

Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and Vulnerability Assessment for the City of Haines, Alaska

Piedad Springs Intake

PWSID # 110619.002

June 2003

Drinking Water Protection Program Report #993 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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Source Water Assessment for the City of Haines Public Water System – Piedad Springs Intake

Drinking Water Protection Program Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Haines public water system is a Class A (community) water system that obtains water from both Lilly Lake and Piedad Springs. The Piedad Springs intake is located approximately 2000-feet north of the Haines Highway in an unimproved area beyond the end of Piedad Road. The Piedad Springs protection area is approximately 3.7 square miles in size and received a susceptibility rating of "medium". The aquifer in this area also 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. Paved and unpaved roads, a residential septic system, residential areas, and sewer lines 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 bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, volatile organic chemicals, other organic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, and heavy metals, cyanide, and other inorganic chemicals.

DRINKING WATER SYSTEM AND AREA OVERVIEW

Haines (Sec. 34, T030S, R059E, Copper River Meridian) is located on the western shore of Lynn Canal, between the Chilkoot and Chilkat Rivers. By road, it is 775 miles from Anchorage. (Please see the inset of Map 1 in Appendix A for location). The current population is approximately 1,714 (ADCED, 2003). The Haines water system is a Class A (community) water system that operates year round and obtains water from both Lilly Lake and the Piedad Springs. The Piedad Springs intake is located approximately 2000feet north of the Haines Highway in an unimproved area beyond the end of Piedad Road. (See Map 1 of Appendix A). Most homes are fully plumbed and connected the piped water and sewage systems. Sewage receives primary treatment and is discharged via two ocean outfalls. Haines Sanitation Inc., a privately-held firm, collects refuse and owns the permitted landfill. (ADCED, 2003).

The geography and vegetation of the Haines area is generally composed of cottonwood trees along low lying rivers and streams within the floodplain areas. Hemlock and spruce dominate around valley floors and colluvial toeslopes. Scouler's willow and Sitka alder are abundant. (USDA, 2001).

Haines has a maritime climate characterized by cool summers and mild winters. Summer temperatures range from 46 to 66; winters range from 10 to 36. Temperature extremes have been recorded from -16 to 90. Total precipitation averages 52 inches a year, with 133 inches of snowfall.

PIEDAD SPRINGS 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 Piedad Springs 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 Piedad Springs 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 Piedad Springs 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, cyanide, 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 30 to 39 pts 20 to 29 pts	Very High High Medium			
0 to 19 pts	Low			

Table 2. Susceptibility of the Water Source

S	Score	Rating
Susceptibility of the Spring Susceptibility of the Aquifer	10 14	Medium Medium
Natural Susceptibility	24	Medium

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. Pieda	d Springs	Contaminant	Risks
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Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	12	Low
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	12	Low
Volatile Organic Chemicals	12	Low
Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and		
Other Inorganic Chemicals	12	Low
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	10	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 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. Piedad Springs Overall Vulnerability

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	35	Low
Nitrates and Nitrites	35	Low
Volatile Organic Chemicals	35	Low
Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and		
Other Inorganic Chemicals	35	Low
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	35	Low
Other Organic Chemicals	35	Low

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 January 1999 - May 2003. A possible source of bacteria could be from leaking sewer lines, residential areas, septic systems, or paved/gravel roads.

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 "low" (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.

No nitrate/nitrite sampling data was identified for Piedad Springs. 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 leaking sewer lines, residential areas, septic systems, or 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 "low".

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 and trihalomethanes were detected at levels below the MCL during sampling in 2001, although both of these chemicals typically originate during the process of water treatment and not from the source waters. The MCL for chloroform is 0.2 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and the MCL for total trihalomethanes is 0.1 mg/L.

A possible source of volatile organic chemicals could be from leaking sewer lines, residential areas, septic systems, or paved/gravel roads.

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". No heavy metals sampling was identified for Piedad Springs (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. Leaking sewer lines, residential areas, septic systems, or paved/gravel roads can also contribute 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 Piedad Springs.

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.

REFERENCES

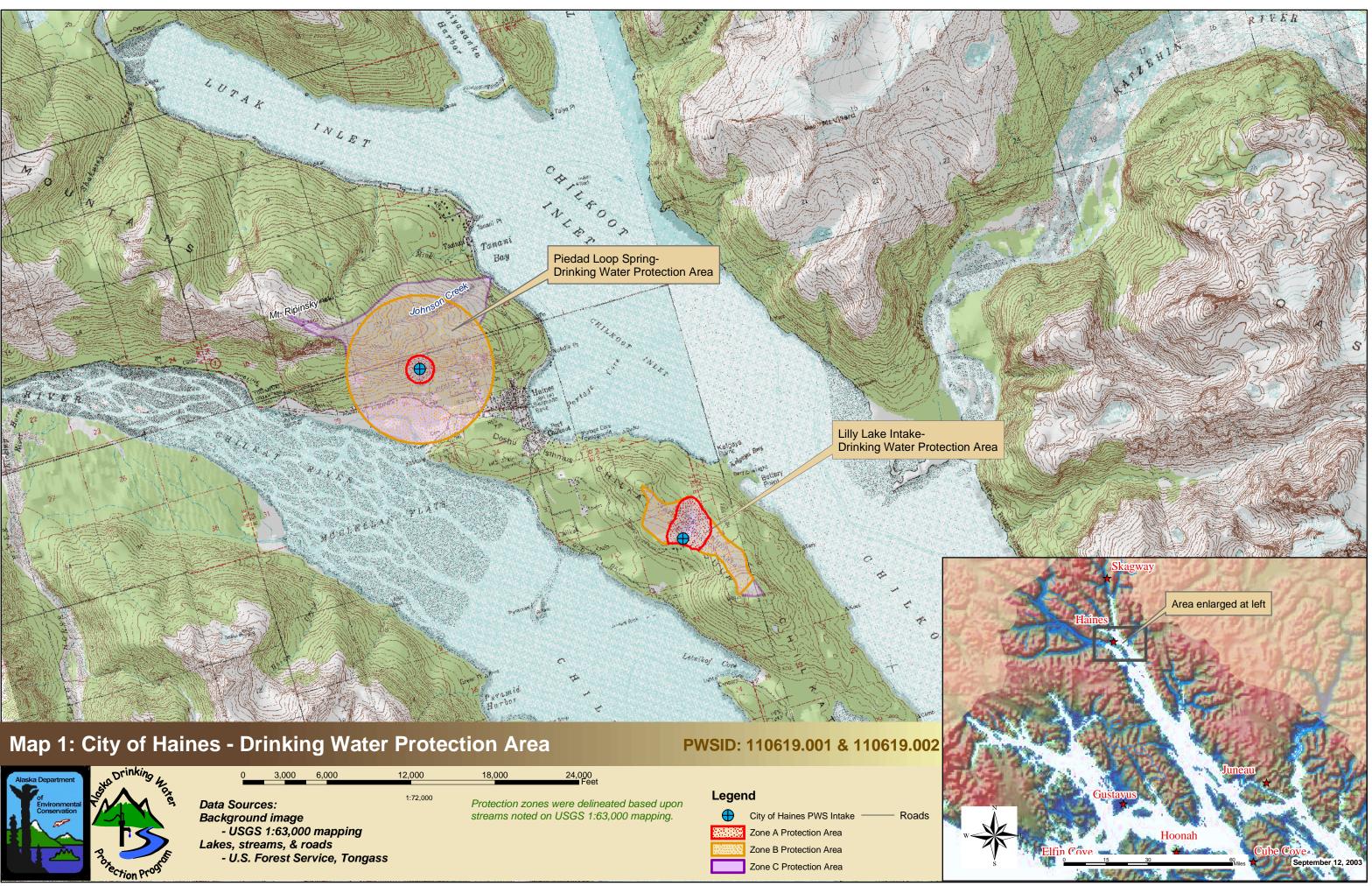
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United States Forest Service – Alaska Region (USDA), 2001. Technical Publication No. R10-TP-75. Ecological Subsections of Southeast Alaska and Neighboring Areas of Canada.

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APPENDIX A

Piedad Springs Drinking Water Protection Area Location Map (Map 1)



Alaska Department	0 3,000 6,000	12,000	18,000	24,000 Feet		
Conservation Co	Data Sources: Background image - USGS 1:63,000 mapping Lakes, streams, & roads - U.S. Forest Service, Tongass	1:72,000		nes were delineated based upon d on USGS 1:63,000 mapping.	LegendImage: City of Haines PWS IntakeRoadsImage: City of A Protection AreaImage: City of B Protection Area	w -

APPENDIX B

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

Contaminant Source Inventory for City of Haines

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Map Number	Comments
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01 1-3	В	2	From Community Profile Mapping from DCED.
Residential Areas	R01	R01 1-18	В	2	From Community Profile Mapping from DCED and from operactor information
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02 - 1	В	2	From operator contact information
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X2 1-4	В	2	USGS 1:63,000 mapping and Community Profile Mapping from DCED.
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24 - 1-7	В	2	USGS 1:63,000 mapping and Community Profile Mapping from DCED.

