

Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and Vulnerability Assessment for Seward Marine Industrial Center Drinking Water System, Seward area, Alaska PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 March 2004

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM REPORT 1475 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 Seward Marine Industrial Center Source of Public Drinking Water, Seward area, Alaska

Drinking Water Protection Program Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The public water system for Seward Marine Industrial Center is a Class A (community) water system consisting of two wells. The well is located off of Nash Road in Seward Alaska. The wellheads received a susceptibility rating of **Medium** and the aquifer received a susceptibility rating of Medium. Combining these two ratings produces a Medium rating for the natural susceptibility of the wells. Identified potential sources of contaminants for the Seward Marine Industrial Center include: roads and abandoned mines. These identified potential sources of contamination are considered as sources of bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals, inorganic chemicals and other organic chemicals. Overall, the public water source for the Seward Marine Industrial Center received a vulnerability rating of Low for bacteria/viruses, nitrates/nitrites, volatile organic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals and other organic chemical and Medium for inorganic chemicals

SEWARD MARINE INDUSTRIAL CENTER PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

The Seward Marine Industrial Center public water system (PWS) is a Class A (community) water system. The system consists of two wells located off of Nash Road. (See Map 1 of Appendix A). The Seward Marine Industrial Center is part of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, which is located directly south of the city of Anchorage. The borough encompasses 25,600 square miles, of which only 15,700 square miles is land.

The Kenai Peninsula is broken into two distinct geographic areas; the Kenai Mountains and the Kenai Lowlands. Kenai and its surrounding communities are located in the Kenai Lowlands. Communities located within the Kenai Lowlands include Sterling, Soldotna, Kenai, Nikiski, Clam Gulch, Ninilchik, and Homer. Communities located in the Kenai Mountains include: Cooper Landing, Moose Pass and Seward.

The Kenai Peninsula area topography varies from about 3,000 feet to 5,000 feet above sea level in the Kenai Mountains, the highest point being about 6,400 feet above sea level. The Kenai Peninsula is dotted with many lakes and small streams, including three large lakes (Kenai Lake, Skilak Lake, and Tustemena Lake)

and two substantial rivers (Kenai River, and Kasilof River) (USGS 1915).

The Seward Marine Industrial Center water system is located within the Kenai Mountains, in the town of Seward Alaska. Seward lies at the mouth of the Resurrection River at the head of Resurrection Bay, in a valley surrounded by steep mountains to the east and west. Drainage is typically off the mountains towards the Bay

The surface geology of the Seward area is predominantly composed of unconsolidated surficial deposits. These deposits are chiefly of glaciofluvial origin. This alluvium comprises an unconfined aquifer. The exposed rock surrounding Seward is predominantly the Jurassic or Cretaceous Valdez Group. The Valdez Group is comprised of weakly metamorphosed metagraywacke, metasiltstone, and argillite (Tysdal and Case 1979).

The Seward area has a central water system, supplied by nine municipal wells. However, many homes and businesses in the area rely on individual wells for their water supply. Sewage is collected and piped to a secondary treatment lagoon. Almost all homes are fully plumbed (ADCED 2002

The well logs indicate that Well A and Well B are at a depth of 96 feet and 106 feet below ground surface respectively. The wells are completed in semi-confined aquifer consisting of sand and gravel.

Records indicate that the well is properly sealed. A properly installed sanitary seal may provide protection against contaminant from entering the source waters at the casing. The well is located in a floodplain and is susceptible to flooding. The surface is not sloped away from the wellhead. The wells are grouted. Proper grouting provides added protection against contaminants traveling along the well casing and into source waters.

This system operates year round and serves up to 735 residents, 100 non-residents through 5 service connections.

SEWARD MARINE INDUSTRIAL CENTER 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 Salmon Creek Trailer Court. 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 A 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 2 years time-of-travel
С	Less than 5 years time-of-travel
D	Less than 10 years time-of-travel

The DWPA for the Seward Marine Industrial Center was determined using an analytical calculation and includes Zone A, B, C, and D (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 Seward Marine Industrial Center 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 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.

The sources are displayed on Map 1 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 6 in Appendix B contain the ranking of potential and existing sources of contamination with respect to bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, volatile organic chemicals inorganic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals and other organic chemicals, respectively

VULNERABILITY OF SEWARD MARINE INDUSTRIAL CENTER 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 14 contain the Contaminant Risks and Vulnerability Analyses for bacteria/viruses, nitrates/nitrites, volatile organic chemicals, inorganic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals and other 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			

Salmon Creek Trailer Court's wells are completed in semi confined aquifer setting. The well logs in the area indicate that a discontinuous confining layer is present. This layer may provide a protective barrier from the movement of contaminants in the subsurface. However, in areas where the layer is not present contaminants may enter the subsurface uninhibited by any protective layer. In addition, recharge areas along the side of the mountains may provide a direct route for contaminants to enter the aquifer.

Table 2 shows the Susceptibility scores and ratings for the Seward Marine Industrial Center.

Table 2. Susceptibility

	Score	Rating
Susceptibility of the	10	Medium
Wellhead		
Susceptibility of the	14	Medium
Aquifer		
Natural Susceptibility	24	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	12	Low
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	14	Low
Volatile Organic Chemicals	12	Low
Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and		
Other Inorganic Chemicals	25	Medium
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	0	Low
Other Organic Chemicals	0	Low

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	35	Low
Nitrates and Nitrites	35	Low
Volatile Organic Chemicals	35	Low
Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and		
Other Inorganic Chemicals	50	Medium
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	25	Low
Other Organic Chemicals	40	Low

Bacteria and Viruses

Roads represent the greatest risk for bacteria and viruses to this drinking water well.

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

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 low.

Nitrates and Nitrites

Road represent the greatest risk to nitrates and nitrites for this source of public drinking water.

Nitrates are very mobile, moving at approximately the same rate as water. The sampling history for the Seward Marine Industrial Center well indicates that nitrate concentrations have ranged from 0.394 mg/l to 0.422 mg/l. The reported nitrate concentrations suggest that the nitrate concentrations are attributed to natural sources. 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. The most recent nitrate level detected was 4% (0.394 mg/L) of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 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. Though existing nitrate contamination was detected at the site, recent data indicates that nitrate concentrations are safe with respect to human health.

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 low.

Volatile Organic Chemicals

Roads represent the greatest identified risk for volatile organic chemical contamination to the well.

Many residents in the area typically heat their homes with various types of on-site fuel sources, including propane and heating oil stored in aboveground or underground storage tanks. Although this report does not address heating oil tanks (unless their location is known), they can pose a risk of volatile organic chemical contamination to drinking water sources. The most common causes of fuel leaks of these heating oil systems are overfilling the tank, ruptured fuel lines, leaking storage tanks, damaged or faulty valves and vandalism. Secondary containment around the tank and regular system maintenance can help prevent many of these harmful fuel leaks and help protect the drinking water supply.

Sampling history indicates that regulated Volatile Organic Chemicals have not been detected in source waters.

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 low.

Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and Other Inorganic Chemicals

Roads, large capacity septic systems, residential areas, and existing contamination represent the greatest risk for inorganic chemicals to the well.

Samplings of inorganic chemicals have detected beryllium at levels below the current maximum contaminant levels (MCL's).

After combining the contaminant risk for heavy metals, cyanide and other inorganic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is medium.

Synthetic Organic Chemicals

No potential sources of synthetic organic chemicals have been identified.

Sampling for synthetic organic chemicals has not occurred. The system currently has an SOC waiver and is not required to sample.

After combining the contaminant risk for snythetic organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the

well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is low.

Other Organic Chemicals

Roads represent the greatest risk for other organic chemicals to the well

Sampling for other organic chemicals has not occurred. The system currently has an OOC waiver and is not required to sample.

After combining the contaminant risk for snythetic organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is low.

