

Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and Vulnerability Assessment for Jersey Subs Kasilof Public Drinking Water System, Kasilof, Alaska PWSID # 249994.001

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION REPORT 1743

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

January, 2009

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The Drinking Water Protection (DWP) section of the Drinking Water Program 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 (DEC), 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 DWP staff at the following toll-free number 1-866-956-7656.

January, 2009

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Drinking Water Protection Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The public water system for Jersey Subs Kasilof is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system consisting of one well located at the corner of Cohoe Loop Road and the Sterling Highway, in Kasilof, Alaska. The wellhead received a susceptibility rating of Very High and the aquifer received a susceptibility rating of Medium. Combining these two ratings produces a **High** rating for the natural susceptibility of the well. Identified potential and existing sources of contaminants for Jersey Subs Kasilof public drinking water source include: pit toilets, campgrounds and RV parks, RV dump stations, logging (active or inactive), coal mining (active or inactive), assumed septic systems, assumed residential heating oil tanks, and roads. These identified potential and existing sources of contamination are considered as sources of bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals. Overall, the public water sources for Jersey Subs Kasilof received a vulnerability rating of Medium for bacteria and viruses, Medium for nitrates and nitrites, and Very High for volatile organic chemicals. This assessment of contaminant risks can be used as a foundation for local voluntary protection efforts as well as a basis for the continuous efforts on the part of Jersey Subs Kasilof to protect public health.

JERSEY SUBS KASILOF PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

The Jersey Subs Kasilof public water system is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system. The system consists of one well located at the corner of Cohoe Loop Road and the Sterling Highway, in Kasilof, Alaska (see Map A in Appendix A). The community of Kasilof (population 596) is located approximately 12 miles southwest of the City of Kenai on the western edge of the Kenai Peninsula. It overlooks Cook Inlet, and is part of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, which has a population of approximately 50,000 and encompasses an area of more than 25,600 square miles (KPB, 2008).

The area receives 24 inches of rain annually, and average temperatures range from 14 to 27 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter and from 45 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer (ADCCED 2008). Most of the homes in Kasilof are fully plumbed, operating on private water wells and septic systems. Electricity is provided by the Homer Electric Association (ADCCED 2008).

The Kenai Peninsula is divided into two distinct geographic areas: the Kenai Mountains to the east and the Kenai Lowlands to the west. The Kenai Lowlands are a glaciated coastal shelf approximately 100 miles long, bordered on the west and north by Cook Inlet and on the east by the northeast-trending Kenai Mountains. The Lowlands are predominately drained by the Kenai River and contain the communities of Sterling, Soldotna, Kenai, Nikiski, Clam Gulch, and Homer. The Kenai Mountains extend from the southern tip of the Peninsula north to Turnagain Arm, and include the communities of Hope, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, and Seward (Karlstrom, 1964).

The most significant groundwater resources in the Kenai Lowlands are contained in coarse-grained sands and gravels. They are characterized by high rates of recharge, and are usually found in flood plain, river terrace, and alluvial deposits. Unsorted glacial moraine and drift deposits generally have poor groundwater yields, as do discontinuous layers of confining clays and silt that are common throughout unconsolidated cover. Unconsolidated sediment is more common in the northern portions of the Lowlands, where it locally hosts thicker, more extensive clay aquitards and multiple aquifers.

Most of the wells in the Kasilof area are deep, with depths ranging from 50 to 200 feet. Static water levels in many of these wells are between 10 and 30 feet below the surface. Although groundwater quality can vary significantly over short distances, groundwater supplies are generally abundant in the area. (The preceding summary of regional geology and hydrogeology is based on studies by: Bailey and Hogan (1995); Freethey and Scully (1980); Glass (1996); Hartmann, et al. (1972); and Karlstrom (1964).)

According to the sanitary survey (08/02/2007), this well extends approximately 110 feet below the ground surface. Based on data from nearby wells, it is assumed the well is completed in a confined aquifer.