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 110619.002

City of Haines Sources of Bacteria and Viruses

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01 1-3	В	Medium	2	From Community Profile Mapping from DCED.
Residential Areas	R01	R01 1-18	В	Low	2	From Community Profile Mapping from DCED and from operactor information
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02 - 1	В	Low	2	From operator contact information
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X2 1-4	В	Low	2	USGS 1:63,000 mapping and Community Profile Mapping from DCED.
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24 - 1-7	В	Low	2	USGS 1:63,000 mapping and Community Profile Mapping from DCED.

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 110619.002

City of Haines Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01 1-3	В	Medium	2	From Community Profile Mapping from DCED.
Residential Areas	R01	R01 1-18	В	Low	2	From Community Profile Mapping from DCED and from operactor information
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02 - 1	В	Low	2	From operator contact information
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X2 1-4	В	Low	2	USGS 1:63,000 mapping and Community Profile Mapping from DCED.
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24 - 1-7	В	Low	2	USGS 1:63,000 mapping and Community Profile Mapping from DCED.

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 110619.002

City of Haines Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01 1-3	В	Low	2	From Community Profile Mapping from DCED.
Residential Areas	R01	R01 1-18	В	Low	2	From Community Profile Mapping from DCED and from operactor information
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02 - 1	В	Low	2	From operator contact information
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X2 1-4	В	Low	2	USGS 1:63,000 mapping and Community Profile Mapping from DCED.
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24 - 1-7	В	Low	2	USGS 1:63,000 mapping and Community Profile Mapping from DCED.

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 110619.002

City of Haines 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
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01 1-3	В	Low	2	From Community Profile Mapping from DCED.
Residential Areas	R01	R01 1-18	В	Low	2	From Community Profile Mapping from DCED and from operactor information
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02 - 1	В	Low	2	From operator contact information
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X2 1-4	В	Low	2	USGS 1:63,000 mapping and Community Profile Mapping from DCED.
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24 - 1-7	В	Low	2	USGS 1:63,000 mapping and Community Profile Mapping from DCED.

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 110619.002

City of Haines Sources of Synthetic Organic Chemicals

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01 1-3	В	Low	2	From Community Profile Mapping from DCED.
Residential Areas	R01	R01 1-18	В	Low	2	From Community Profile Mapping from DCED and from operactor information
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02 - 1	В	Low	2	From operator contact information

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

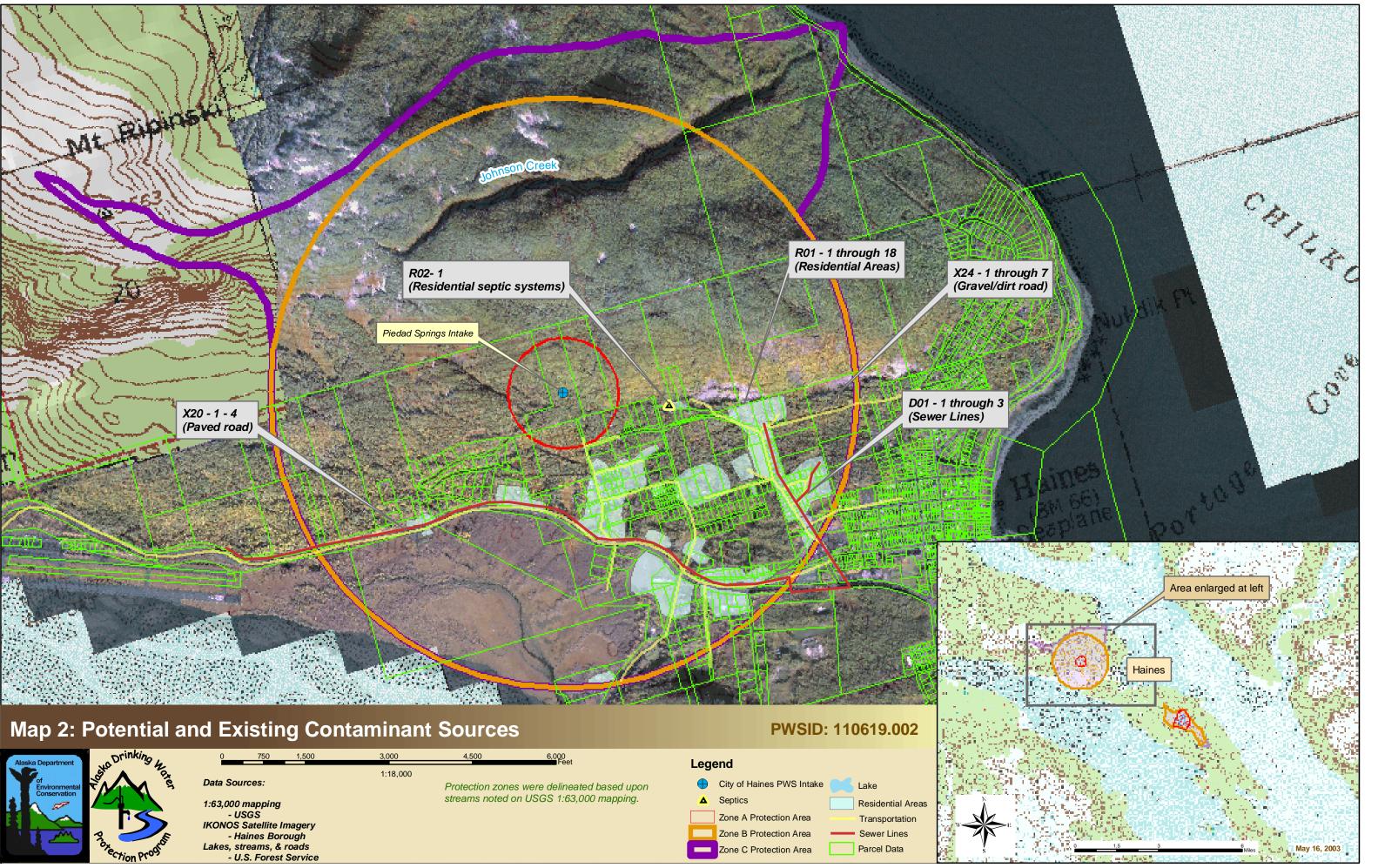
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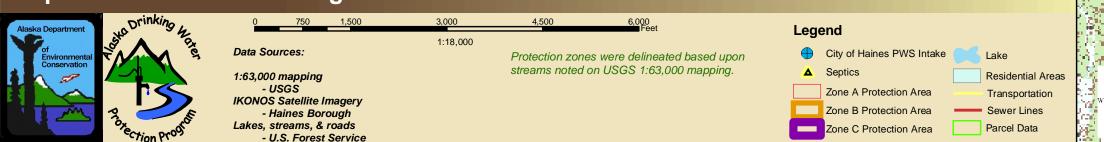
City of Haines Sources of Other Organic Chemicals

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Domestic wastewater collection systems (sewer lines or lift stations)	D01	D01 1-3	В	Low	2	From Community Profile Mapping from DCED.
Residential Areas	R01	R01 1-18	В	Low	2	From Community Profile Mapping from DCED and from operactor information
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02 - 1	В	Low	2	From operator contact information
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X2 1-4	В	Low	2	USGS 1:63,000 mapping and Community Profile Mapping from DCED.
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24 - 1-7	В	Low	2	USGS 1:63,000 mapping and Community Profile Mapping from DCED.