REFERENCES

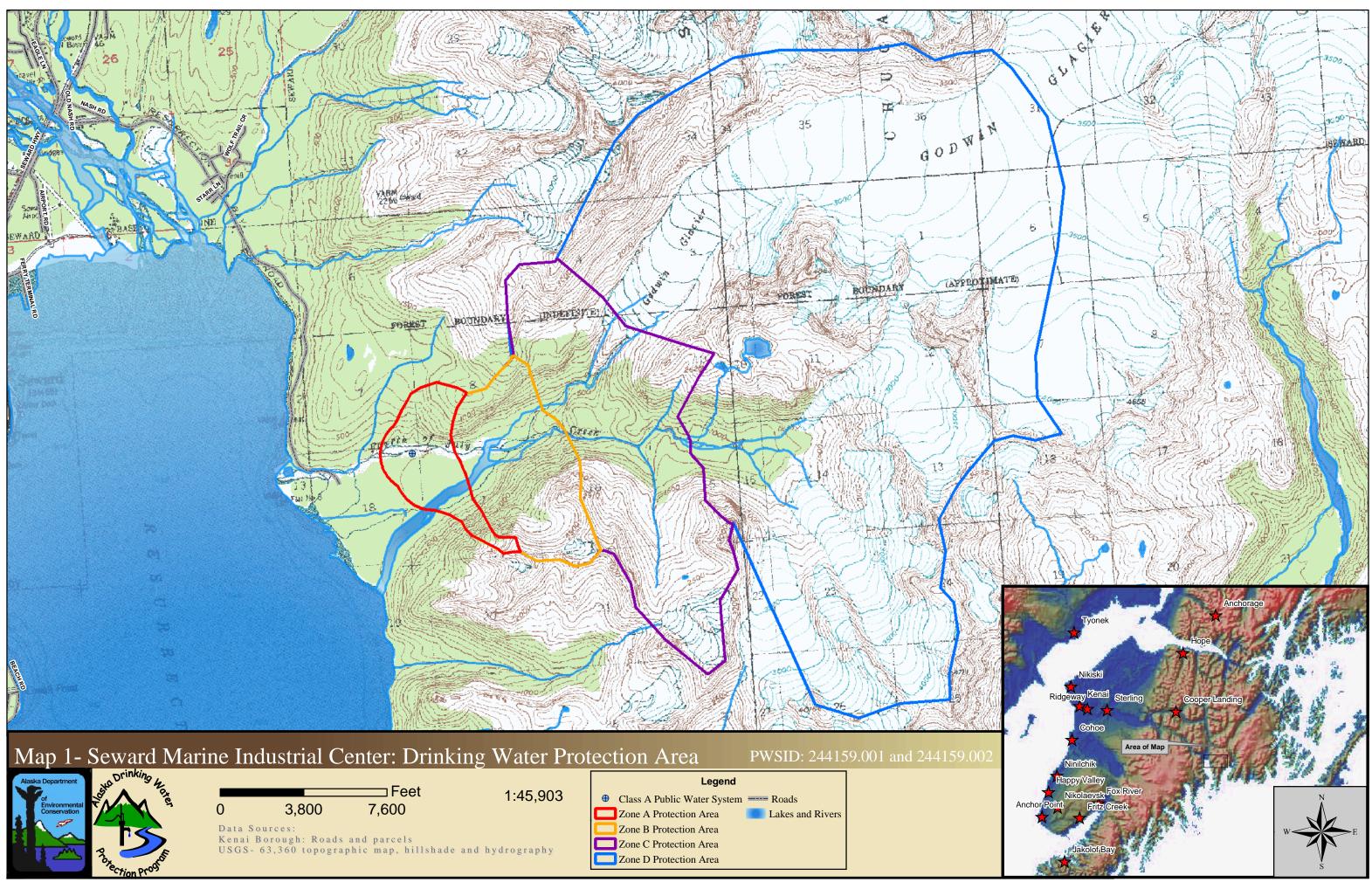
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- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2002 [WWW document]. URL <u>http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html</u>.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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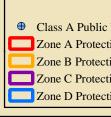
APPENDIX A

Seward Marine Industrial Center Drinking Water Protection Area Location Map (Map 1)





0	3,800	7,600
Data S	Sources:	



APPENDIX B

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Seward Marine Industrial Center (Tables 1-7)

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Map Number	Comments
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-01	А	2	
Abandoned mine spoils or mine tailings piles/ ponds	U01	U01-1	D	2	
Abandoned mine spoils or mine tailings piles/ ponds	U01	U01-2	D	2	

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Seward Marine Industrial Center Sources of Bacteria and Viruses

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-01	А	Low	2	

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Seward Marine Industrial Center Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-01	А	Low	2	

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Seward Marine Industrial Center Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-01	А	Low	2	

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

PWSID 244159.001

Seward Marine Industrial Center 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
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-01	А	Low	2	
Abandoned mine spoils or mine tailings piles/ ponds	U01	U01-1	D	Very High	2	
Abandoned mine spoils or mine tailings piles/ ponds	U01	U01-2	D	Very High	2	

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Seward Marine Industrial Center Sources of Other Organic Chemicals

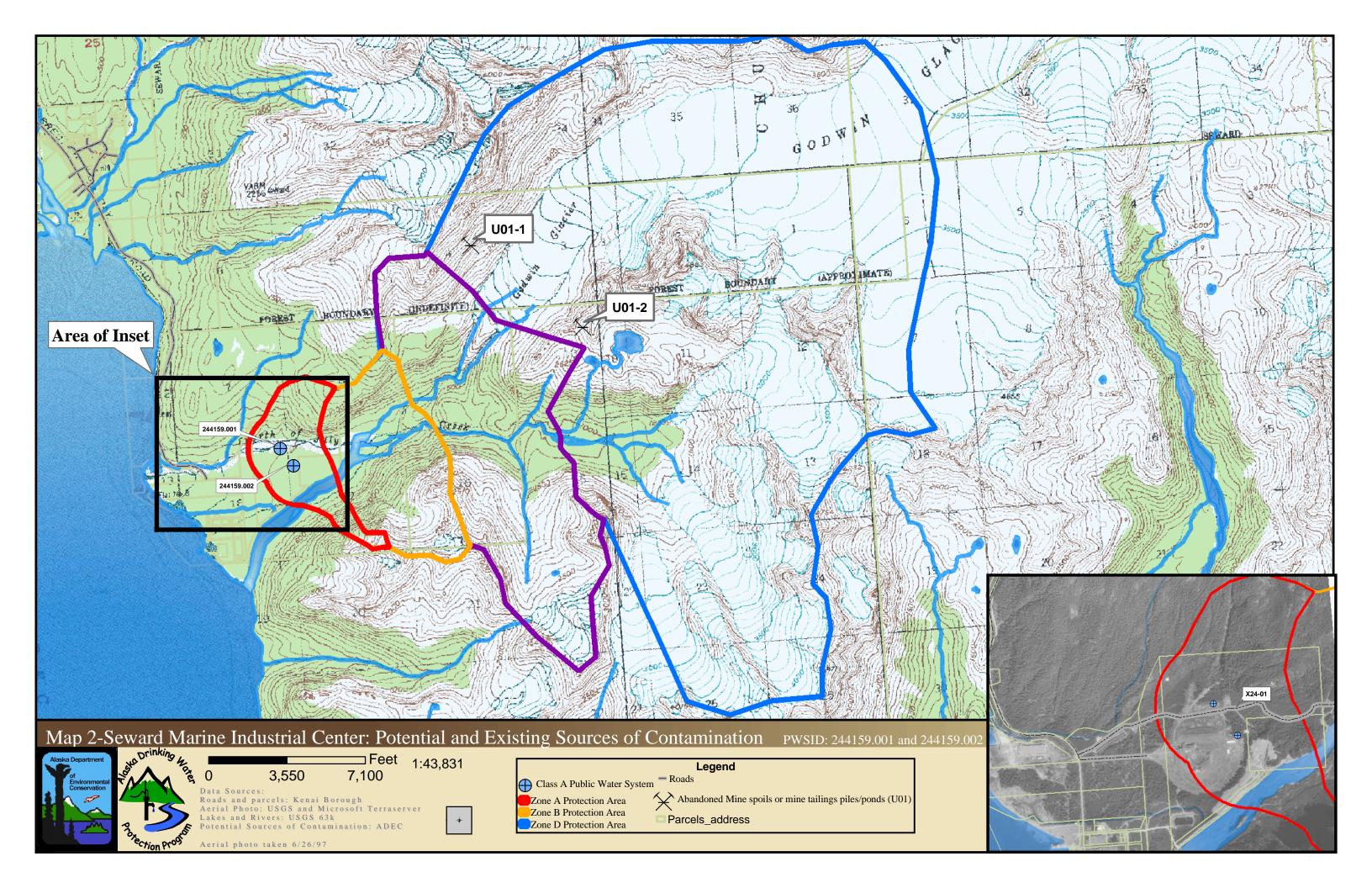
Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-01	А	Low	2	