This system operates seasonally from May to September and serves more than one hundred nonresidents through two service connections.

JERSEY SUBS KASILOF 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 drinking water protection area. The drinking water protection area is the area circling the well (the area influenced by pumping) and also the area upgradient of the well, usually forming a parabola shape. Because releases of contaminants within the protection area are most likely to impact the well, this area will serve as the focus for voluntary protection efforts.

There are many different methods for calculating the size of protection areas. Drinking Water Protection (DWP) uses a combination of two simple groundwater flow equations, the Thiem and uniform flow equations for all groundwater wells screened in unconsolidated material. The orientation of the protection zone is then drawn using a water table elevation map (if available) or a land surface elevation map of the area. The protection zone calculated by DWP is an estimate using the available information and resources, and may differ slightly from the actual capture zone. Because of uncertainties and changing site conditions, a factor of safety is added to the protection zone to form the drinking water protection area for the well.

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

The protection areas established for wells by the DEC are usually separated into two zones, limited by the watershed. These zones correspond to differences in the time-of-travel (TOT) of the water moving through the aquifer to the well. An analytical calculation was used to determine the size and shape of the protection area.

The time-of-travel 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 two protection area zones for wells and the calculated time-of-travel for each:

Table 1. Definition of Zones

Zone	Definition
А	Several months time-of-travel
В	Less than the 2 year time-of-travel

The drinking water protection area for Jersey Subs Kasilof was determined using an analytical calculation and includes Zones A and B (see Map A in Appendix A).

INVENTORY OF POTENTIAL AND EXISTING CONTAMINANT SOURCES

Drinking Water Protection has completed an inventory of potential and existing sources of contamination within the Jersey Subs Kasilof drinking water protection area. 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, the following three categories of drinking water contaminants were inventoried:

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

The sources are displayed on Map C 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.

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 JERSEY SUBS KASILOF DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

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

- Natural Susceptibility; and
- Contaminant Risks.

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

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

Natural Susceptibility of the Well (0-50 Points)

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

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

Factors contributing to the susceptibility of the wellhead are: whether the sanitary seal is in place, protection from flooding, and if the well casing is properly grouted.

The wellhead for the Jersey Subs Kasilof received a **Very High** susceptibility rating. The most recent sanitary survey (08/02/2007) indicates that the land surface is sloped away from the well and the well is grouted according to DEC regulations, but that a sanitary seal is not properly installed on the wellhead. It is broken and needs to be replaced. Sanitary seals prevent potential contaminants from entering the well, while sloping of the land surface away from the wellhead provides adequate surface water drainage, and concrete or grouting around the wellhead helps to prevent potential contaminants from traveling down the outside of the well casing.

Factors contributing to the susceptibility of the aquifer are: whether the aquifer is confined or unconfined, whether the well is completed in unconsolidated or fractured bedrock, whether wells and bore holes are penetrating the aquifer and, if applicable, the depth and thickness of the confining layer. Based on information from surrounding public water systems, it is assumed the Jersey Subs Kasilof well draws water from a confined aquifer overlain by 47 feet of clay. The well received a **Medium** susceptibility rating based on its deep nature and thick confining layer. Deeper aquifers are more protected from surface contaminants while thicker confining layers provide greater protection from contaminants traveling into the aquifer with precipitation and runoff.

Table 2 summarizes the Susceptibility scores and ratings for the Jersey Subs Kasilof system.

Table 2. Susceptibility

	Score	Rating
Susceptibility of the Wellhead	20	Very High
Susceptibility of the Aquifer	11	Medium
Natural Susceptibility	31	High

Contaminant risks are 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		
40-50 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 for the Jersey Subs Kasilof system.

Table 3. Contaminant Risks

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	12	Low
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	12	Low
Volatile Organic Chemicals	50	Very High

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 Points)

1					
Again.	rankings	are assigned	according	to a point s	core:
0,				· · · · · · · · · · · ·	

Overall Vulnerability Ratings		
80-100 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 for the Jersey Subs Kasilof system. Note: scores are rounded off to the nearest five.