APPENDIX C

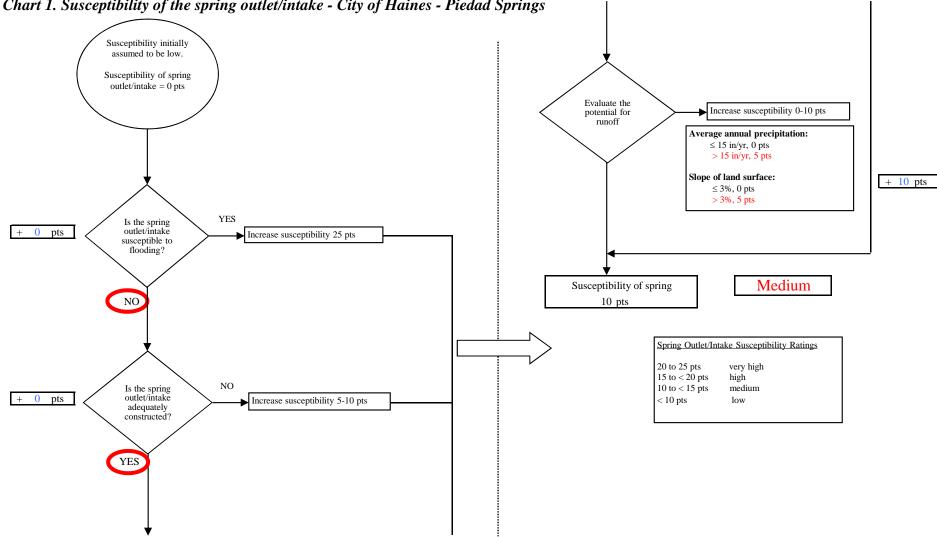
Piedad Springs Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources (Map 2)





APPENDIX D

Vulnerability Analysis and Contaminant Risks (Charts 1-13)





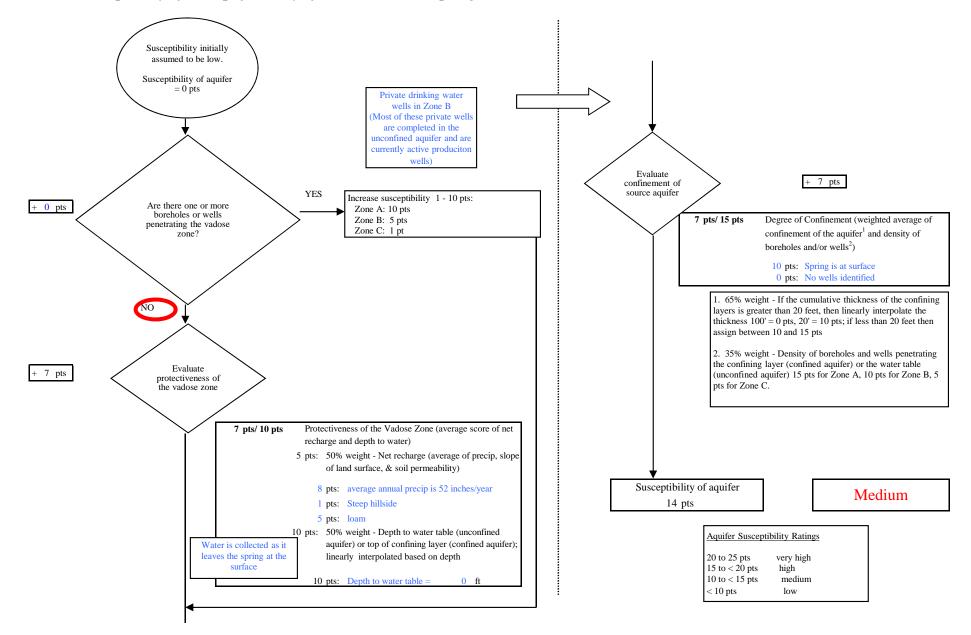


Chart 2. Susceptibility of the aquifer - City of Haines - Piedad Springs

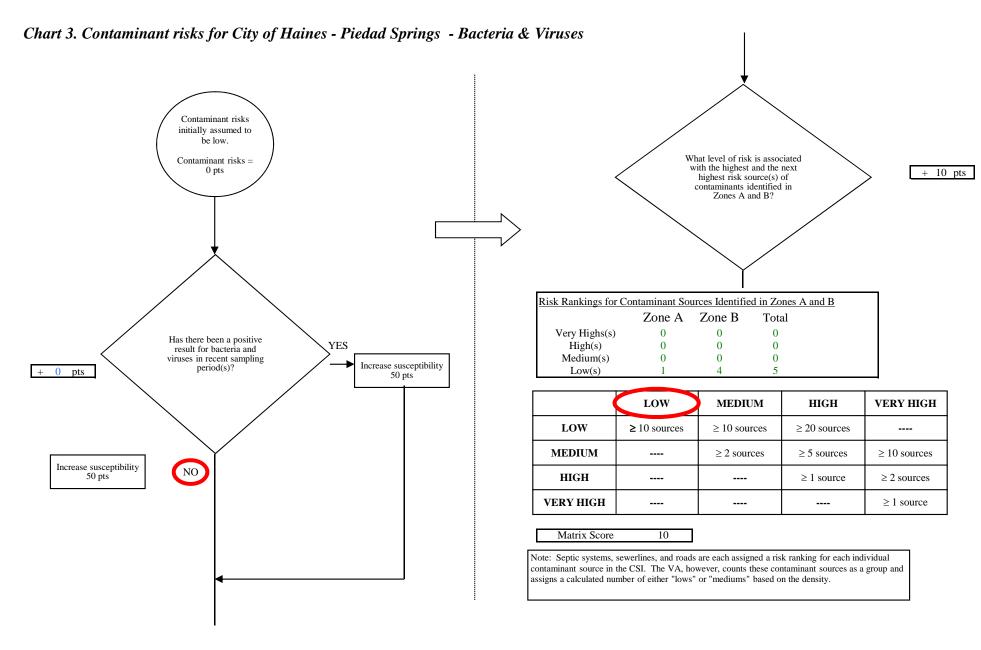
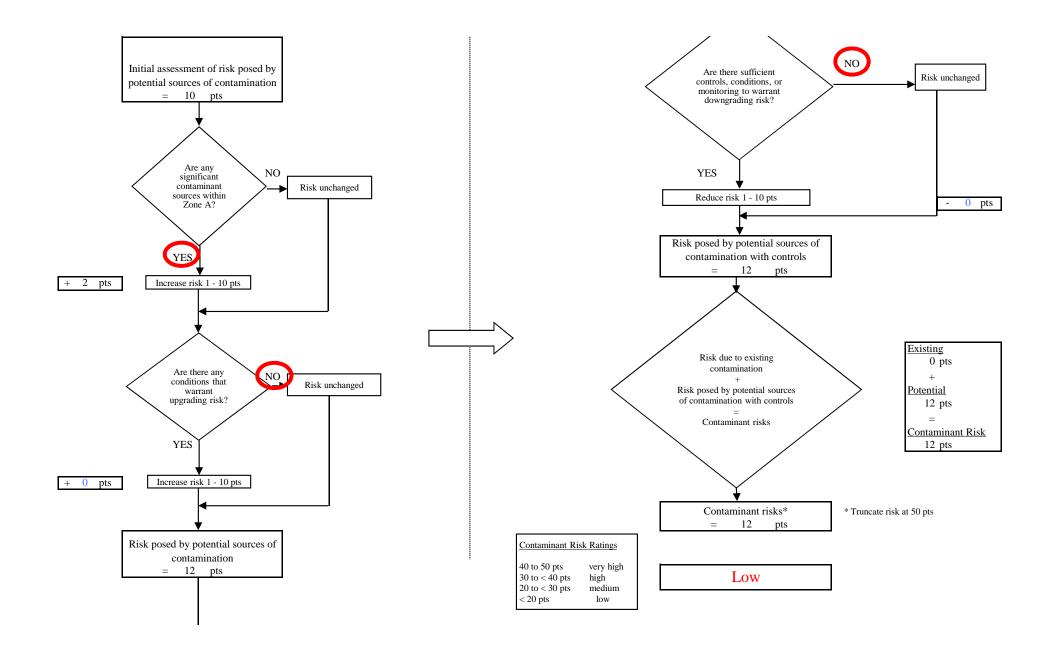


Chart 3. Contaminant risks for City of Haines - Piedad Springs - Bacteria & Viruses

