



Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and Vulnerability Assessment for Bristol Bay Contractors Drinking Water System, King Salmon, Alaska

> PWSID # 262636.001 March 2004

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM REPORT 1203 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 Depart ment 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 Bristol Bay Contractors Source of Public Drinking Water, King Salmon, Alaska

Drinking Water Protection Program Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bristol Bay Contractors has one Public Water System (PWS) well. The well (PWSID# 262636.001) has been used as a drinking water source since it was drilled in 1981-1982.

The well is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system located at Mile 13, Alaska Peninsula Highway in King Salmon, Alaska. Available records indicate that there is no secondary storage of drinking water, other than a 1,000-gallon pressure tank, and that the untreated drinking water source is derived directly from the wellhead. This system operates year round and serves 1 resident and approximately 38 non-residents through six service connections. The wellhead received a susceptibility rating of Very **High** and the aquifer received a susceptibility rating of **Medium**. Combining these two ratings produce a **High** rating for the natural susceptibility of the well. Identified potential and current sources of contaminants for the primary public drinking water source include: construction trade areas and materials, a gasoline station, an injection well, underground fuel tanks, an ADEC recognized leaking underground storage (LUST) tank site, a petroleum product bulk station/terminal, and landfills. 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 water well received a vulnerability rating of **High** for the bacteria and viruses, a vulnerability rating of Very High for nitrates and nitrites, and a vulnerability rating of Very High for volatile organic chemicals contaminant categories.

BRISTOL BAY CONTRACTORS PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

The Bristol Bay Contractors well is a Class B (transient/non-community) public water system. The facility is located at Mile 13, Alaska Peninsula Highway in King Salmon, Alaska (Sec. 15, T17S, R45W, Seward Meridian; see Map A of Appendix A). King Salmon is located on the north bank of the Naknek River near Bristol Bay. The village is located about 15 miles upriver from Naknek and 280 miles southwest of Anchorage. The community has a population of 392 (ADCED, 2003). Average annual precipitation in King Salmon is 20 inches, including approximately 45 inches of snowfall. Temperatures range from 42 to 63°F in summer and 29 to 44°F in winter. Temperatures can be as extreme as -46 to 88°F.

The community of King Salmon gets most of their water supply from individual wells. Most households are served by the piped sewage collection system and the remaining households have individual septic tanks (ADCED, 2003). King Salmon receives electrical power from the Naknek Electric Association operated by the REA Cooperative. Power generating facilities are fueled by diesel. Refuse is collected by the Peterson Sanitation Company and trucked to the landfill located at mile five of King Salmon-Naknek Road (ADCED, 2003).

According to information supplied by ADEC for the Bristol Bay Contractors PWS, the depth of the primary water well is 168 feet below the ground surface. Well construction details are unknown; however, based on a nearby PWS well (263024.001), it is assumed the well is screened in gravel in a confined aquifer. Confined aquifers are likely less susceptible to groundwater impacts resulting from the downward migration of surface contaminants. The well is not located within a floodplain.

Information acquired from a September 1998 sanitary survey for the public water system indicated that the land surface was sloped away from the well. Generally, land surfaces that slope away from the wellhead promote surface water drainage, which reduces potential of contaminant migration down the well casing annulus. The well is not grouted according to ADEC regulations. Proper grouting provides added protection against contaminants traveling along the well casing annulus and into source waters.

The entire Bristol Bay area was formerly covered by glaciers and the topography is representative of a

postglacial area. Soils information is limited. Generally, the soils consist of silty sand overlying relatively clean sand. The silty soils are slightly frost-susceptible. Isolated pockets of permafrost are scattered throughout the area (DOWL, 1982).

BRISTOL BAY CONTRACTORS 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 protection area 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 for the Bristol Bay Contractors PWS. The input parameters describing the attributes of the aquifer in this calculation were adopted from Groundwater (Freeze and Cherry, 1979). Available geology and groundwater contours were also considered to take into account any uncertainties in groundwater flow and aquifer characteristics to arrive at a meaningful protection area.

The protection areas established for wells by the ADEC are usually separated into four 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 (Please refer to the Guidance Manual for Class B Public Water Systems for additional information).

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 four protection area 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 the 2 year time-of-travel					
С	Less Than the 5 year time-of-travel					
D	Less than the 10 year time-of-travel					

The DWPA for the Bristol Bay Contractors PWS was determined using an analytical calculation and includes Zones A, B, C, and D (See Map A 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 Bristol Bay Contractors 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 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.

The time-of-travel 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 THE BRISTOL BAY CONTRACTORS 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 Bristol Bay Contractors' water well is in a confined aquifer. Confined aquifers are less susceptible to potential groundwater quality impacts posed by the migration of surface water contaminants downward from the surface. Table 2 shows the susceptibility scores and ratings for this PWS.

Table 2. Susceptibility

	Score	Rating
Susceptibility of the	25	Very High
Wellhead		
Susceptibility of the	11	Medium
Aquifer		
Natural Susceptibility	36	High

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	40	Very High
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	50	Very High
Volatile Organic Chemica	ls 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).