Table 4. Overall Vulnerability

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	45	Medium
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	45	Medium
Volatile Organic Chemicals	80	Very High

Bacteria and Viruses

The contaminant risk to the drinking water well for bacteria and viruses is determined to be **Low**, with pit toilets, campgrounds and RV parks, RV dump stations, assumed septic systems, and roads contributing to the risk to the drinking water well.

Coliforms (a bacteria) are found naturally in the environment and while not necessarily a direct health threat, they are an indicator of other potentially harmful bacteria in the water, more specifically fecal coliforms and E. coli. These bacteria only come from human and animal fecal waste and can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, and other symptoms (EPA, 2008).

Only a small number of bacteria and viruses are required to endanger public health. Positive samples for bacteria and viruses increase the overall vulnerability of the drinking water source, indicating that the source is susceptible to bacteria and virus contamination. Bacteria and viruses have not been detected during the last 5 years of sampling at Jersey Subs Kasilof (data reviewed in April, 2008).

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 contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites for Jersey Subs Kasilof is determined to be **Low**, with pit toilets, campgrounds and RV parks, RV dump stations, logging (active or inactive), assumed septic systems, and roads contributing to the risk to the drinking water well.

The sampling history for Jersey Subs Kasilof indicates that nitrates and nitrites have not been detected within the last 5 years (data reviewed in April, 2008).

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 contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals is determined to be **Very High**, with campgrounds and RV parks, RV dump stations, logging (active or inactive), coal mining (active or inactive), assumed septic systems, assumed residential heating oil tanks, and roads contributing to the risk to the drinking water well.

The drinking water at Jersey Subs Kasilof has not recently been sampled for volatile organic chemicals (data reviewed in April, 2008).

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 **Very High**.

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 Jersey Subs Kasilof 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 Jersey Subs Kasilof drinking water source.