APPENDIX C

Seward Marine Industrial Center Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources (Map 2)

APPENDIX C

Seward Marine Industrial Center Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources (Map 2)



APPENDIX D

Vulnerability Analysis for Seward Marine Industrial Center Public Drinking Water Source (Charts 1-14)

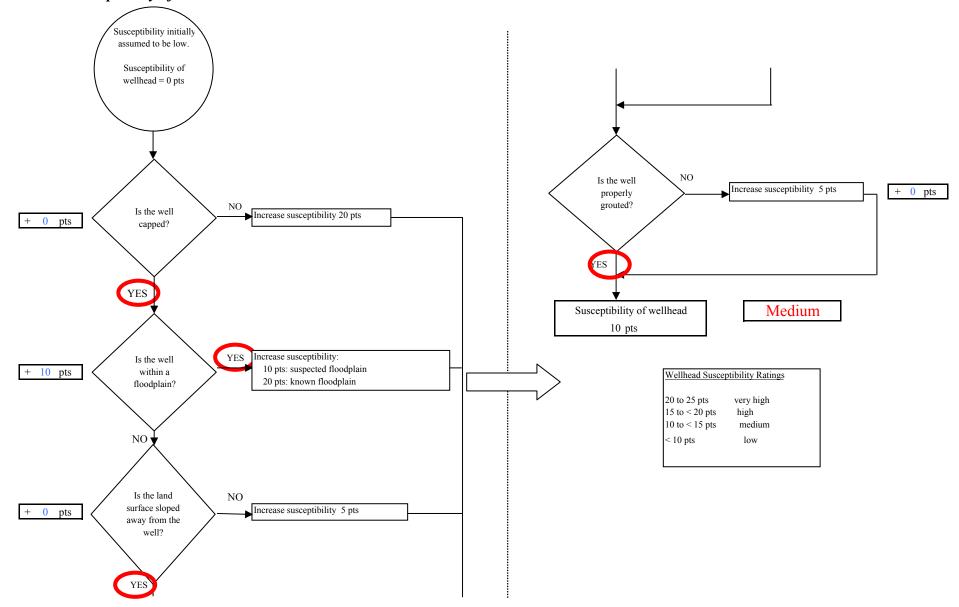
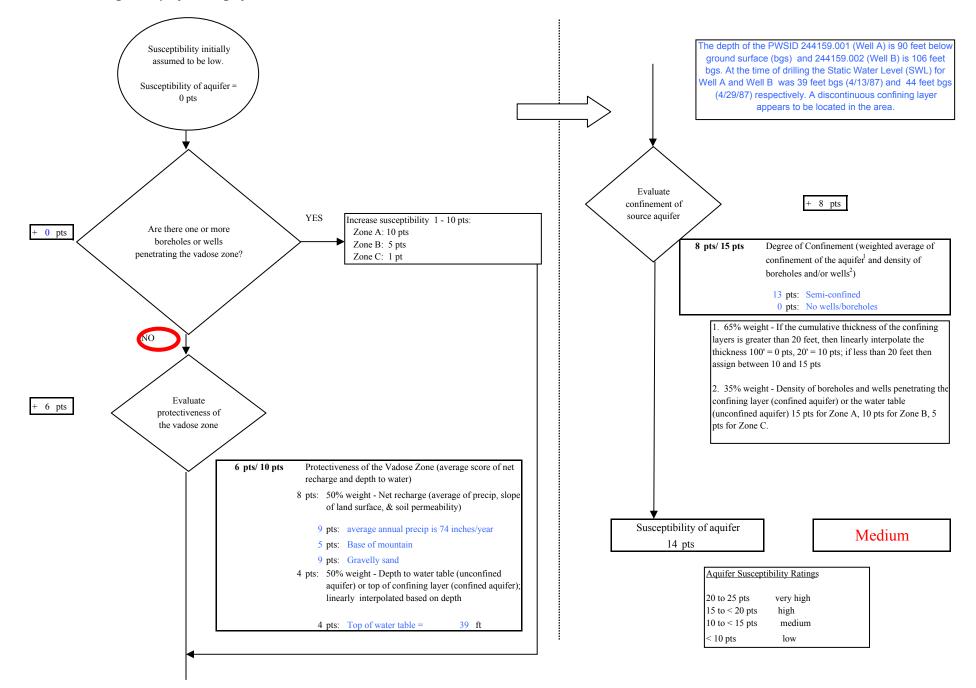


Chart 1. Susceptibility of the wellhead - Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002

Chart 2. Susceptibility of the aquifer - Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002





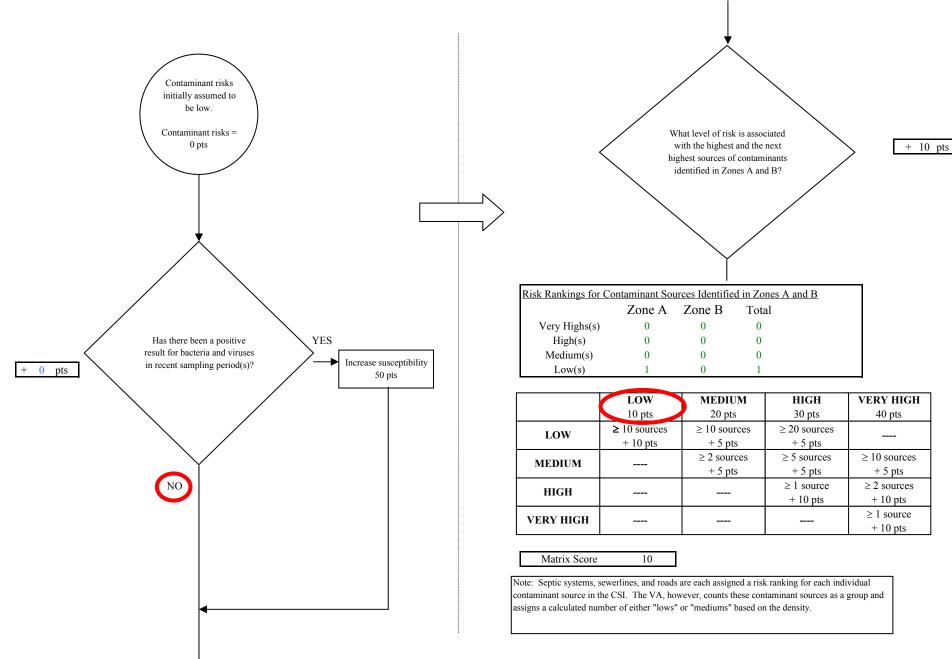
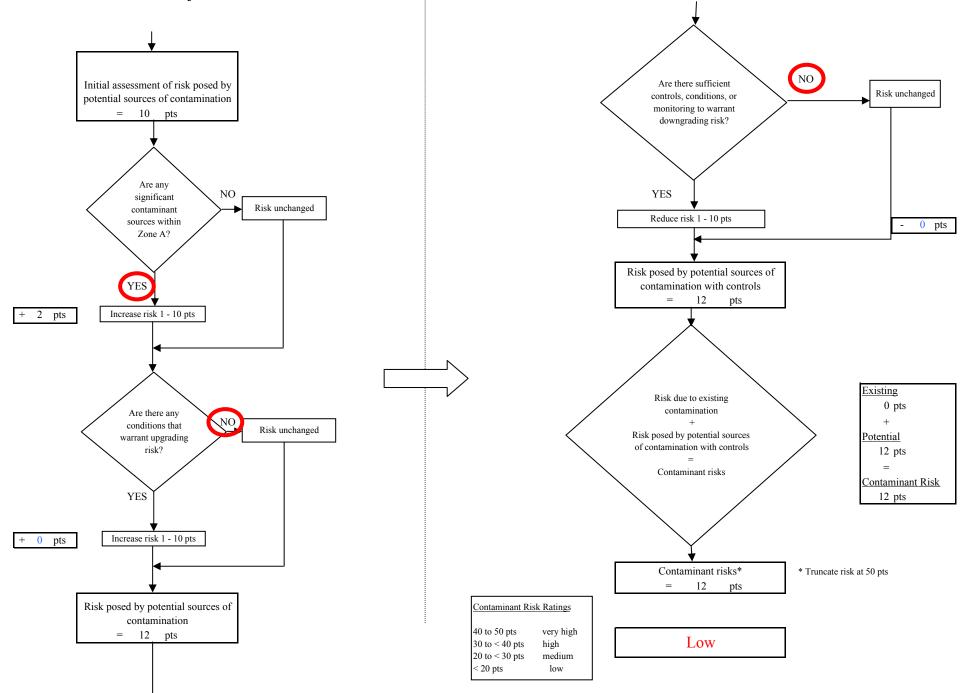