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	75	High
Nitrates and Nitrites	85	Very High
Volatile Organic Chemicals	85	Very High

Bacteria and Viruses

The contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses is **Very High**. The risk is primarily attributed to the presence of an injection well, and two landfills in Zones A, C, and D (see Table 2 – Appendix B).

No positive bacteria counts have been reported in recent (within five years) sampling events (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.

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 **High**.

Nitrates and Nitrites

The contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites is **Very High**. The risk to this source of public drinking water is primarily attributed to the presence of an injection well and two landfills in Zones A, C, and D (see Table 3 – Appendix B).

Nitrates are very mobile, moving at approximately the same rate as water. The sampling history for this well indicates that nitrates have not been detected in recent sampling events. Nitrate concentrations in uncontaminated groundwater are typically less than 2 mg/L; therefore, nitrate concentrations above 2 mg/L may be indicative of man-made sources (See Chart 5 - Contaminant Risks for Nitrates and/or Nitrites in Appendix D).

Nitrate levels are often derived from the decomposition of organic matter in soils. After combining the contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to nitrate and nitrite contamination is **Very High**.

Volatile Organic Chemicals

The contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals is **Very High**. The risk is primarily attributed to the presence of a gasoline station, a petroleum product bulk station/terminal and two landfills located in Zones A, C, and D. Numerous other potential contaminant sources are also found within the protection area (see Table 4 – Appendix B).

No recent sampling data was available in ADEC records for Bristol Bay Contractors (See Chart 7 – Contaminant Risks for Volatile Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

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

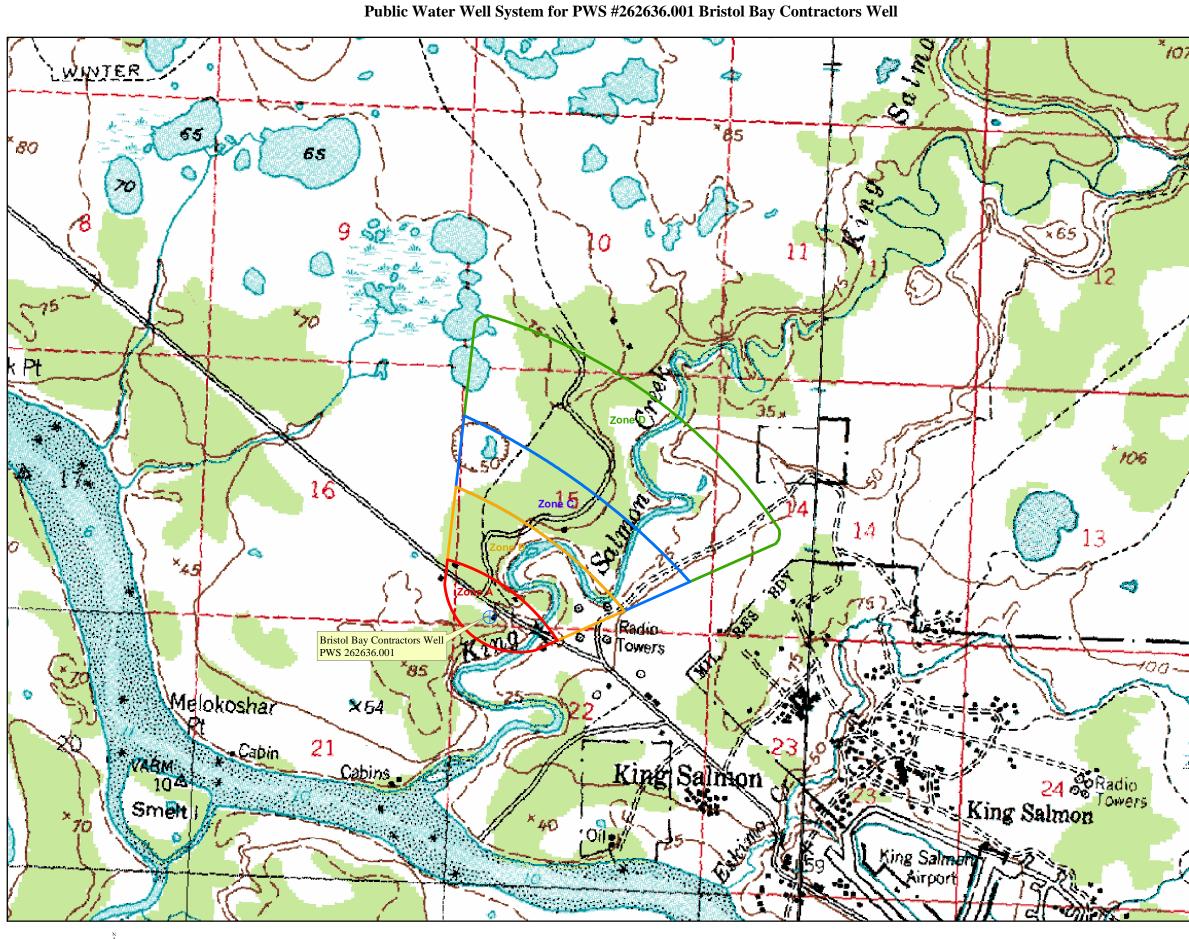
This assessment of contaminant risks can be used as a foundation for local voluntary protection efforts as well as a basis for the continuous efforts on the part of Bristol Bay Contractors and the community of King Salmon to protect public health. It is anticipated that Source Water Assessments will be updated every five years to reflect any changes in the vulnerability and/or susceptibility of the drinking water source.

