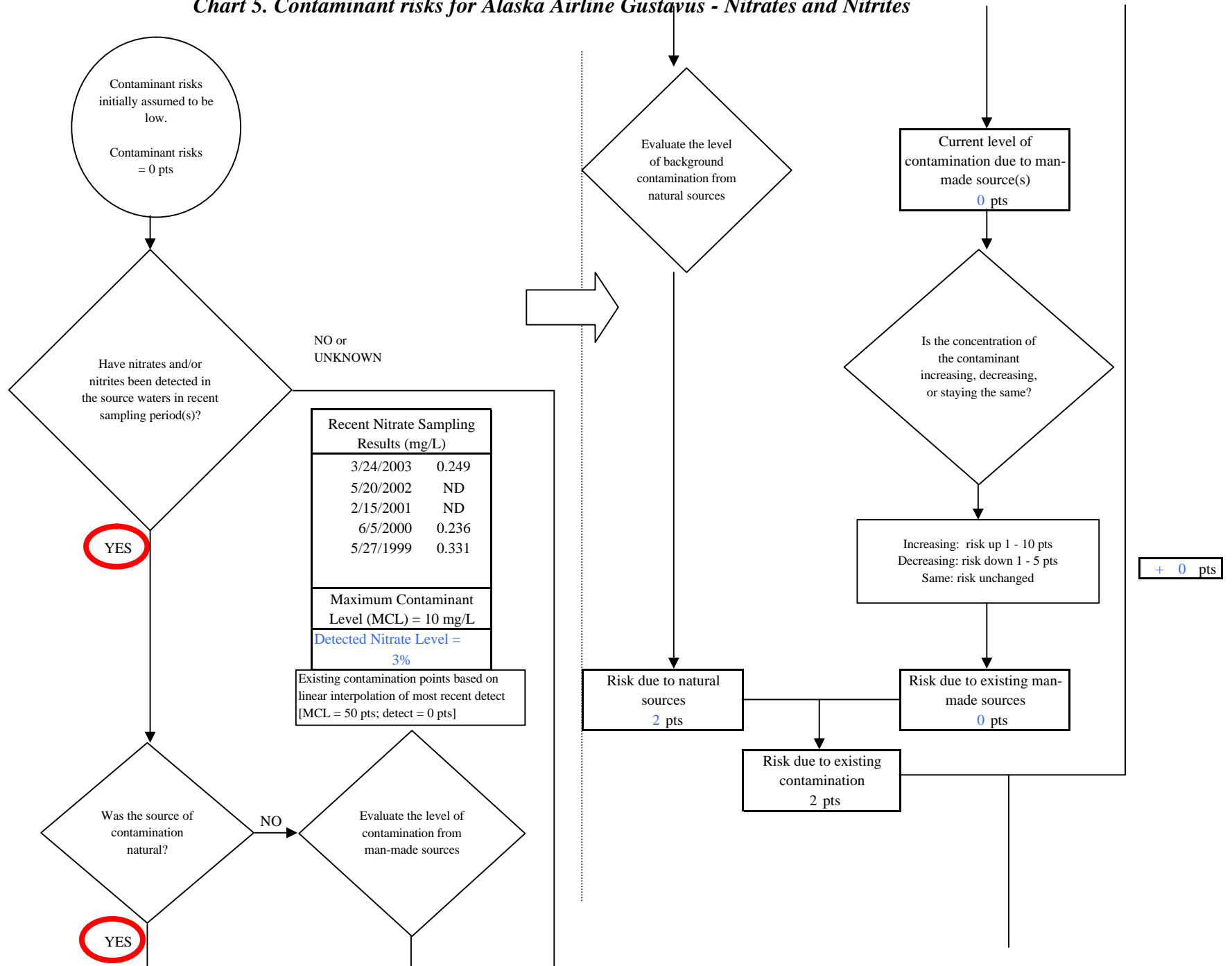


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for Alaska Airline Gustavus - Nitrates and Nitrites