Chart 3. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Bacteria & Viruses



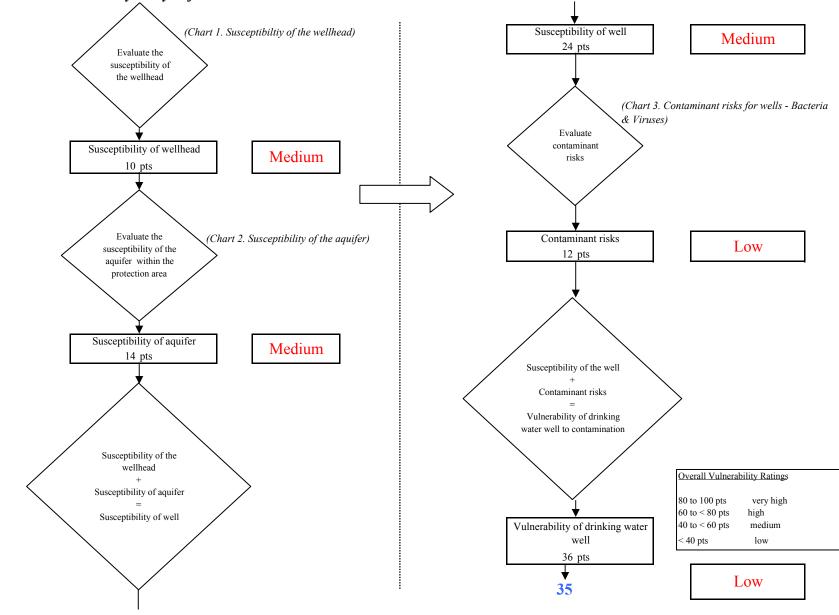
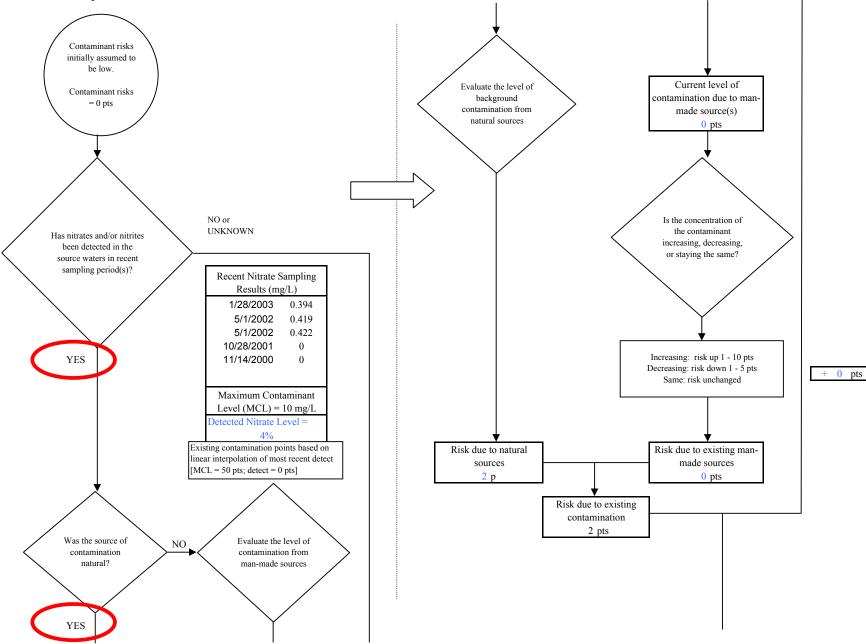


Chart 4. Vulnerability analysis for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Bacteria & Viruses

Chart 5. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Nitrates and Nitrites