REFERENCES

- Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development (ADCED), 2003 [WWW document]. URL: <u>http://www.dced.state.ak.us/cbd/commdb/CF_COMDB.htm</u>
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Contaminated Sites Database, 2003 [WWW database], URL <u>http://www.state.ak.us/dec/dspar/csites/cs_search.htm</u>
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Leaking Underground Storage Tank Database, 2003 [WWW database], URL <u>http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/stp/ust/search/fac_search.asp</u>
- DOWL Engineers (DOWL), 1982, Upper Bristol Bay Region Community Planning Profiles.
- Freeze, R. A., and Cherry, J.A. 1979, Groundwater, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2002 [WWW document]. URL <u>http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html</u>.

APPENDIX A

Drinking Water Protection Area Location Map (Map A)



0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

7	LEGEND
	+ Public Water System Well
	Hydrography/Physical Parcels Stream Lake or Pond Contours
3	Transportation
	 Primary Route (Class 1) Secondary Route (Class 2) Road (Class 3) Road (Class 4) Road (Class 5, Four-wheel drive)
~	Road Ferry Crossing
	Groundwater Protection Zones Zone A Protection Area– Several Months Travel Time Zone B Protection Area– 2 Years Travel Time Zone C Protection Area– 5 Years Travel Time Zone D Protection Area– 10 Years Travel Time
2 100	Data Sources: Contaminant Sources, Public Water System Wells, Contours Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Critical Facilities, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) All other data: United States Geological Survey (USGS) 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
2	validity of the data provided.
	Inset 1 Area of Map 1 South Naknek King Salmon
	Bristol Bay Contractors Well PWS 262636.001

Appendix A Map A

APPENDIX B

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Rankings (Tables 1-4)

Contaminant Source Inventory for Bristol Bay Contractors Well

PWSID 262636.001

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Map Number	Comments
Construction trade areas and materials	C09	C09-01	А	С	King Salmon
Gasoline stations (with repair shop)	C16	C16-01	А	С	
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-01	А	С	
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (underground)	T16	T16-01	А	С	King Salmon
Open Leaking Underground Fuel Storage Tank (LUST) Sites	U07	U07-01	А	С	Bristol Bay Contractors, RecKey #1998250021501, soil contamination discovered during removal of UST, No Further Action granted 7/7/00. Risk rank reduced from High to Medium since site closed.
Petroleum product bulk station/terminals	X11	X11-01	А	С	King Salmon
Landfills (municipal; Class III)	D51	D51-01	С	С	King Salmon
Landfills (municipal; Class III)	D51	D51-02	D	С	

Table 2

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Bristol Bay Contractors Well

Sources of Bacteria and Viruses

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-01	А	High	С	
Landfills (municipal; Class III)	D51	D51-01	С	High	С	King Salmon
Landfills (municipal; Class III)	D51	D51-02	D	High	С	

Table 3

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

Bristol Bay Contractors Well

Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-01	А	High	С	
Landfills (municipal; Class III)	D51	D51-01	С	Very High	С	King Salmon
Landfills (municipal; Class III)	D51	D51-02	D	Very High	С	