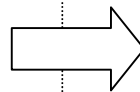
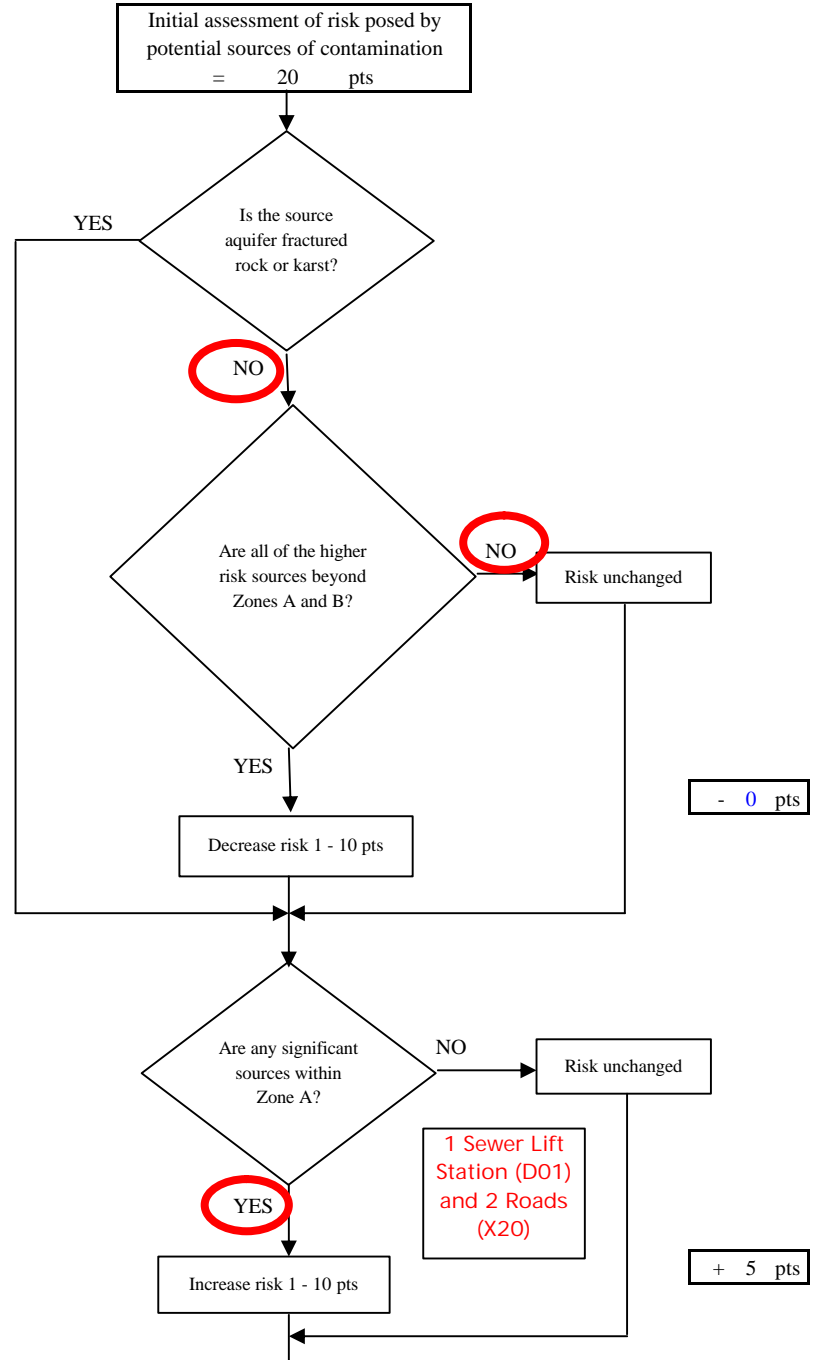