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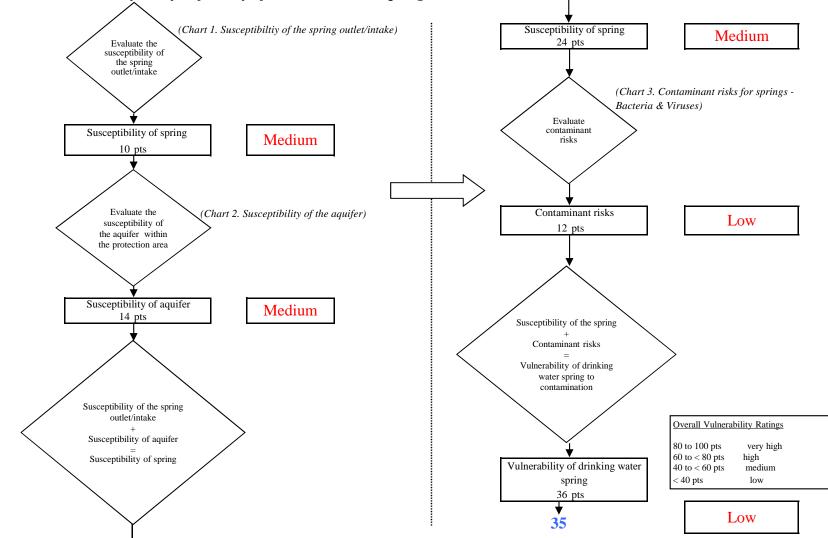
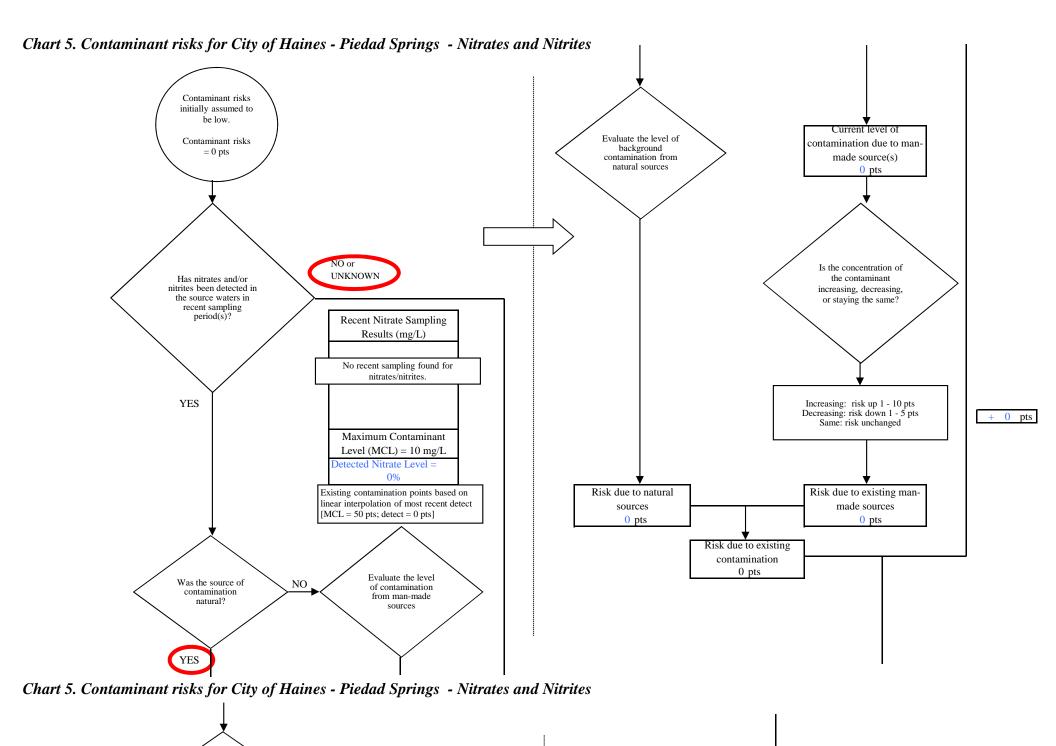
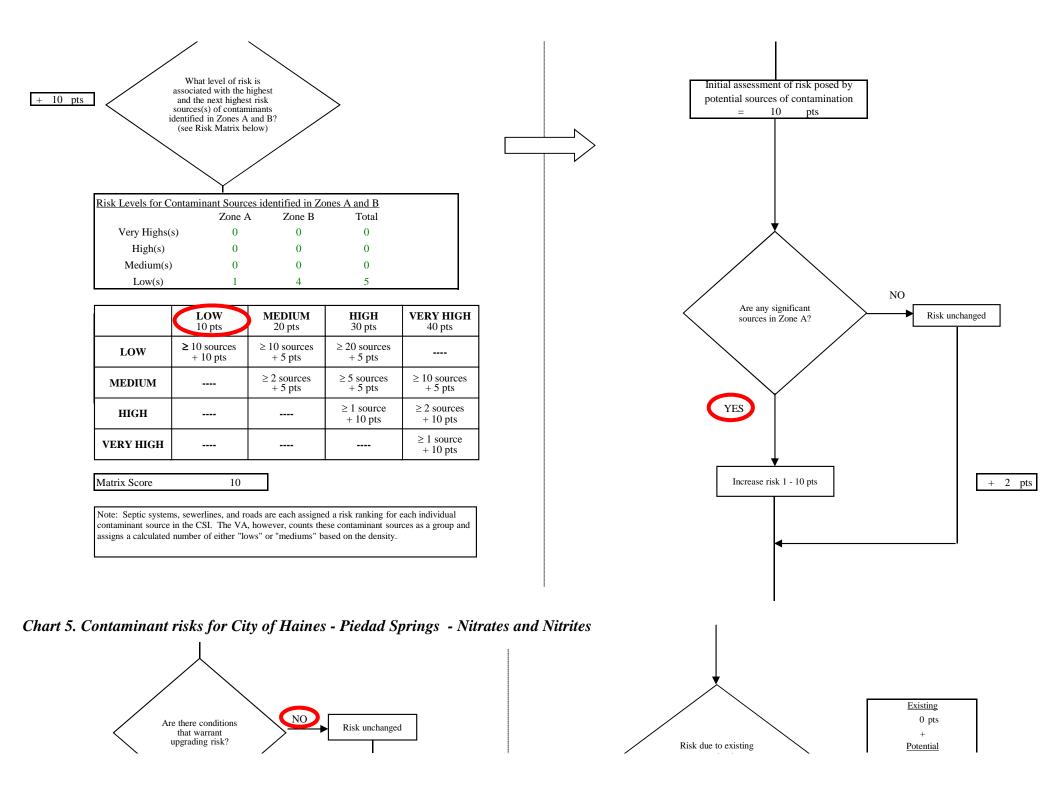
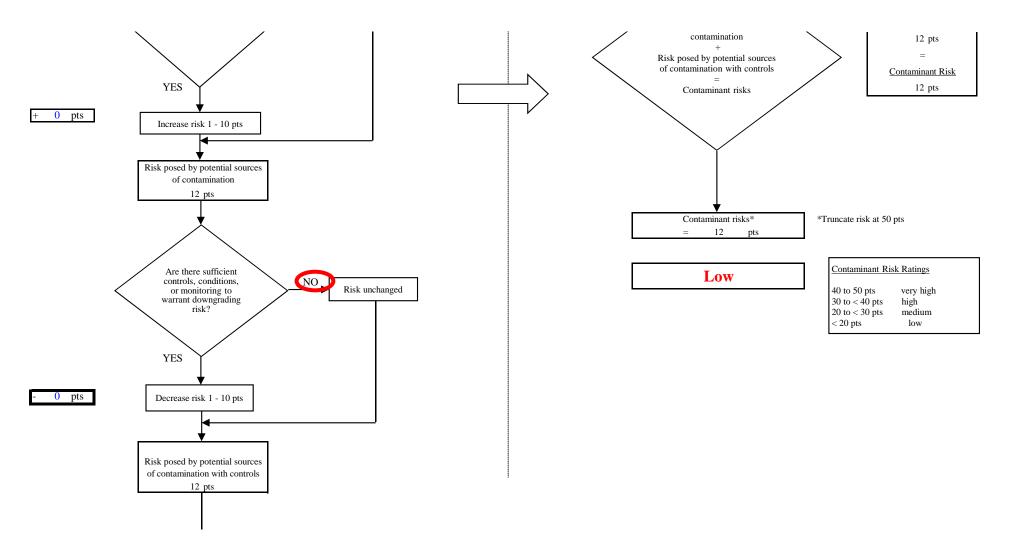


Chart 4. Vulnerability analysis for City of Haines - Piedad Springs - Bacteria & Viruses