Table 4

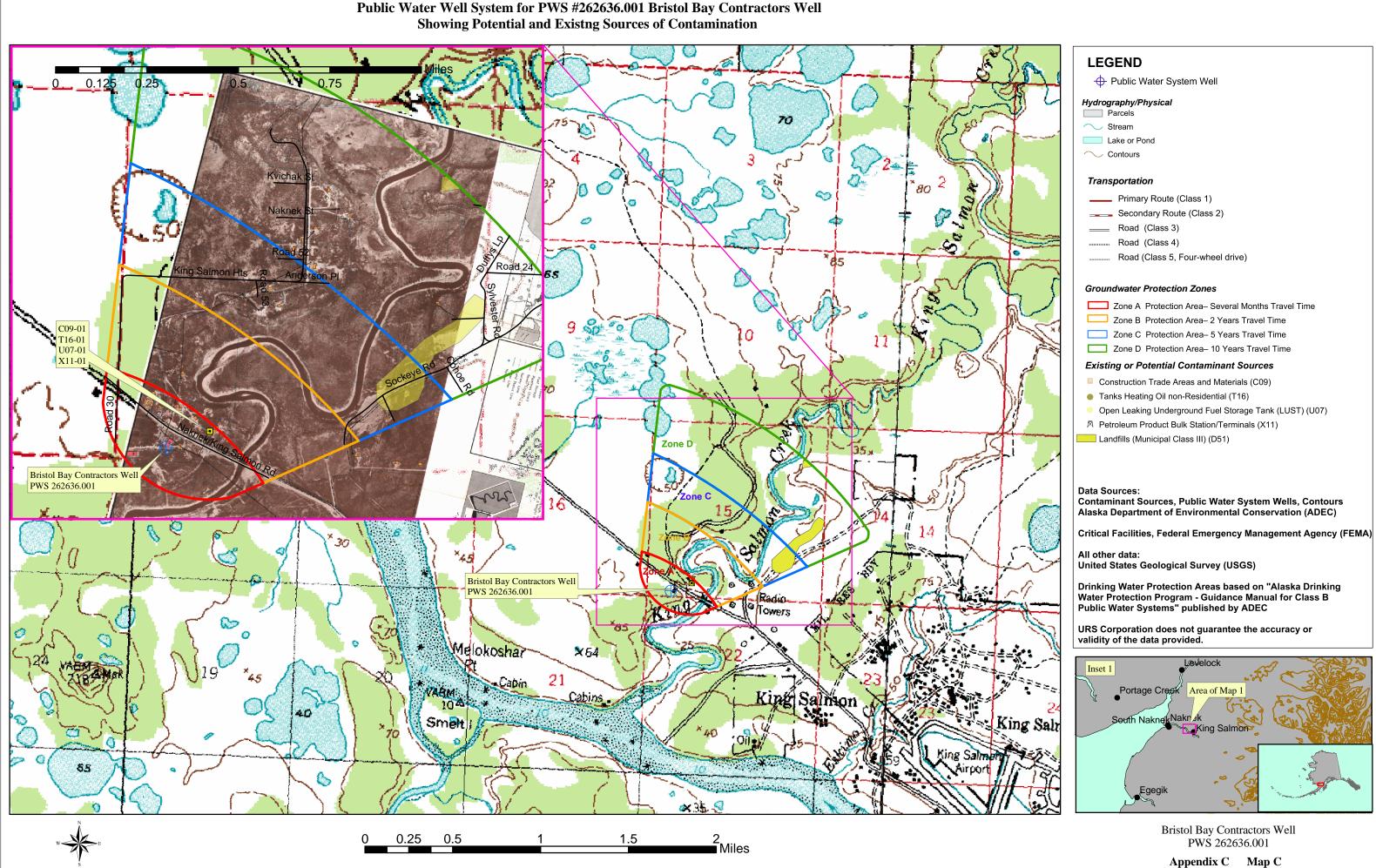
Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

Bristol Bay Contractors Well Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Construction trade areas and materials	C09	C09-01	А	Low	С	King Salmon
Gasoline stations (with repair shop)	C16	C16-01	А	High	С	
Injection wells (Class V) Large-Capacity Septic System (Drainfield Disposal Method)	D10	D10-01	А	Low	С	
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (underground)	T16	T16-01	А	Low	С	King Salmon
Open Leaking Underground Fuel Storage Tank (LUST) Sites	U07	U07-01	А	Medium	С	Bristol Bay Contractors, RecKey #1998250021501, soil contamination discovered during removal of UST, No Further Action granted 7/7/00. Risl rank reduced from High to Medium since site closed.
Petroleum product bulk station/terminals	X11	X11-01	А	Very High	С	King Salmon
Landfills (municipal; Class III)	D51	D51-01	С	High	С	King Salmon
Landfills (municipal; Class III)	D51	D51-02	D	High	С	

APPENDIX C

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



APPENDIX D

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

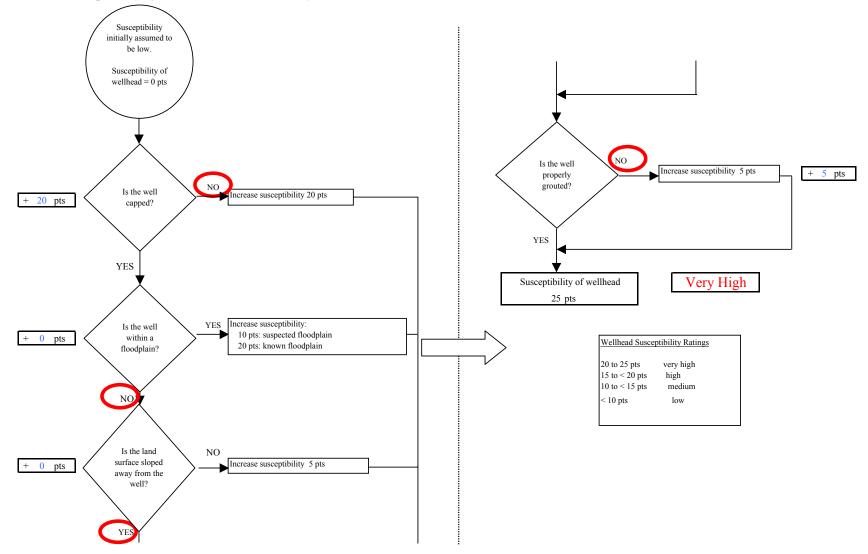


Chart 1. Susceptibility of the wellhead - Bristol Bay Contractors Well (PWS No. 262636.001)