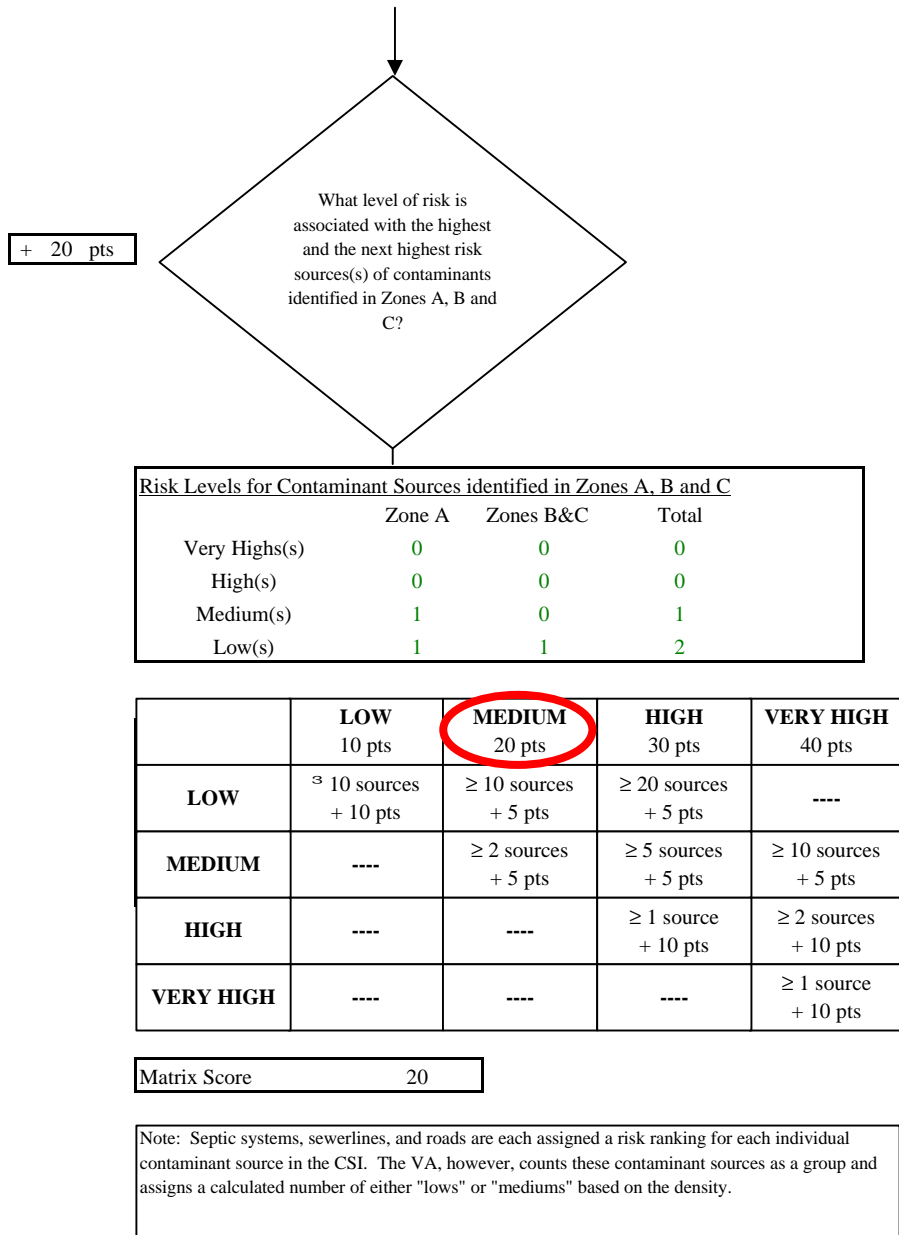