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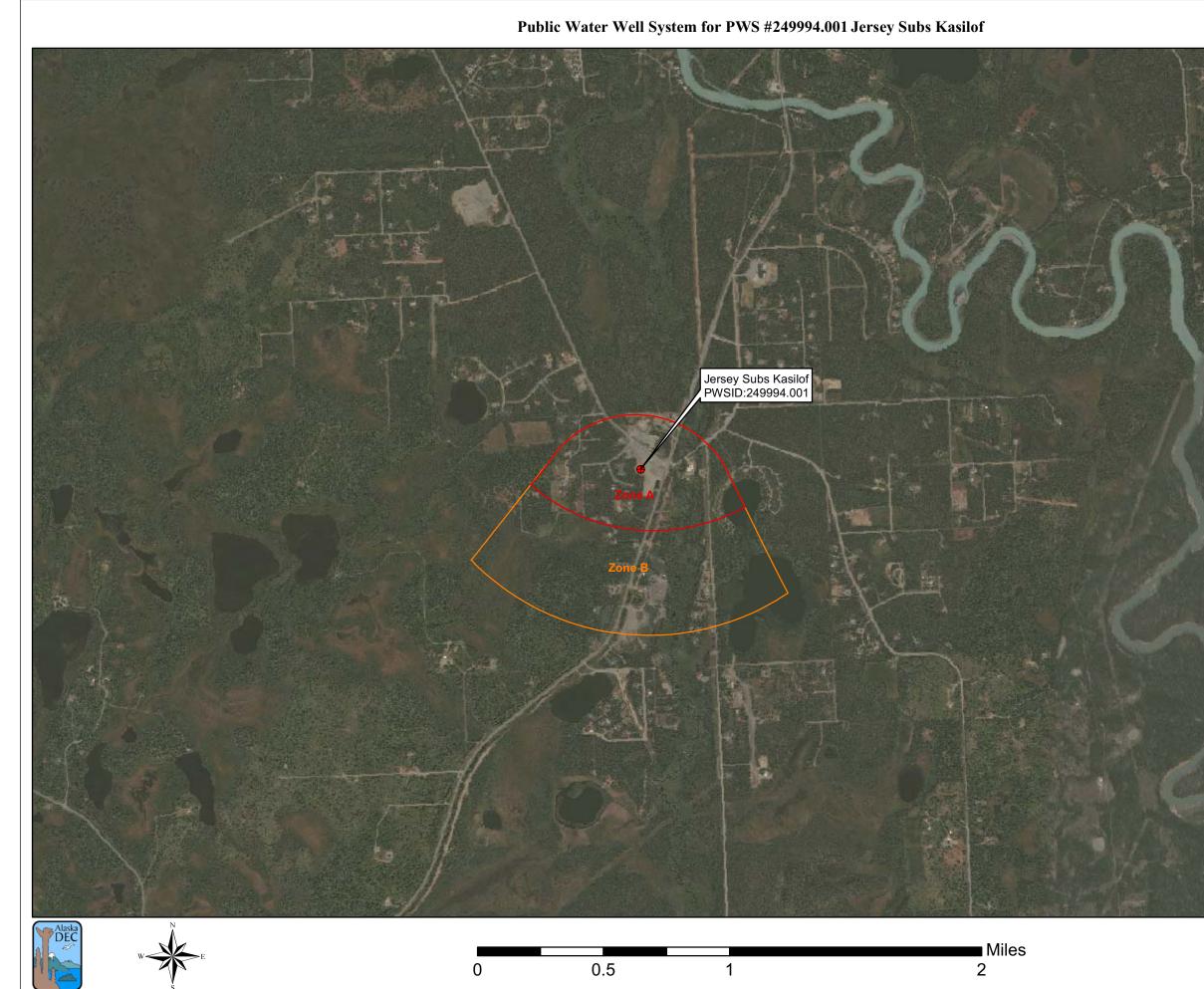
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APPENDIX A

Jersey Subs Kasilof Drinking Water Protection Area Location Map (Map A)



Legend			
Class B Public Water System Well			
Groundwater Protection Zones			
Zone A Protection Area - Several Months Travel Time			
Zone B Protection Area - 2 Years Travel Time			
Data Sources:			
Contaminant Sources, Public Water System Wells, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)			
All other data:			
Kenai Borough Imagery			
Drinking Water Protection Areas based on "Alaska Drinking Water Protection Program - Guidance Manual for Class B Public Water Systems" published by ADEC			
URS Corporation does not guarantee the accuracy or validity of the data provided.			
Inset 1 Kasilof Area of Map	\		
Clam Gulch			
Jersey Subs Kasilof PWS 249994.001			

Appendix A Map A

APPENDIX B

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Jersey Subs Kasilof (Tables 1-4)

Contaminant Source Inventory for Jersey Subs Kasilof

Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Map Number	Comments
D17	D17-01	А	С	
E01	E01	А	С	
R02	R02	А	С	7 assumed septic systems
R08	R08	А	С	7 assumed heating oil tanks
X20	X20	А	С	3 roads
X35	X35-01	А	С	
D17	D17-02	В	С	
D18	D18-1	В	С	
E01	E01	В	С	
E02	E02	В	С	
R02	R02	В	С	12 assumed septic systems
R08	R08	В	С	12 assumed heating oil tanks
X20	X20	В	С	2 roads
X35	X35-02	В	С	
	Source ID D17 E01 R02 R08 X20 X35 D17 D18 E01 E02 R02 R02 R02 R03 X35	Source ID CS ID tag D17 D17-01 E01 E01 R02 R02 R08 R08 X20 X20 X35 X35-01 D17 D17-02 D18 D18-1 E01 E02 R02 R02 R03 R03 X35 X35-01	Source ID CS ID tag Zone D17 D17-01 A E01 E01 A R02 R02 A R08 R08 A X20 X20 A D17 D17-02 B D17 D17-02 B D18 D18-1 B E01 E01 B E02 E02 B R08 R08 B X35 X35-01 B	Source ID CS ID tag Zone Map Number D17 D17-01 A C E01 E01 A C R02 R02 A C R02 R02 A C R03 R08 A C X20 X20 A C X35 X35-01 A C D17 D17-02 B C D18 D18-1 B C E01 E01 B C E02 E02 B C R02 R02 B C R03 R04 B C E01 E01 B C R02 R02 B C R08 R08 B C X20 X20 B C