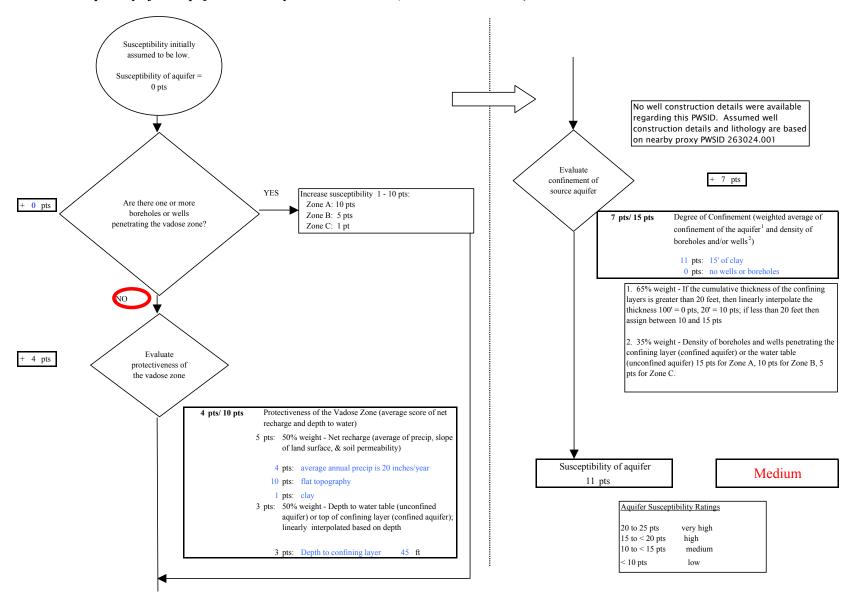


Chart 2. Susceptibility of the aquifer Bristol Bay Contractors Well (PWS No. 262636.001)

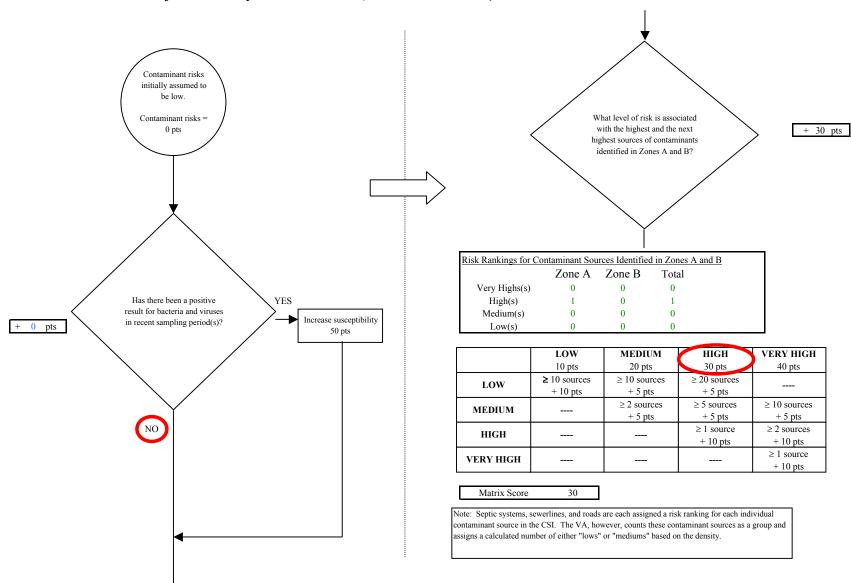


Chart 3. Contaminant risks for Bristol Bay Contractors Well (PWS No. 262636.001) - Bacteria & Viruses

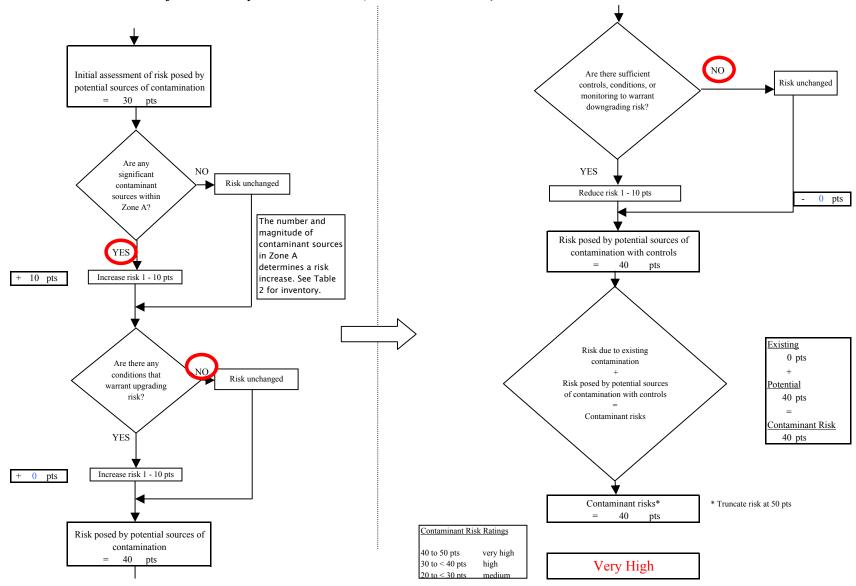


Chart 3. Contaminant risks for Bristol Bay Contractors Well (PWS No. 262636.001) - Bacteria & Viruses