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for Alaska Airline Gustavus - Nitrates and Nitrites

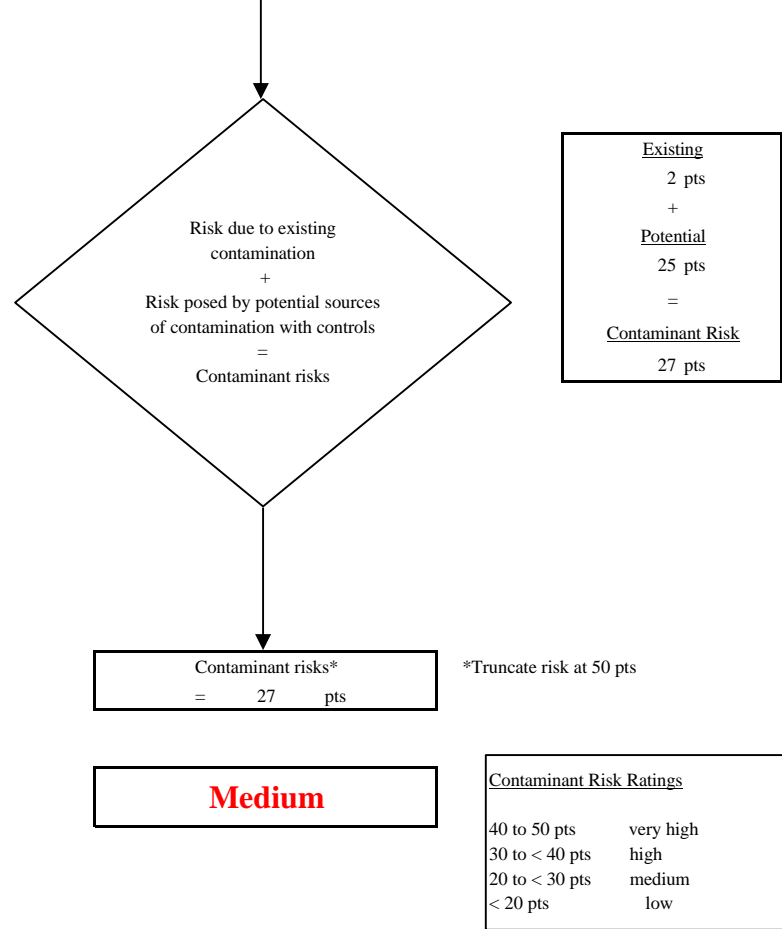
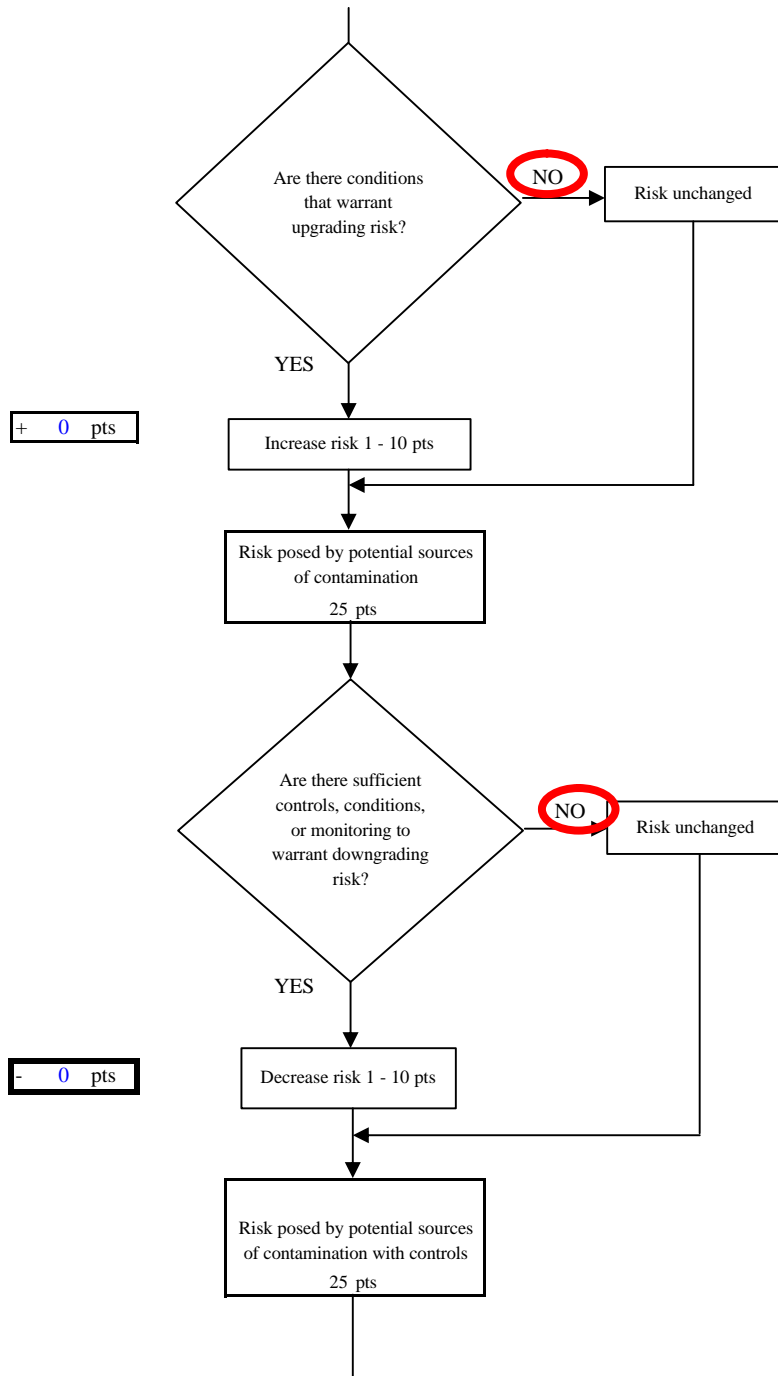


Chart 6. Vulnerability analysis for Alaska Airline Gustavus - Nitrates and Nitrites