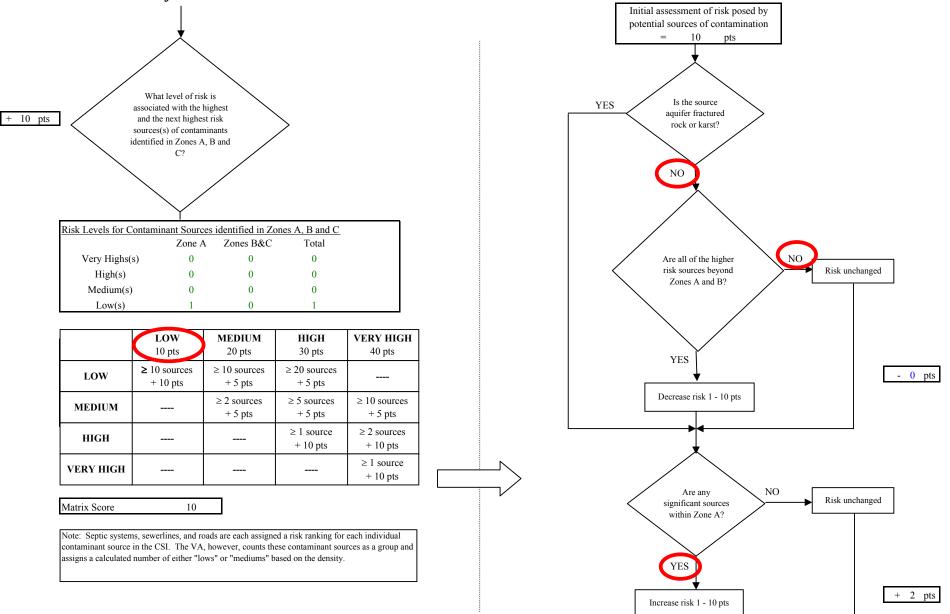


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Nitrates and Nitrites

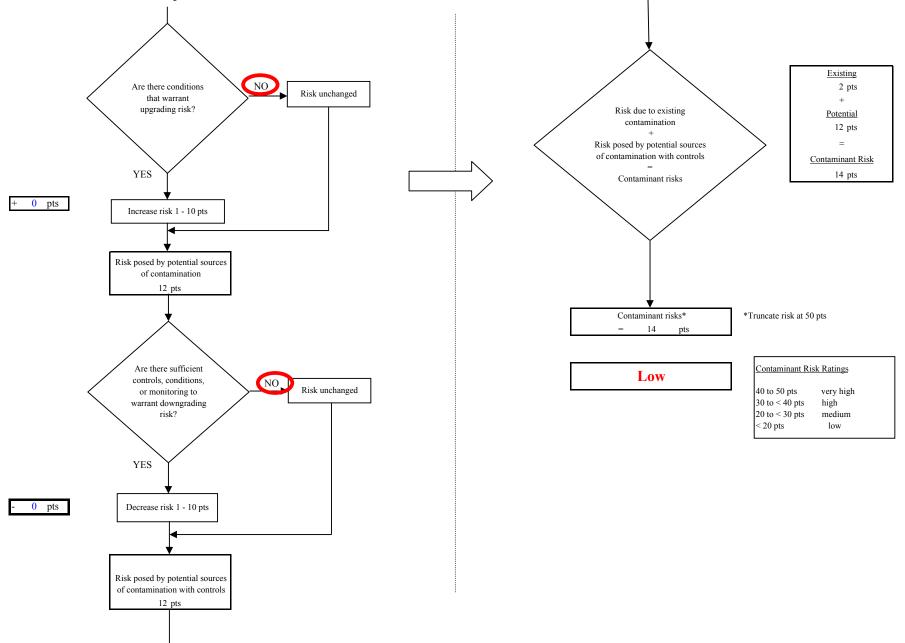


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Nitrates and Nitrites

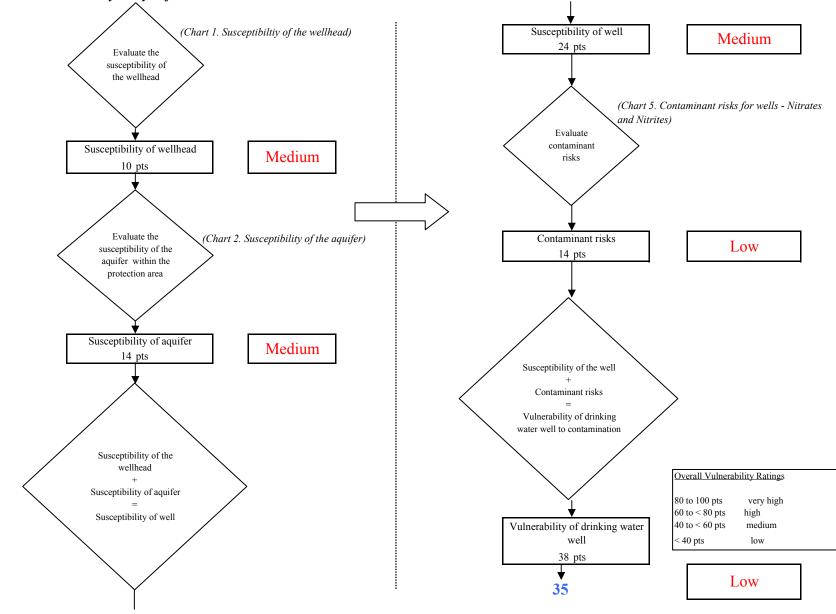


Chart 6. Vulnerability analysis for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Nitrates and Nitrites