Table 2

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 249994.001

Jersey Subs Kasilof Sources of Bacteria and Viruses

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Pit toilets (vaulted) nonresidential (one or more)	D17	D17-01	А	Low	С	
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02	А	Low	С	7 assumed septic systems
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20	А	Low	С	3 roads
Campgrounds and RV Parks	X35	X35-01	А	Low	С	
Pit toilets (vaulted) nonresidential (one or more)	D17	D17-02	В	Low	С	
RV dump stations	D18	D18-1	В	Low	С	
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02	В	Low	С	12 assumed septic systems
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20	В	Low	С	2 roads
Campgrounds and RV Parks	X35	X35-02	В	Low	С	

Table 3

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 249994.001

Jersey Subs Kasilof Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Pit toilets (vaulted) nonresidential (one or more)	D17	D17-01	А	Low	С	
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02	А	Low	С	7 assumed septic systems
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20	А	Low	С	3 roads
Campgrounds and RV Parks	X35	X35-01	А	Low	С	
Pit toilets (vaulted) nonresidential (one or more)	D17	D17-02	В	Low	С	
RV dump stations	D18	D18-1	В	Low	С	
Logging (active or inactive?)	E02	E02	В	Low	С	
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02	В	Low	С	12 assumed septic systems
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20	В	Low	С	2 roads
Campgrounds and RV Parks	X35	X35-02	В	Low	С	

Table 4

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 249994.001

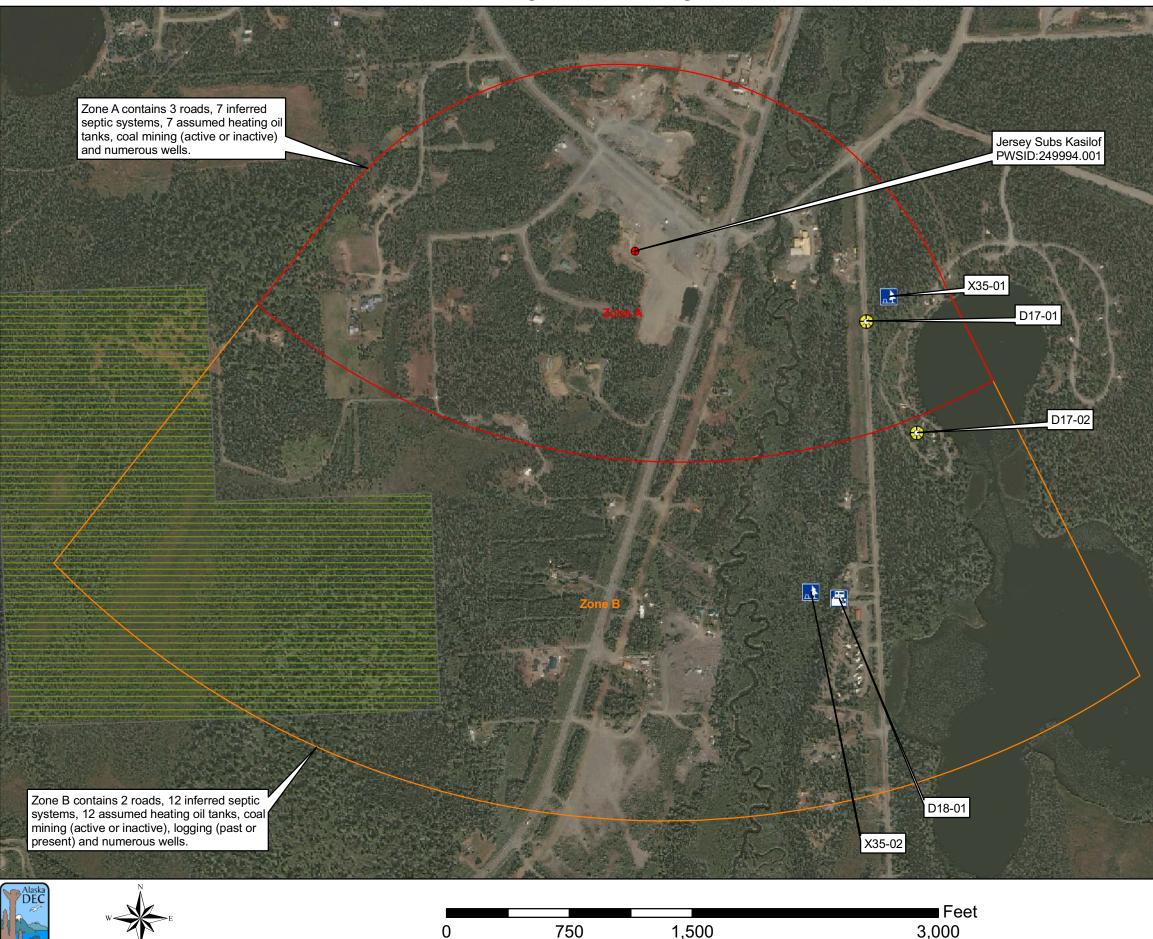
Jersey Subs Kasilof Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals