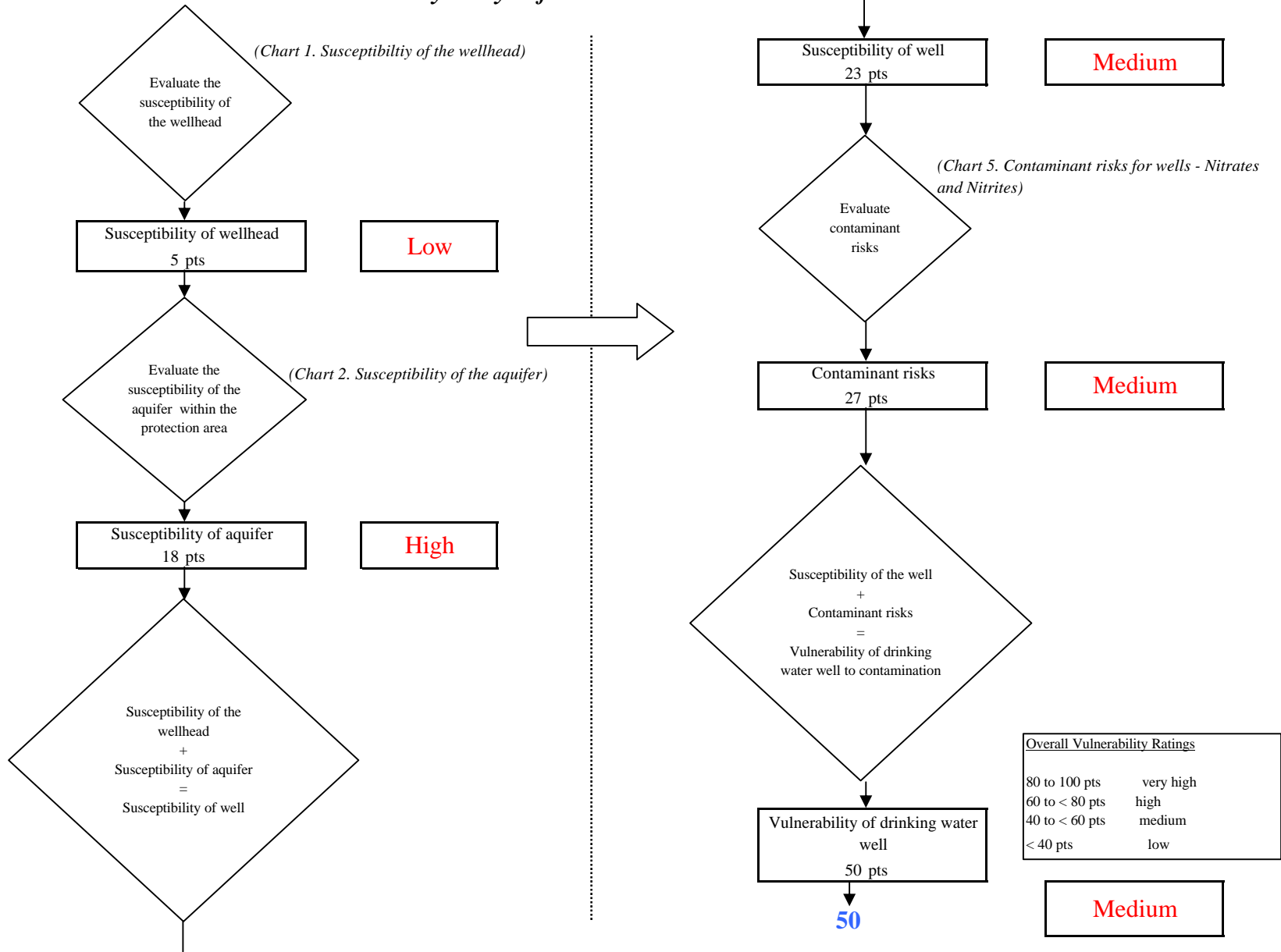


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for Alaska Airline Gustavus - Volatile Organic Chemicals