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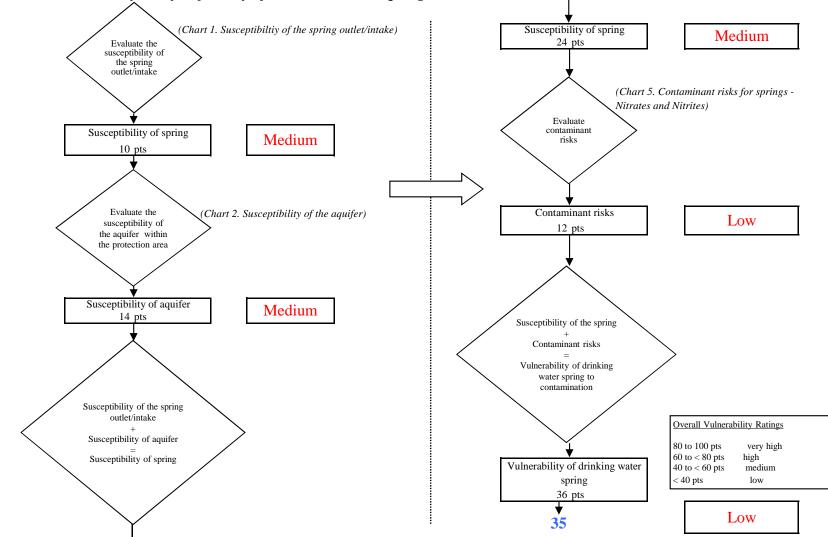


Chart 6. Vulnerability analysis for City of Haines - Piedad Springs - Nitrates and Nitrites

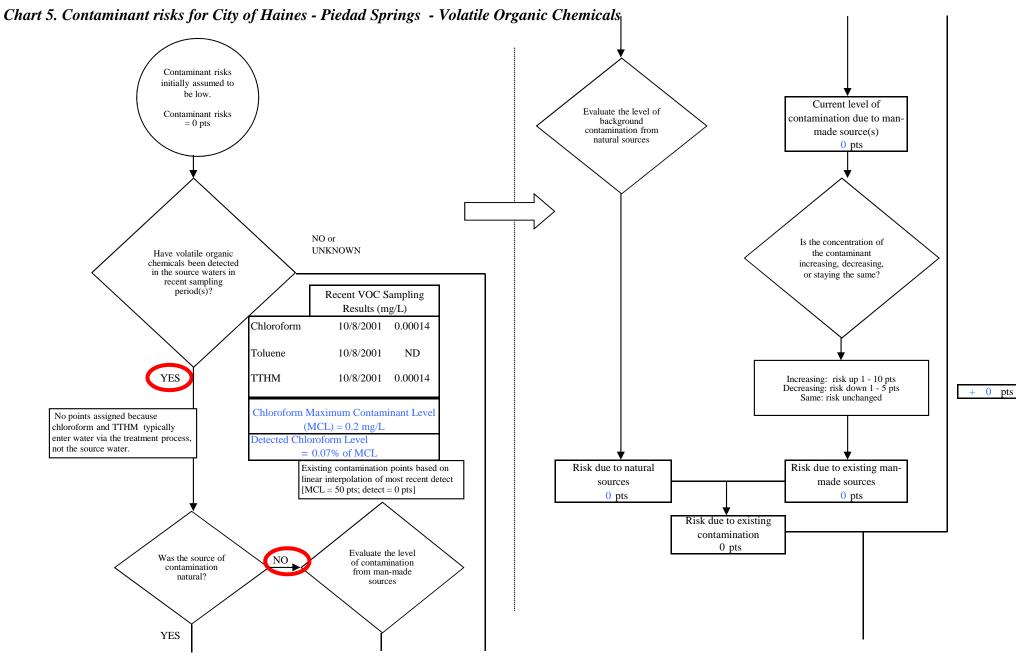
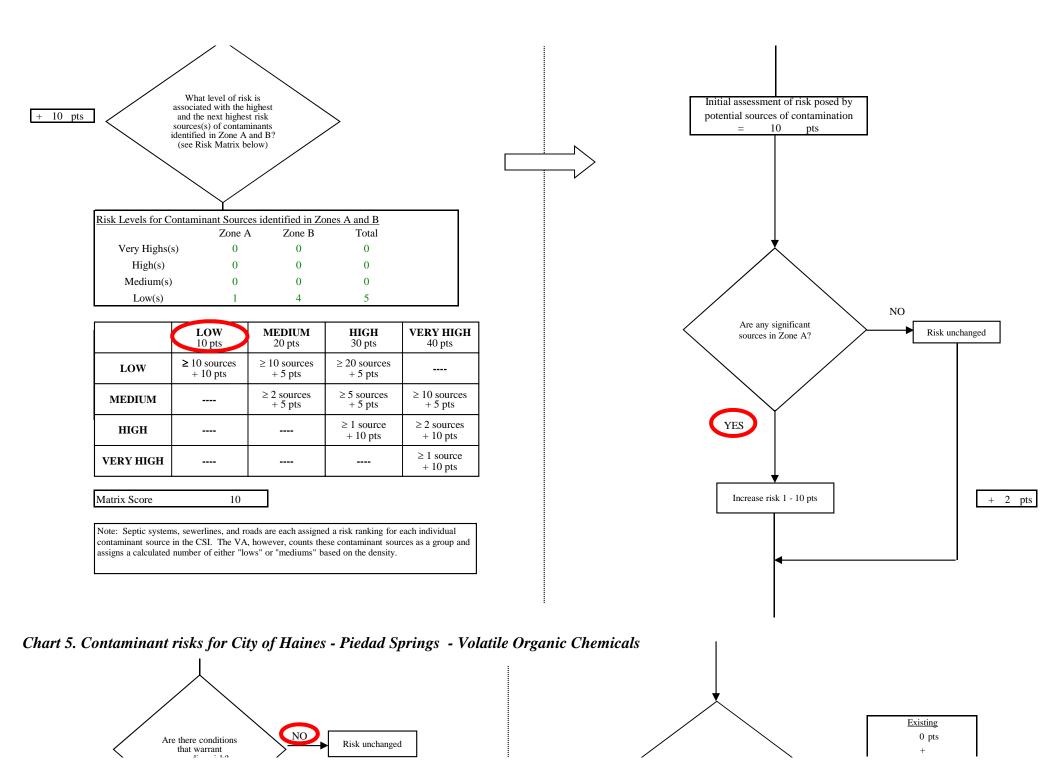
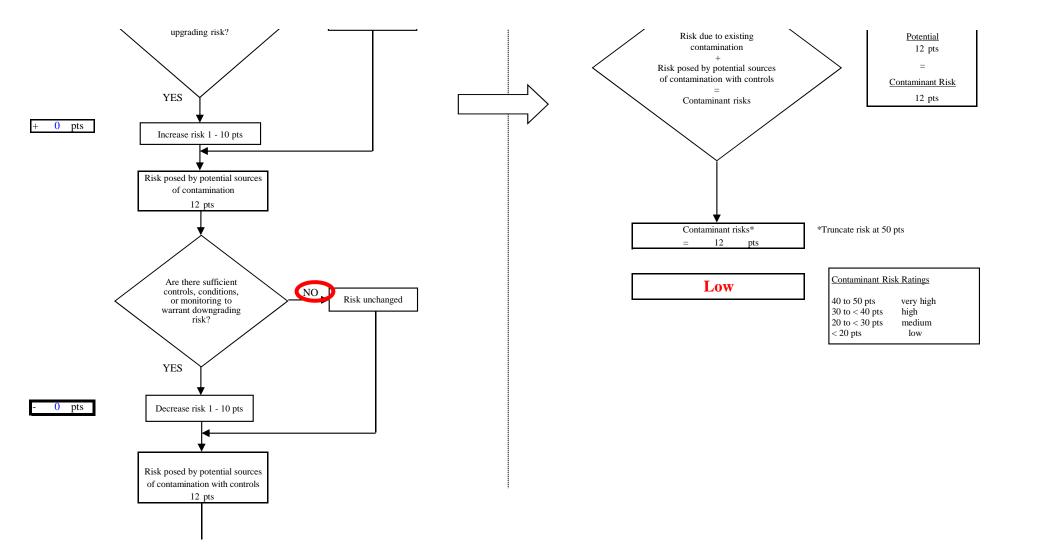


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for City of Haines - Piedad Springs - Volatile Organic Chemicals