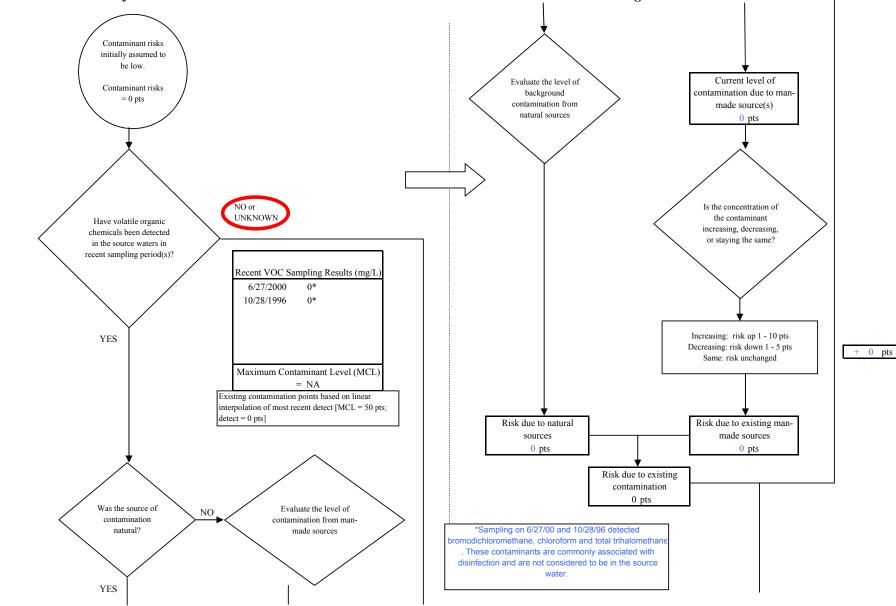


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Volatile Organic Chemicals

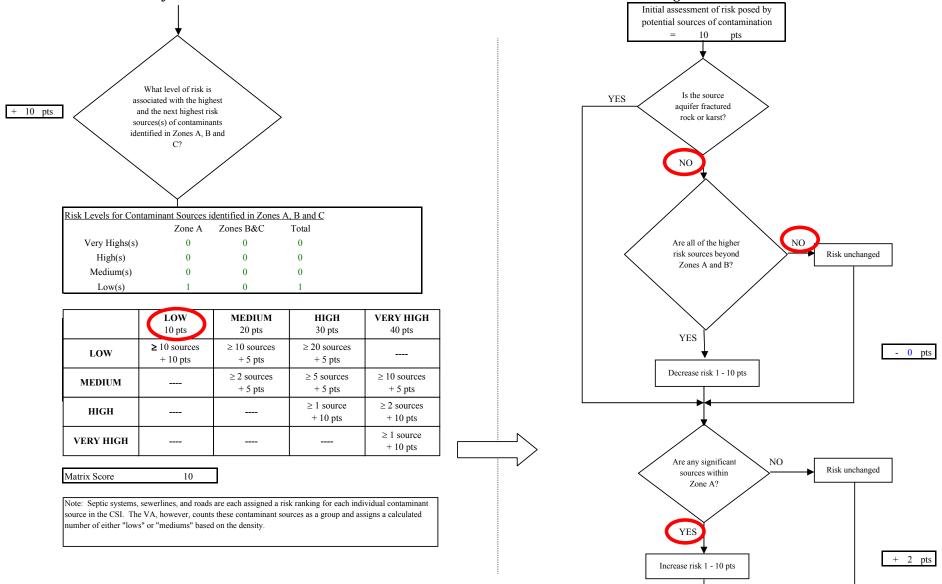


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Volatile Organic Chemicals

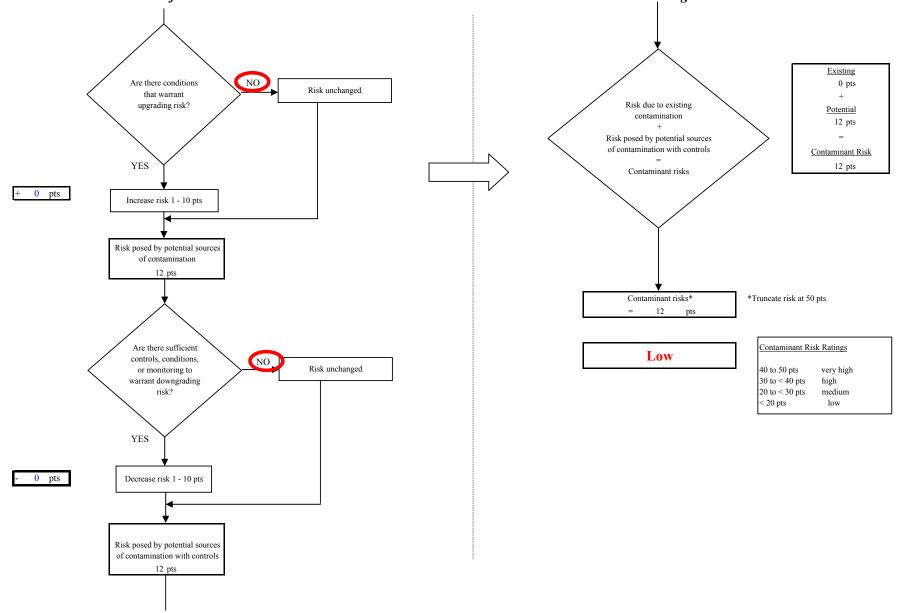


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Volatile Organic Chemicals

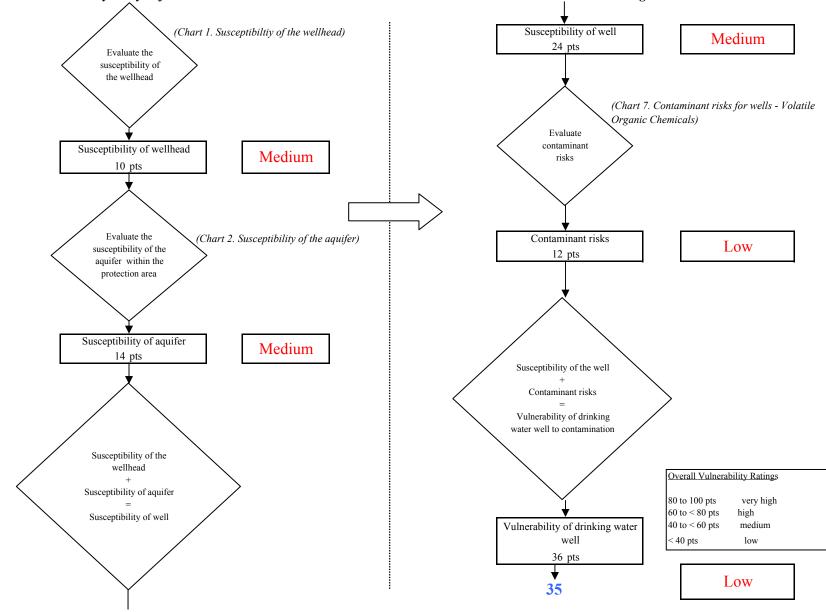
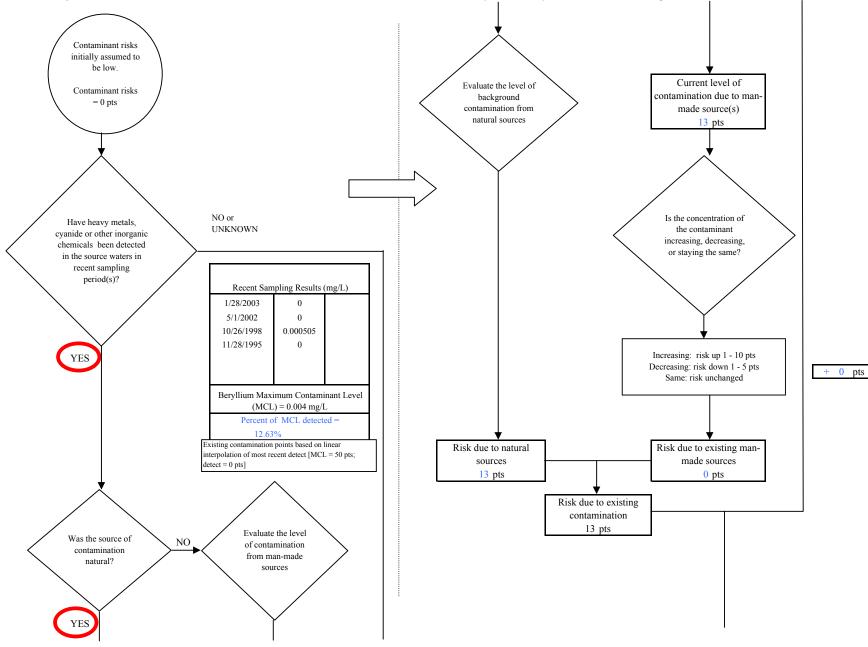


Chart 8. Vulnerability analysis for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Volatile Organic Chemicals

Chart 9. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals



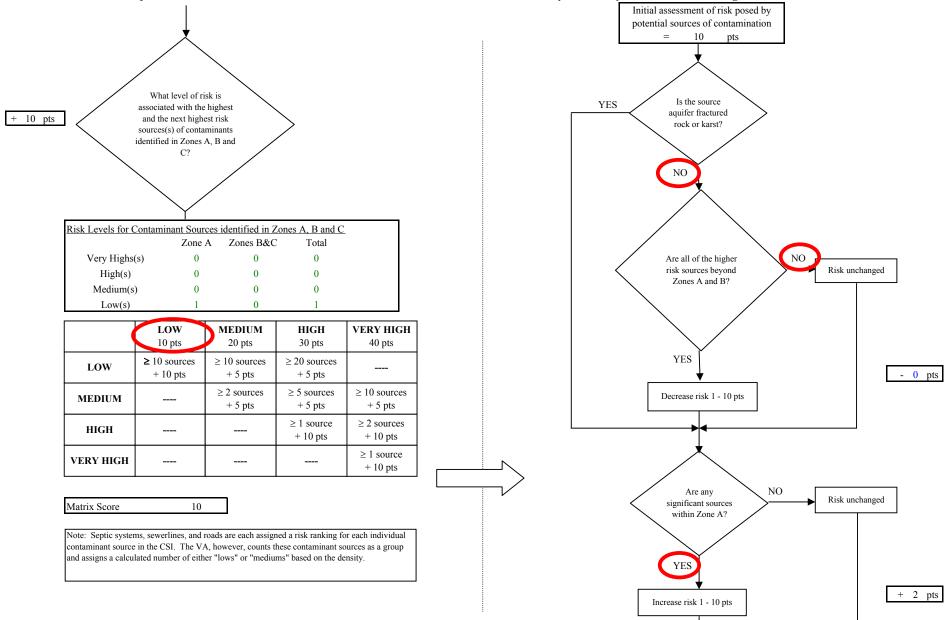
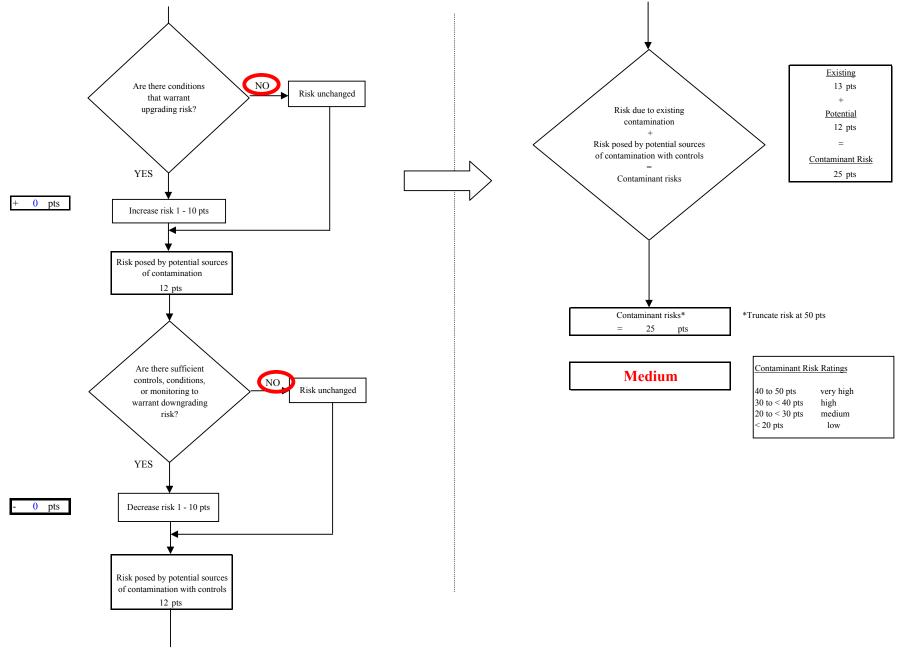