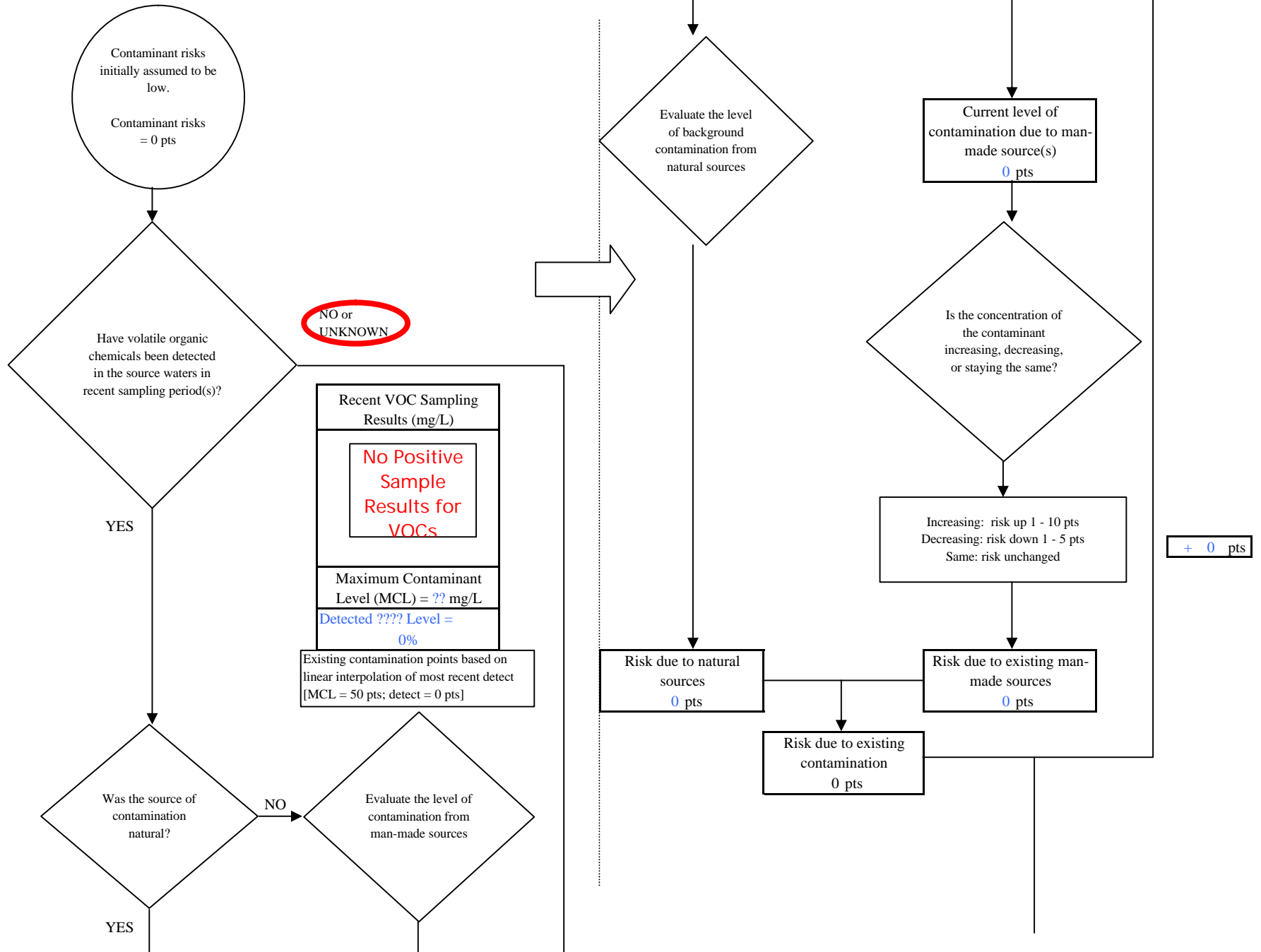
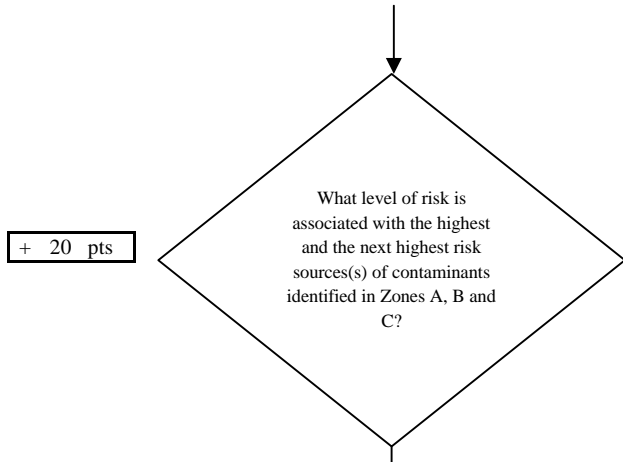


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for Alaska Airline Gustavus - Volatile Organic Chemicals



+ 20 pts

Risk Levels for Contaminant Sources identified in Zones A, B and C			
	Zone A	Zones B&C	Total
Very High(s)	0	0	0
High(s)	0	0	0
Medium(s)	2	0	2
Low(s)	3	1	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 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.