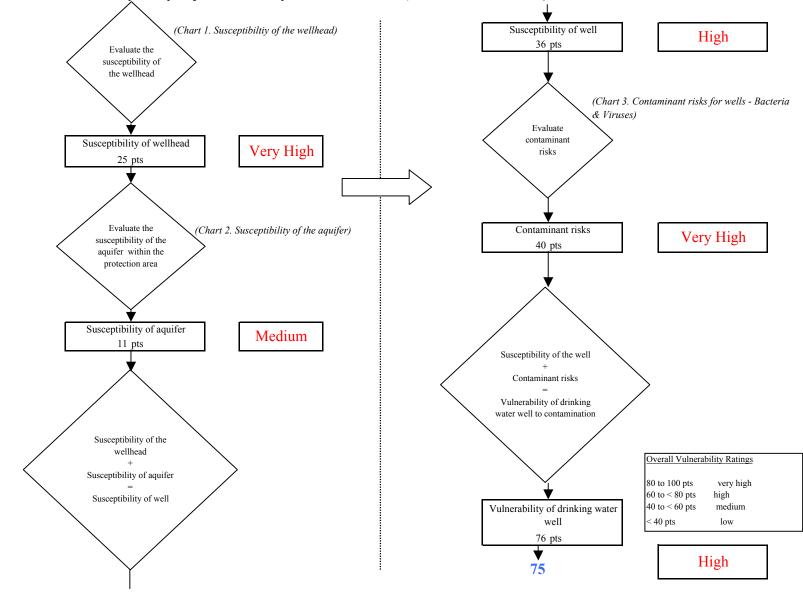


Chart 4. Vulnerability analysis for Bristol Bay Contractors Well (PWS No. 262636.001) - Bacteria & Viruses

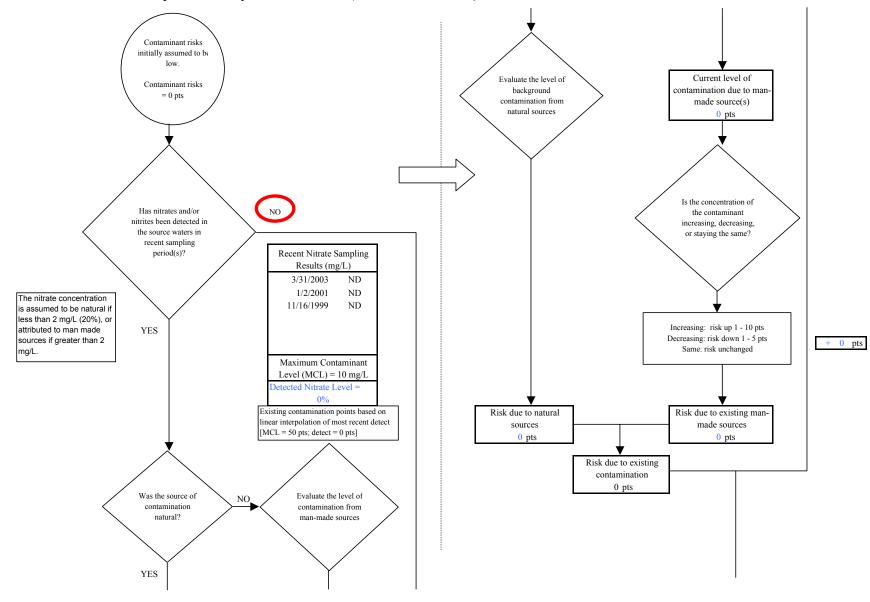


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for Bristol Bay Contractors Well (PWS No. 262636.001) - Nitrates and Nitrites

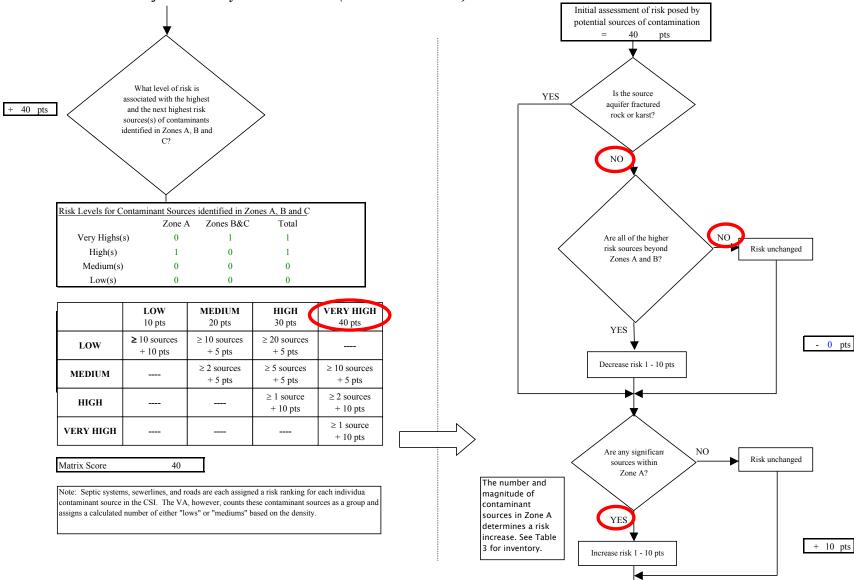


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for Bristol Bay Contractors Well (PWS No. 262636.001) - Nitrates and Nitrites