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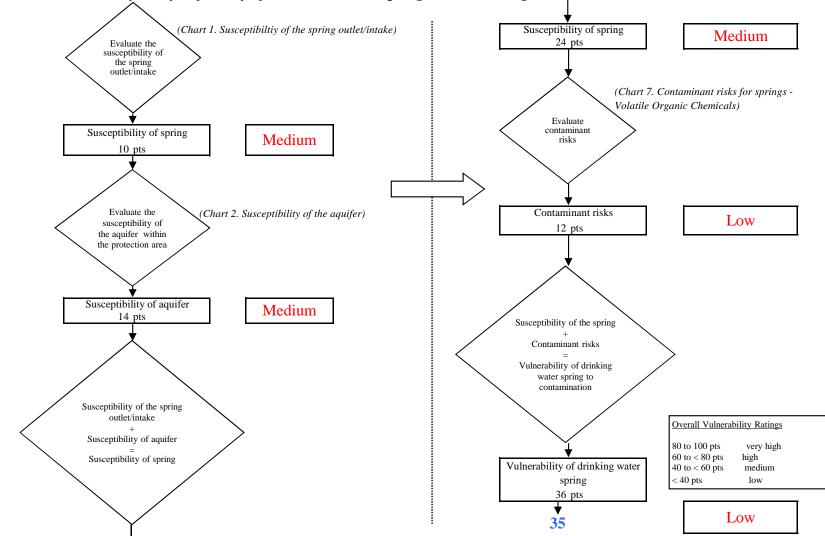
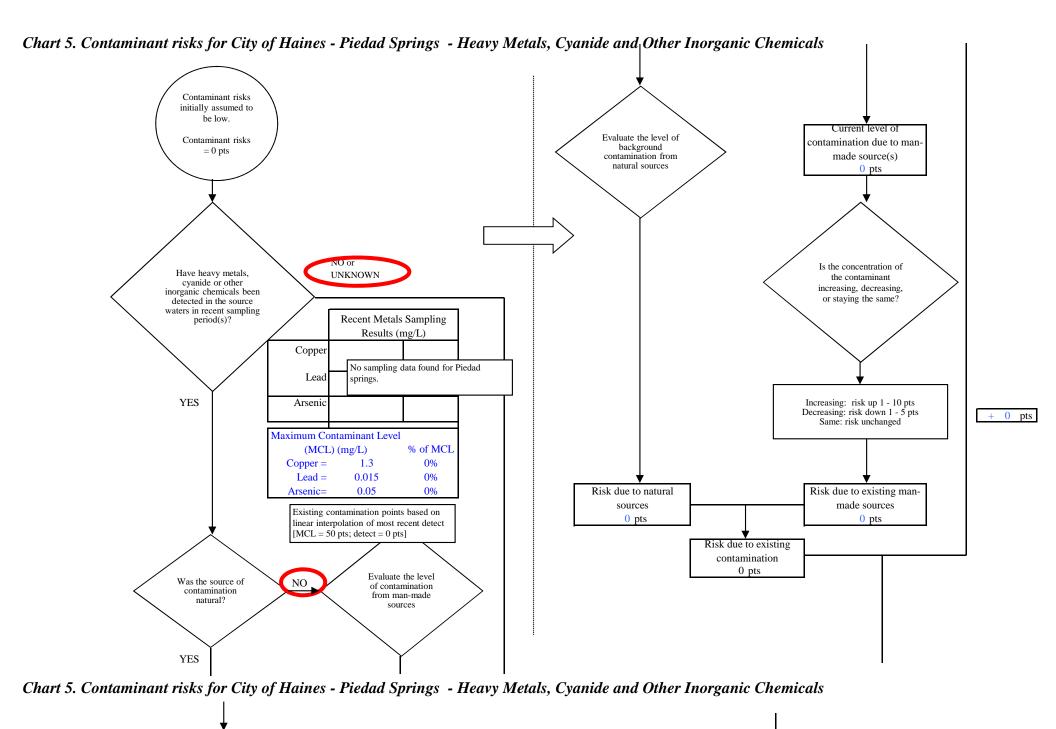
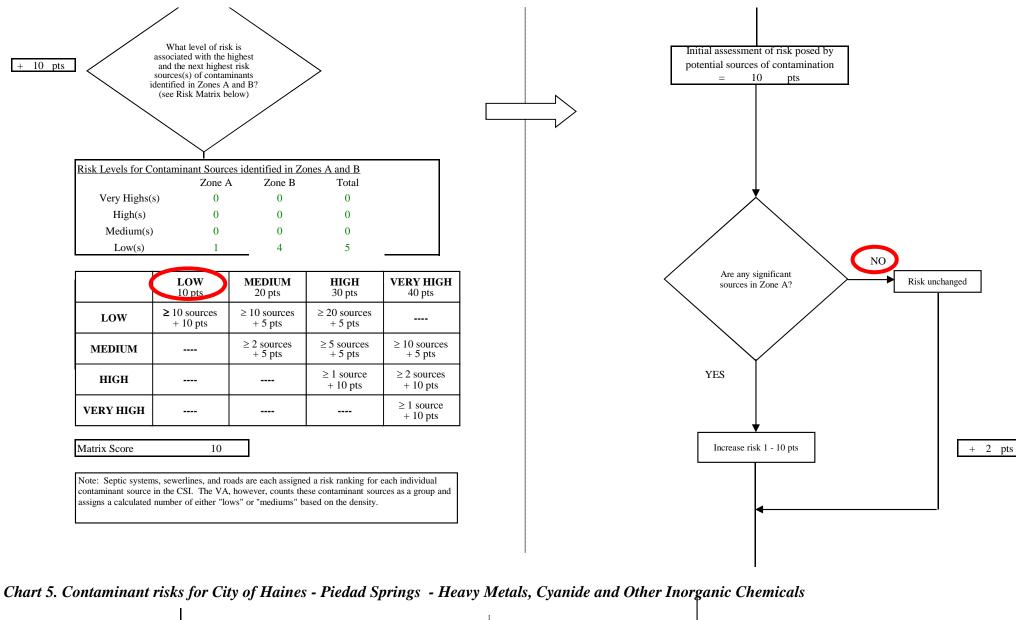


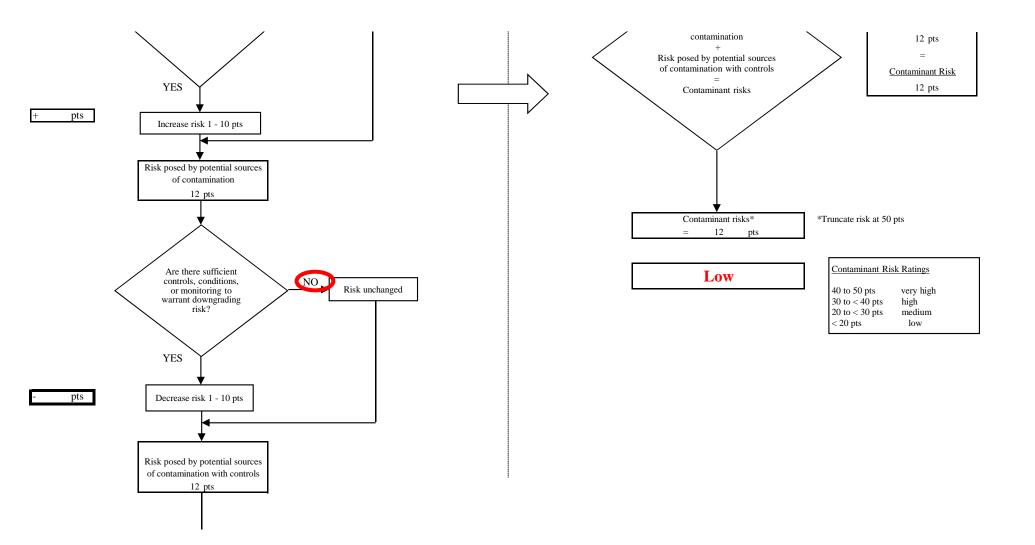
Chart 8. Vulnerability analysis for City of Haines - Piedad Springs - Volatile Organic Chemicals



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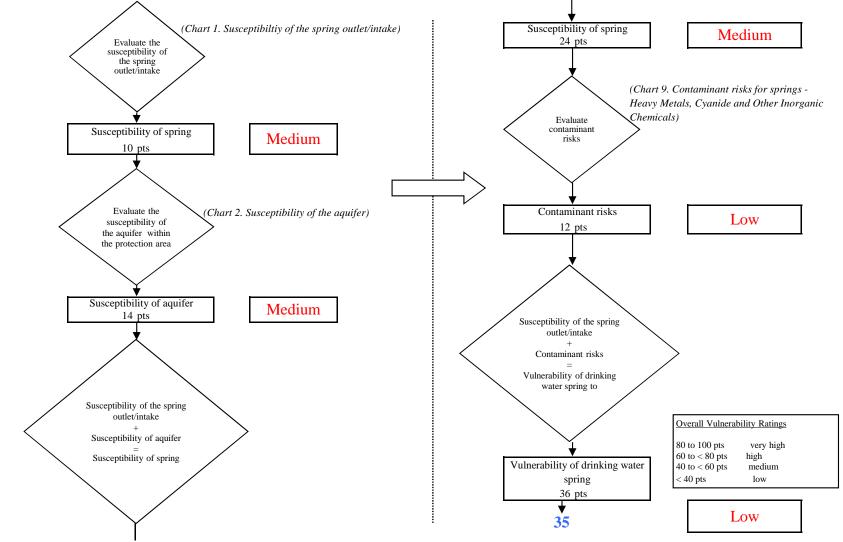