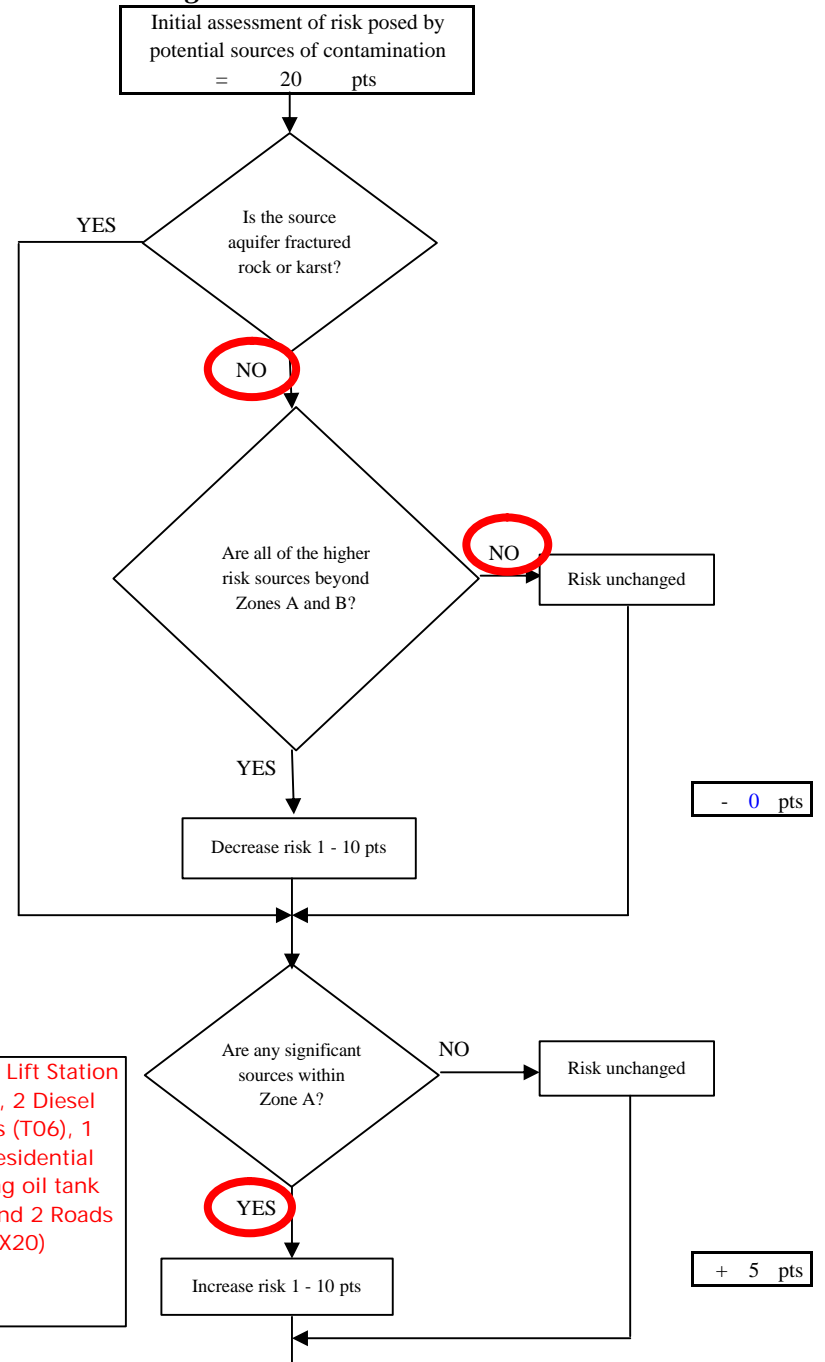


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for Alaska Airline Gustavus - Volatile Organic Chemicals