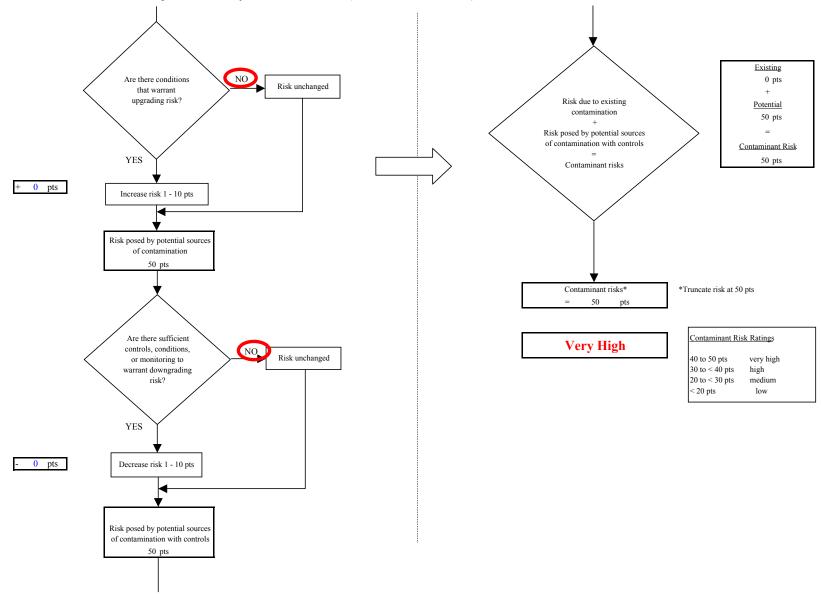


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for Bristol Bay Contractors Well (PWS No. 262636.001) - Nitrates and Nitrites

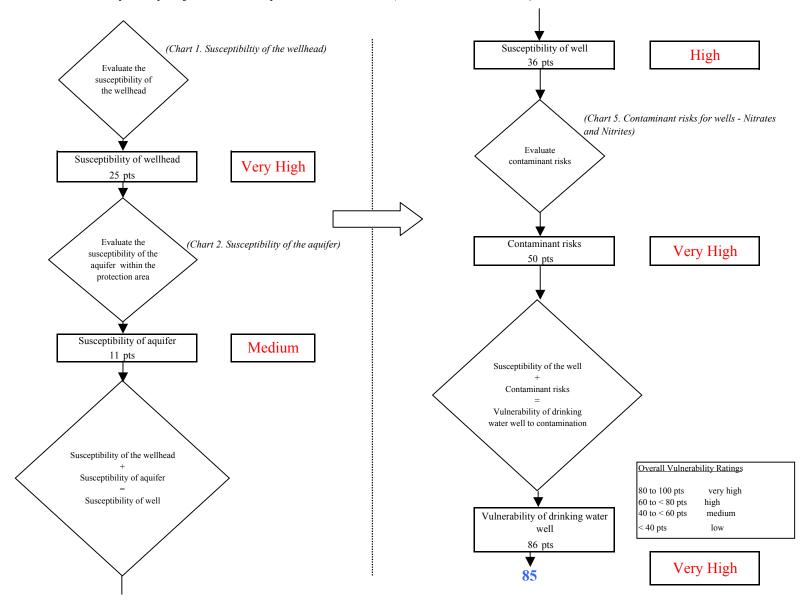


Chart 6. Vulnerability analysis for Bristol Bay Contractors Well (PWS No. 262636.001) - Nitrates and Nitrites

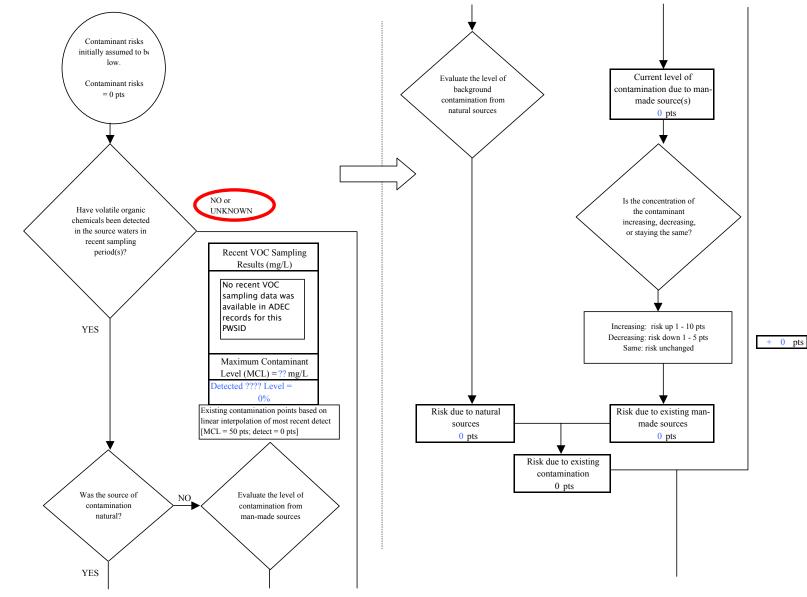


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for Bristol Bay Contractors Well (PWS No. 262636.001) - Volatile Organic Chemicals