Chart 9. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals

Chart 9. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals



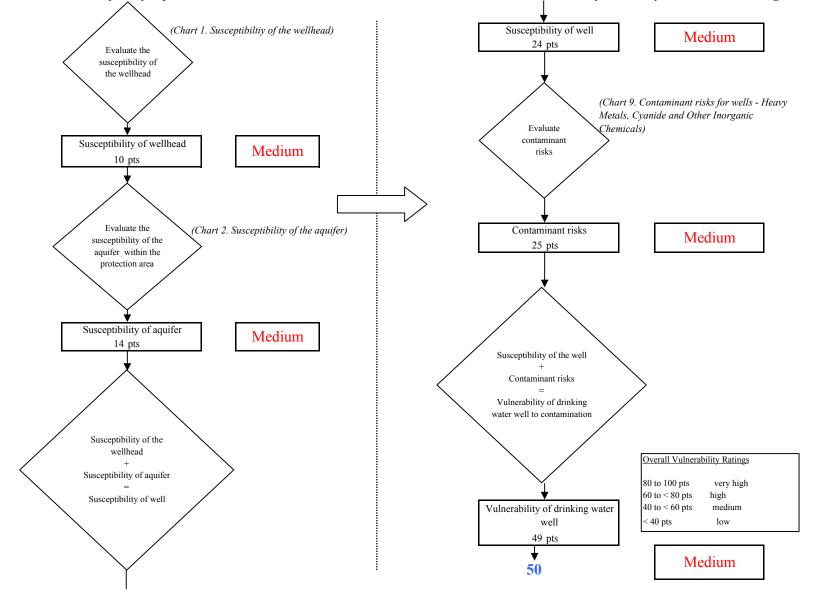
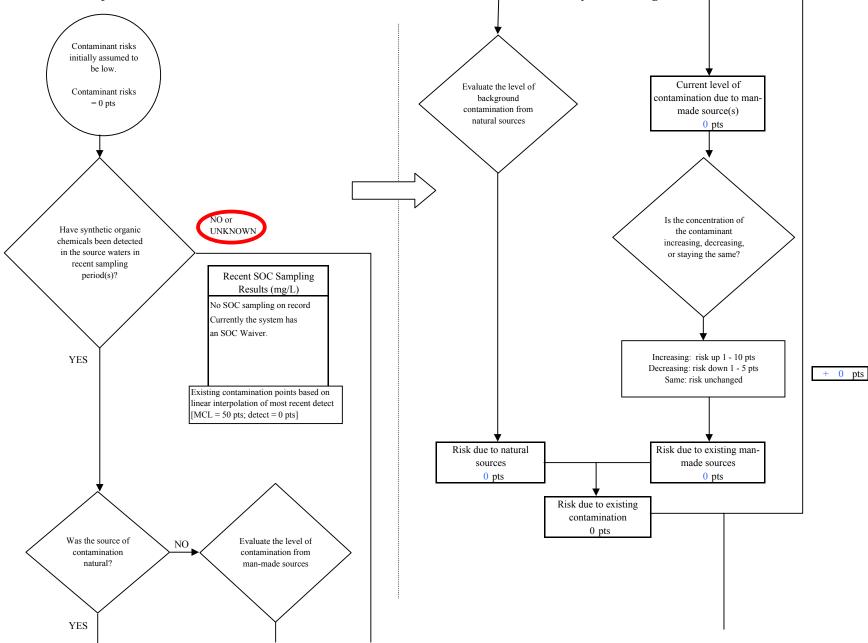


Chart 10. Vulnerability analysis for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals

Chart 11. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Synthetic Organic Chemicals



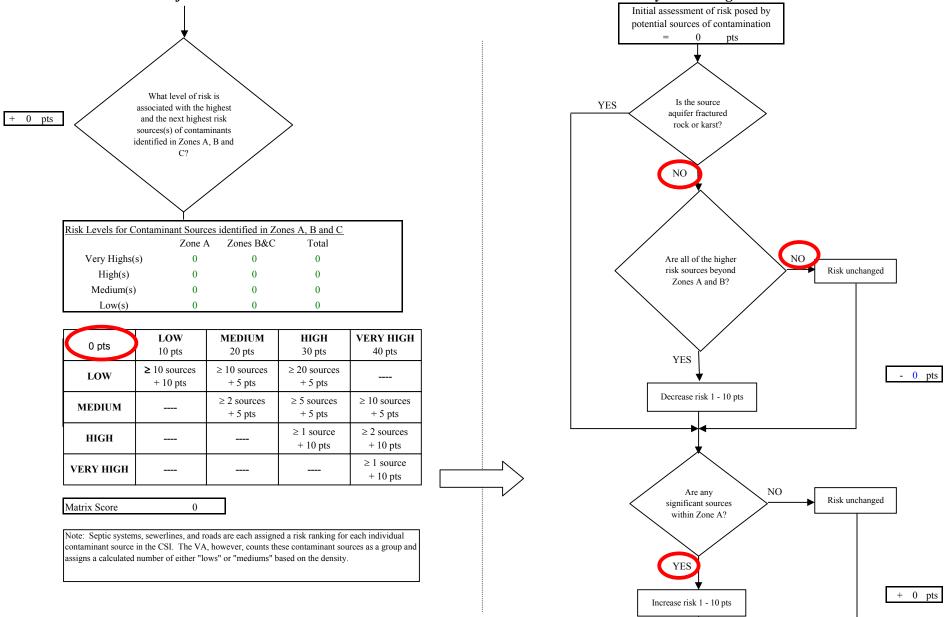


Chart 11. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Synthetic Organic Chemicals

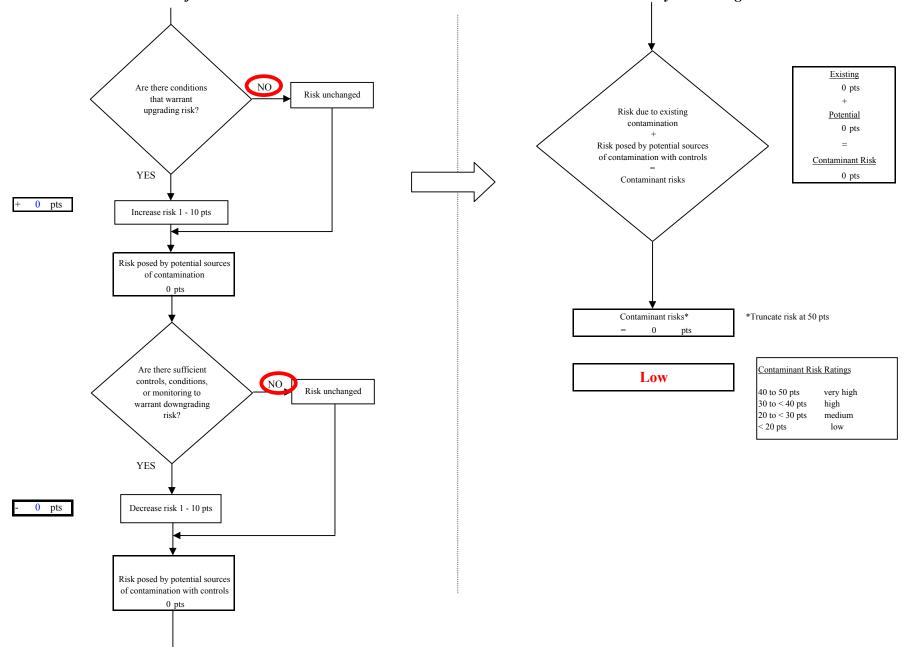


Chart 11. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Synthetic Organic Chemicals