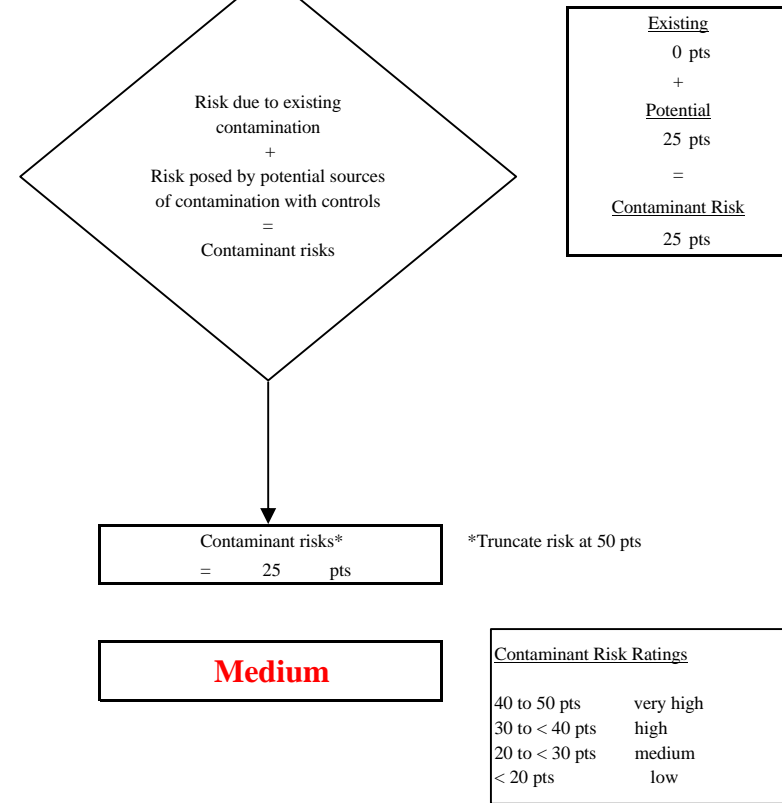
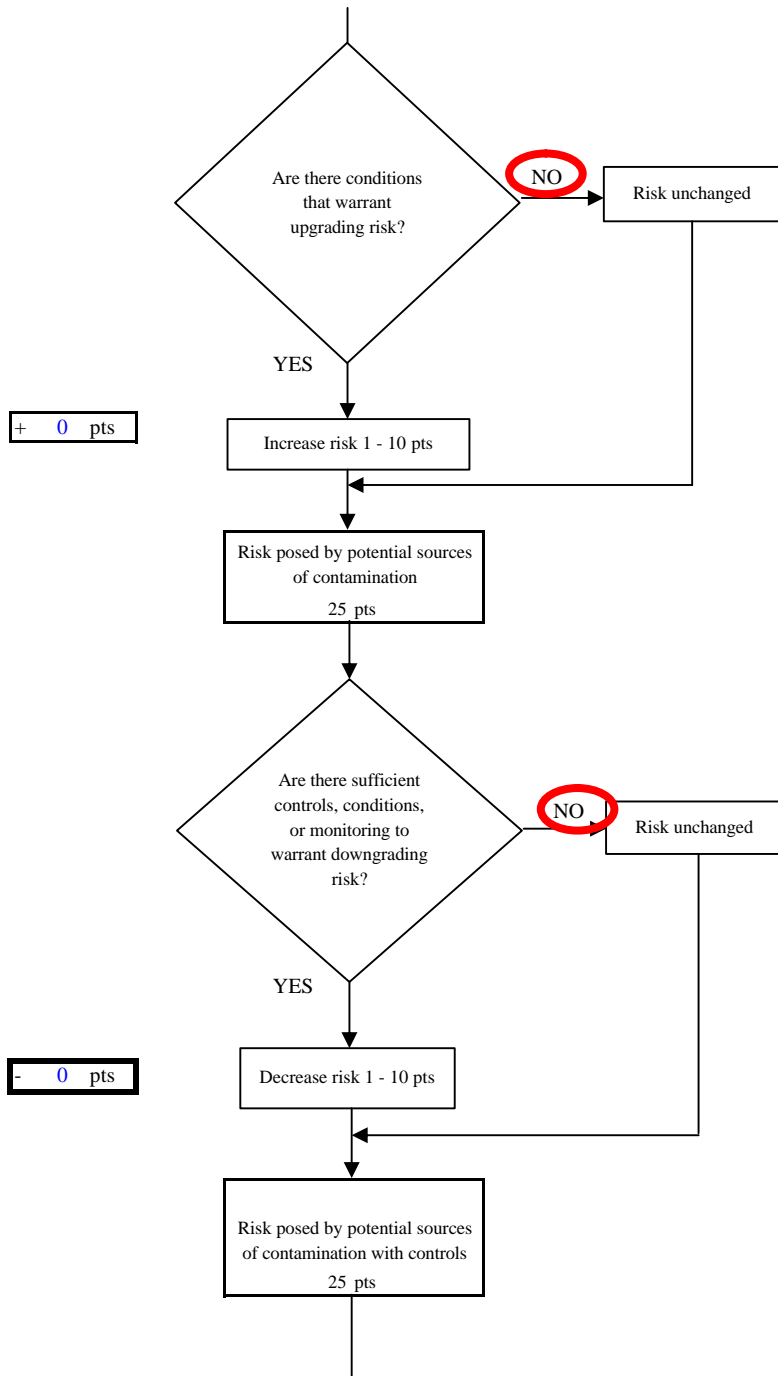


Chart 8. Vulnerability analysis for Alaska Airline Gustavus - Volatile Organic Chemicals