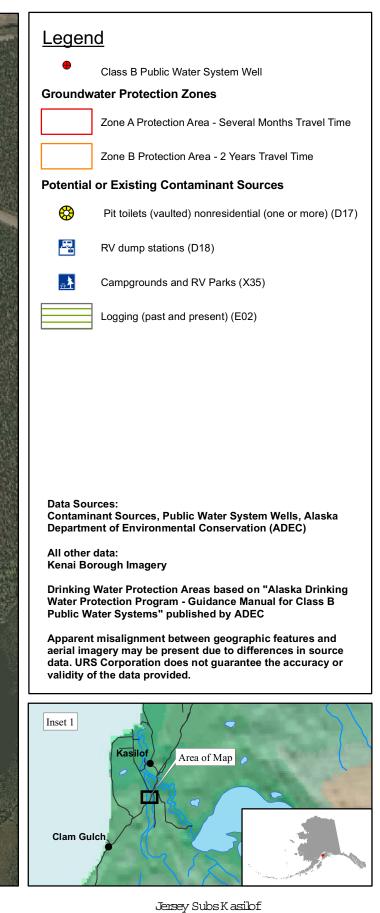
Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Coal mining (active or inactive?)	E01	E01	А	High	С	
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02	А	Low	С	7 assumed septic systems
Tanks, heating oil, residential (above ground)	R08	R08	А	Medium	С	7 assumed heating oil tanks
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20	А	Low	С	3 roads
Campgrounds and RV Parks	X35	X35-01	А	Low	С	
RV dump stations	D18	D18-1	В	Low	С	
Coal mining (active or inactive?)	E01	E01	В	High	С	
Logging (active or inactive?)	E02	E02	В	Low	С	
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R02	В	Low	С	12 assumed septic systems
Tanks, heating oil, residential (above ground)	R08	R08	В	Medium	С	12 assumed heating oil tanks
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20	В	Low	С	2 roads
Campgrounds and RV Parks	X35	X35-02	В	Low	С	

APPENDIX C

Jersey Subs Kasilof Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources (Map C)

Public Water Well System for PWS # 249994.001 Jersey Subs Kasilof Showing Potential and Existing Sources of Contamination





PWS 249994.001

Appendix C Map C