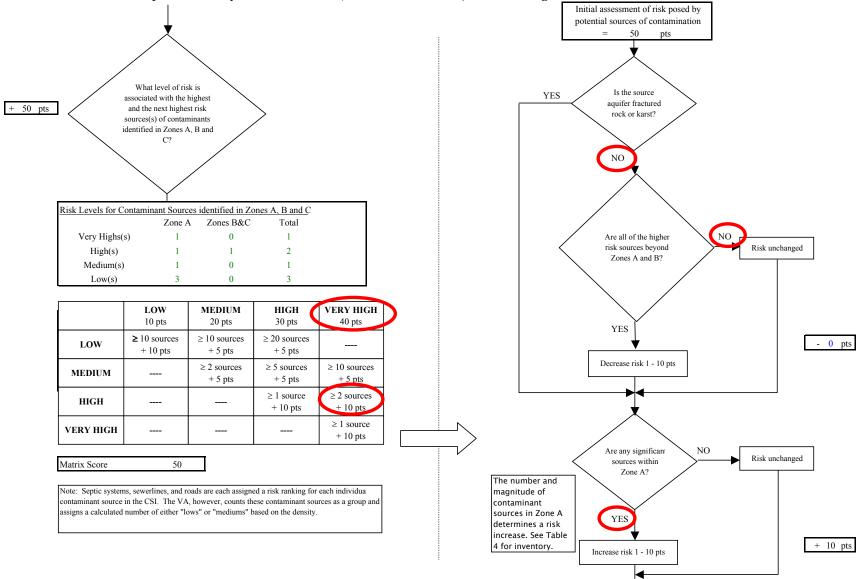


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for Bristol Bay Contractors Well (PWS No. 262636.001) - Volatile Organic Chemicals

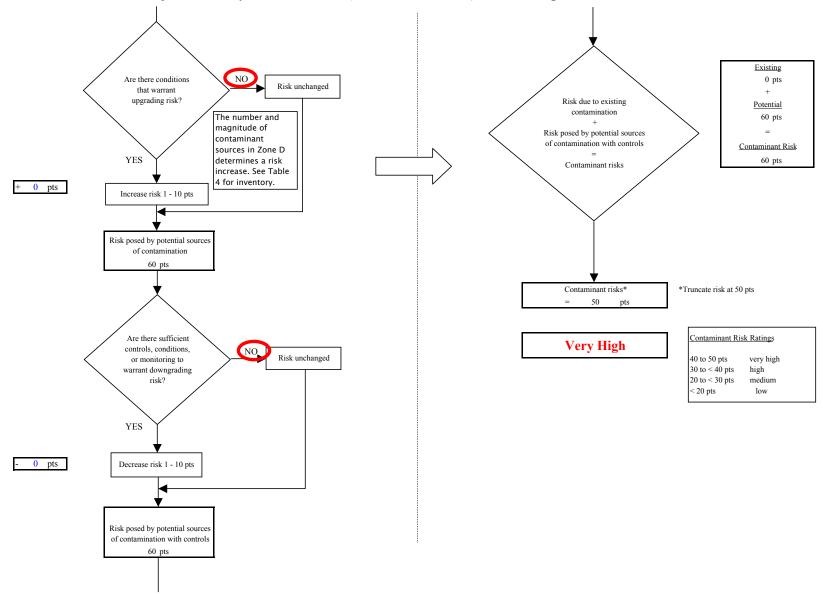


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for Bristol Bay Contractors Well (PWS No. 262636.001) - Volatile Organic Chemicals

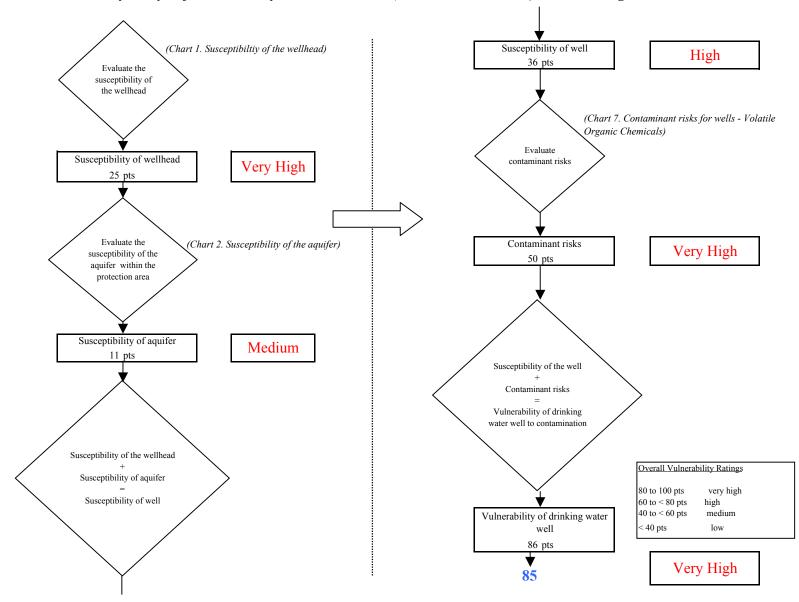


Chart 8. Vulnerability analysis for Bristol Bay Contractors Well (PWS No. 262636.001) - Volatile Organic Chemicals