Chart 10. Vulnerability analysis for City of Haines - Piedad Springs - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals

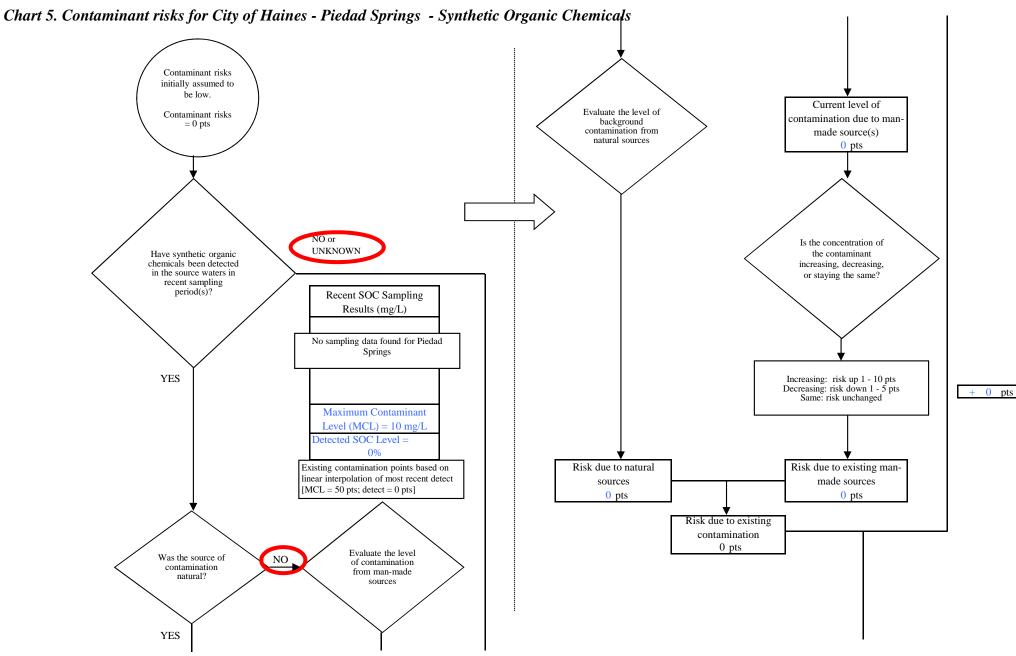
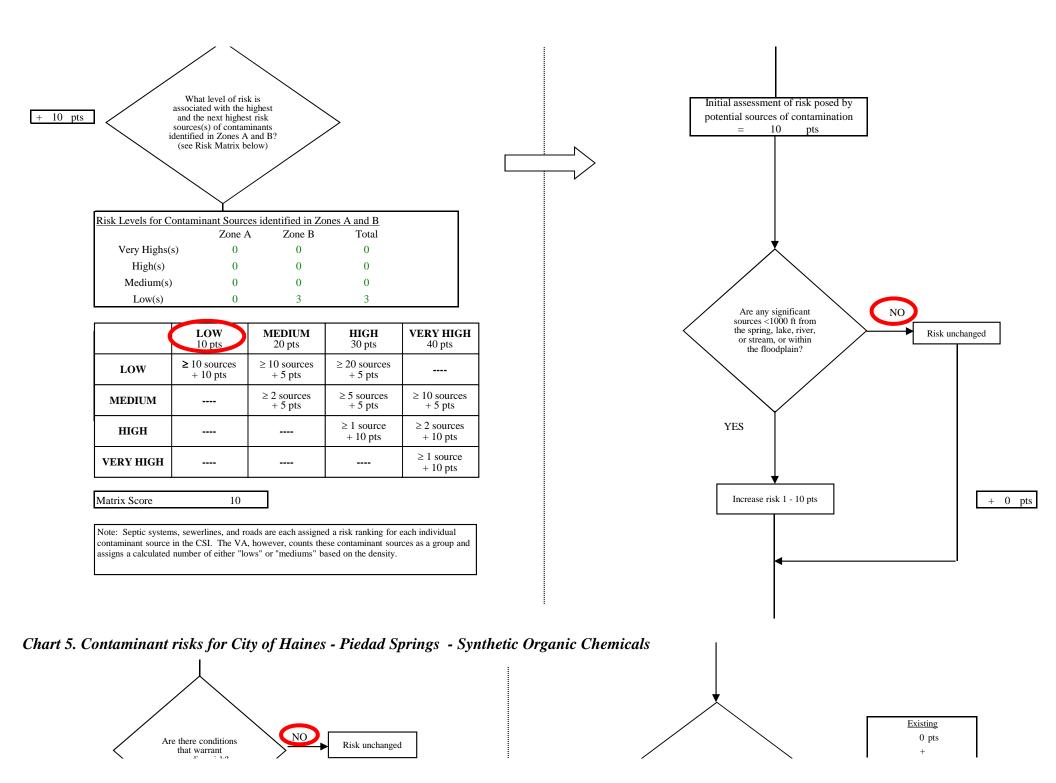
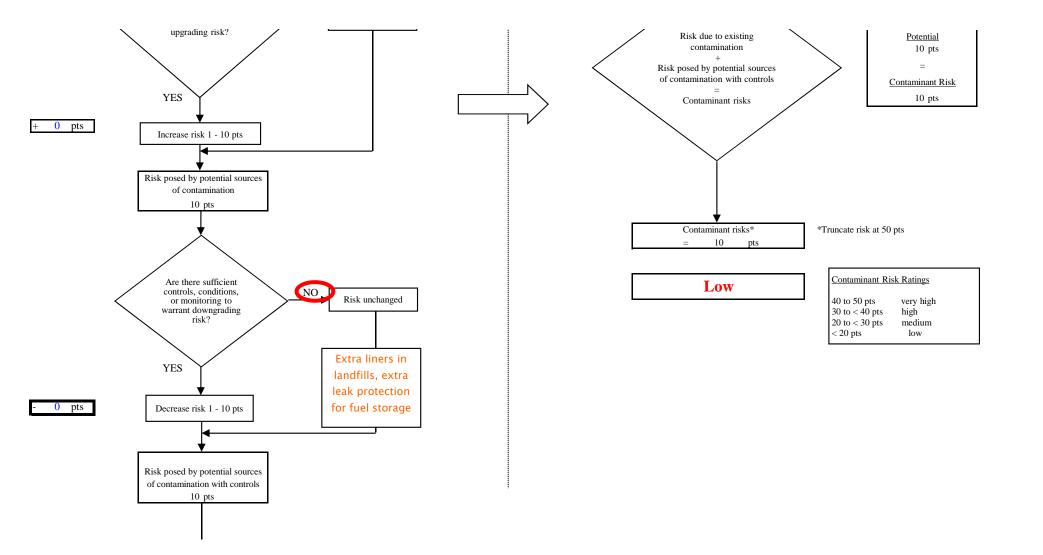


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for City of Haines - Piedad Springs - Synthetic Organic Chemicals

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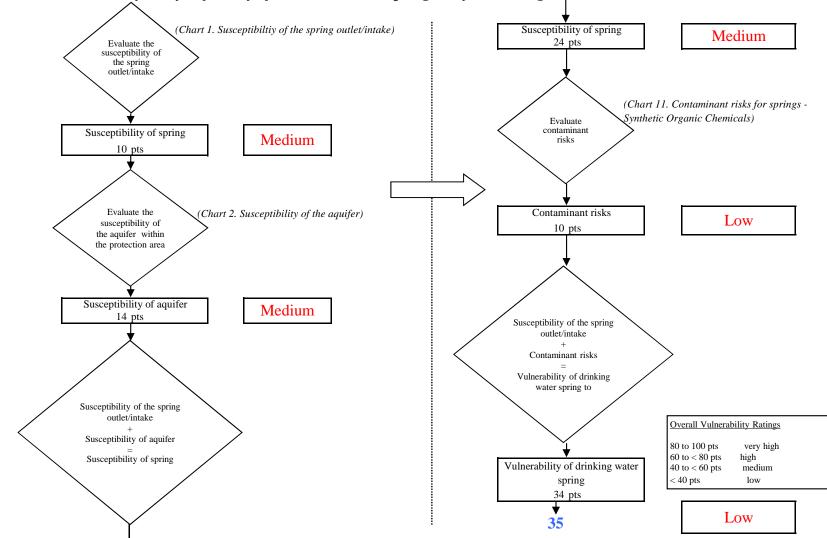