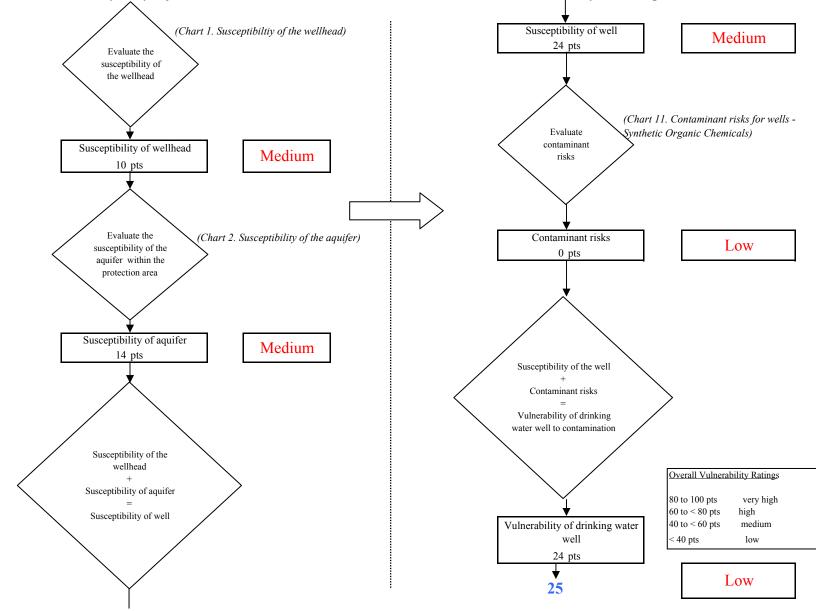


Chart 12. Vulnerability analysis for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Synthetic Organic Chemicals

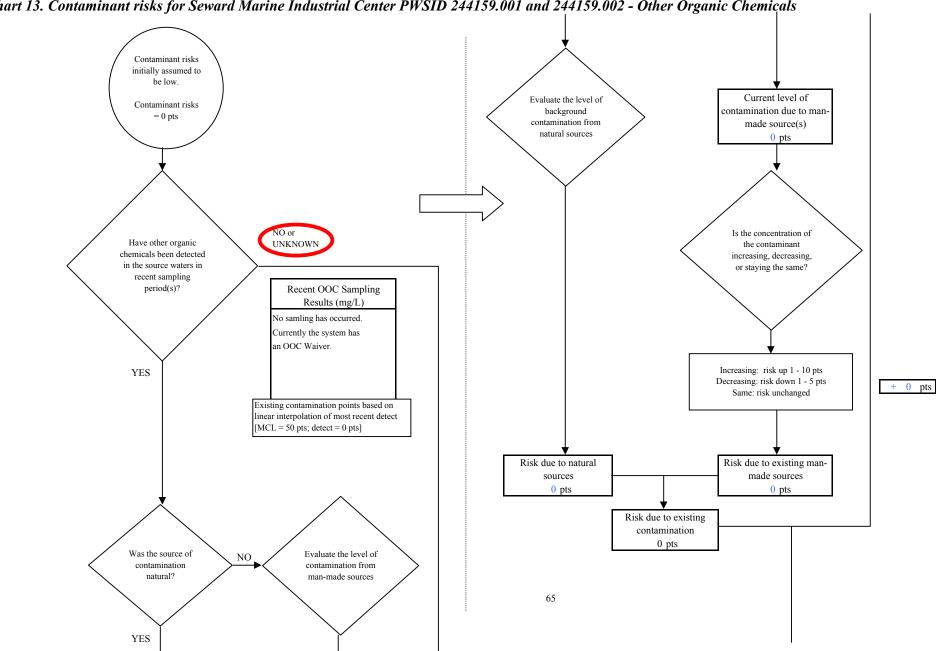


Chart 13. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Other Organic Chemicals

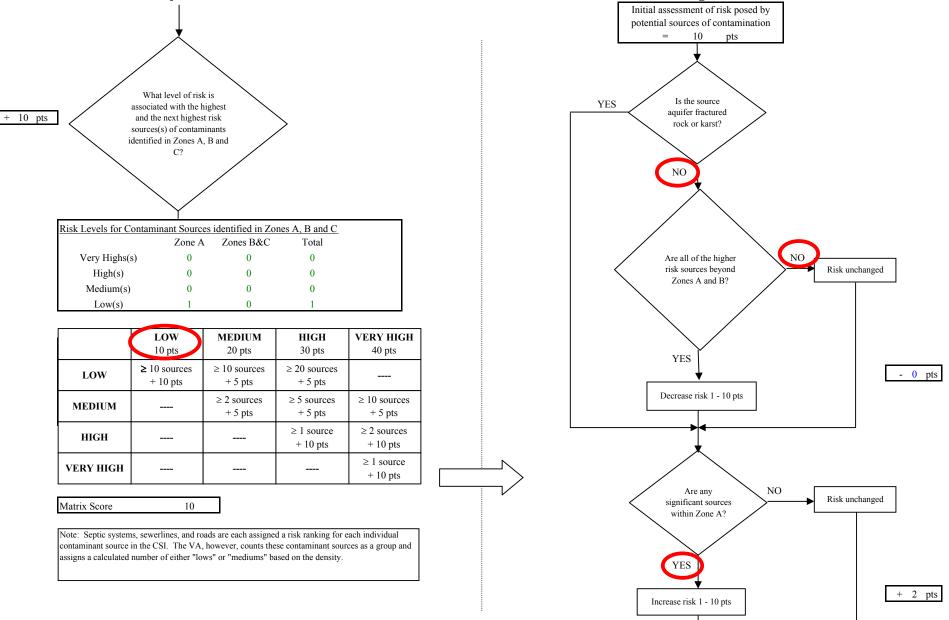


Chart 13. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Other Organic Chemicals

Existing NO Are there conditions 0 pts Risk unchanged that warrant $^+$ upgrading risk? Risk due to existing Potential contamination 12 pts += Risk posed by potential sources of contamination with controls Contaminant Risk = YES 12 pts Contaminant risks 0 pts +Increase risk 1 - 10 pts Risk posed by potential sources of contamination 12 pts Contaminant risks* *Truncate risk at 50 pts 12 = pts Are there sufficient Contaminant Risk Ratings Low controls, conditions, NO. Risk unchanged 40 to 50 pts or monitoring to very high warrant downgrading 30 to < 40 pts high risk? 20 to < 30 pts medium < 20 pts low YES Decrease risk 1 - 10 pts 0 pts Risk posed by potential sources of contamination with controls 12 pts

Chart 13. Contaminant risks for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Other Organic Chemicals

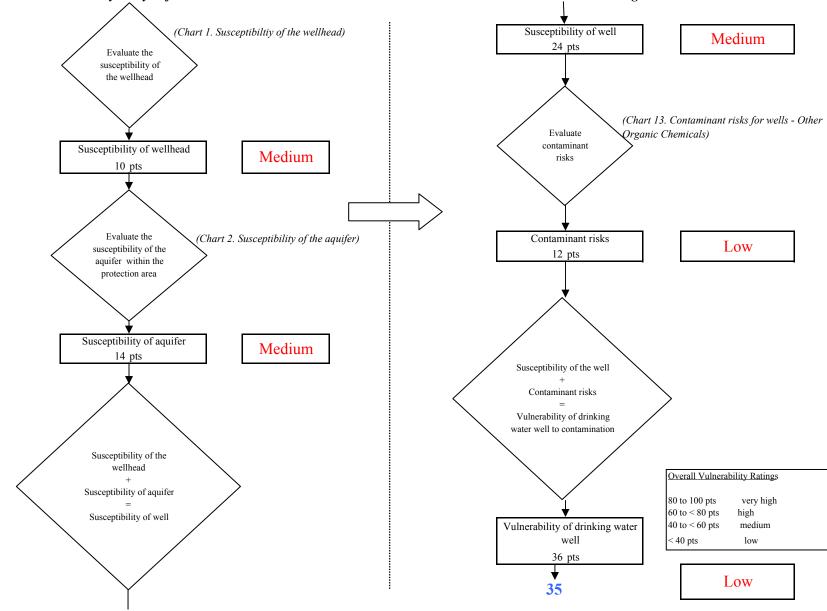


Chart 14. Vulnerability analysis for Seward Marine Industrial Center PWSID 244159.001 and 244159.002 - Other Organic Chemicals