Chart 12. Vulnerability analysis for City of Haines - Piedad Springs - Synthetic Organic Chemicals

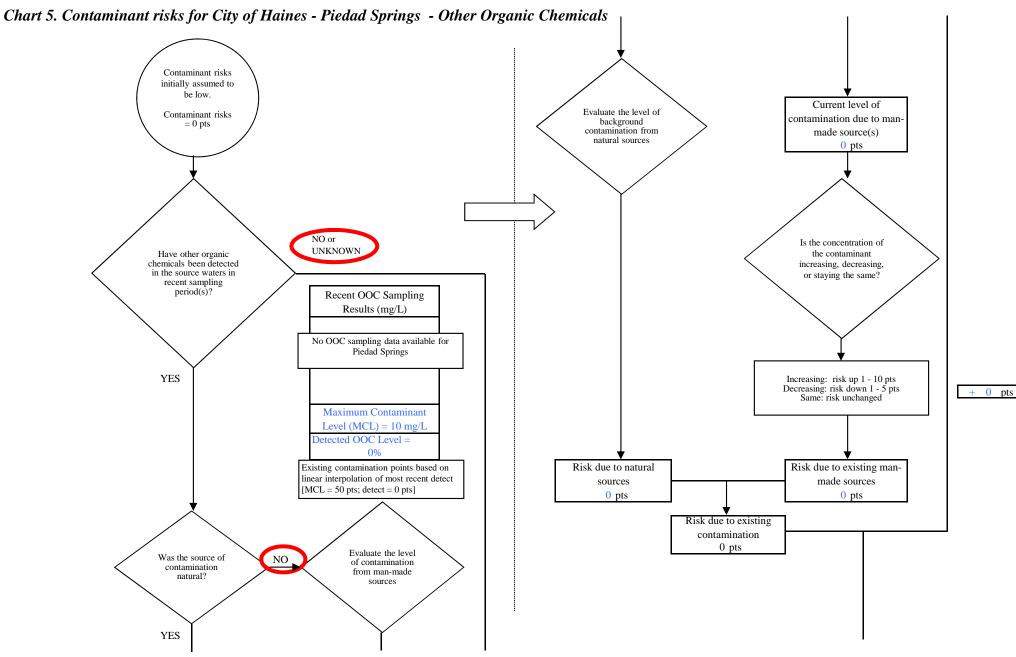
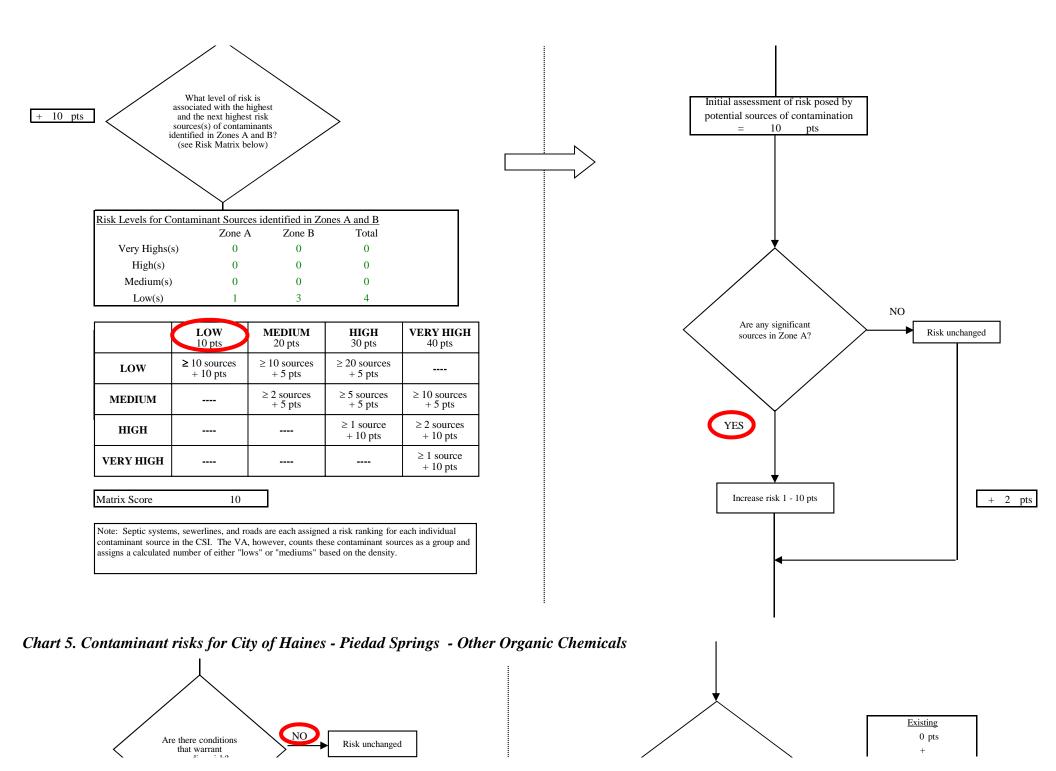
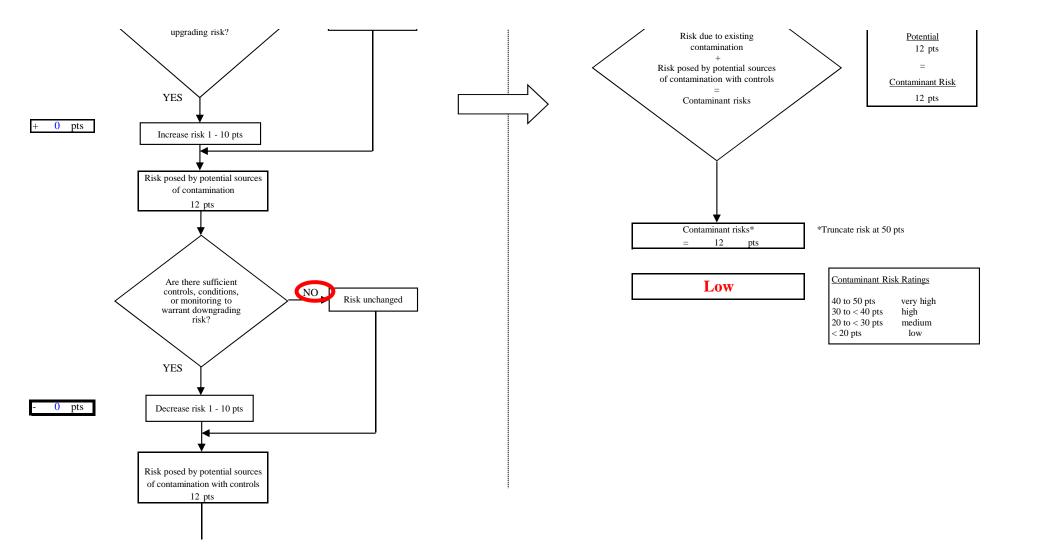


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for City of Haines - Piedad Springs - Other Organic Chemicals

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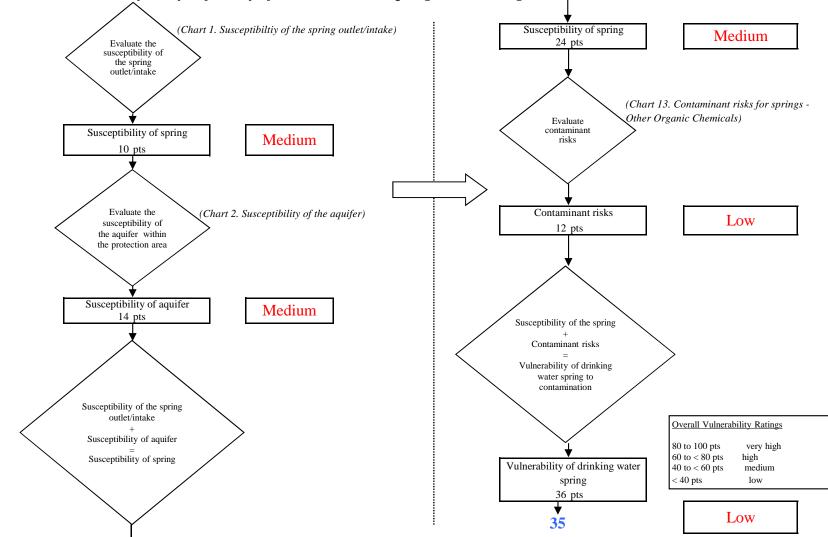


Chart 14. Vulnerability analysis for City of Haines - Piedad Springs - Other Organic Chemicals