



### Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and Vulnerability Assessment for YMCA Peggy Lake Camp Drinking Water System, Talkeetna, Alaska YMCA Peggy Lake Camp #222092

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM REPORT 229 Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

**AUGUST 2002** 

# Source Water Assessment for YMCA Peggy Lake Camp Drinking Water System, Talkeetna, Alaska YMCA Peggy Lake Camp #222092

By Shannon & Wilson, Inc.

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM REPORT 229

The Drinking Water Protection 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 (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. 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 YMCA Peggy Lake Camp Source of Public Drinking Water, Talkeetna, Alaska

By Shannon & Wilson, Inc.

### **Drinking Water Protection Program Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The YMCA Peggy Lake Camp is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system consisting of one well, located at Peggy Lake at approximately Mile 100 of the Parks Highway, Alaska. Identified potential and current sources of contaminants for YMCA Peggy Lake Camp public drinking water source include: roads, a shooting range, residential areas, a laundromat, aboveground closed gasoline and diesel tanks, a contaminated site, a gasoline station, single-family septic systems, and underground gasoline and diesel tanks. These identified potential and existing sources of contamination are considered sources of bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic Overall, the public water sources for chemicals. YMCA Peggy Lake Camp received a vulnerability rating of Medium for volatile organic chemicals, Low for bacteria and viruses, and Low for nitrates and nitrites.

### INTRODUCTION

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) is completing source water assessments for all public drinking water sources in the State of Alaska. The purpose of this assessment is to provide owners and/or operators, communities, and local governments with information they can use to preserve the quality of Alaska's public drinking water supplies. The results of this source water assessment can be used to decide where voluntary protection efforts are needed and feasible, and also what efforts will be most effective in reducing contaminant risks to your water system. Shannon & Wilson has been contracted to perform these assessments under the supervision of ADEC.

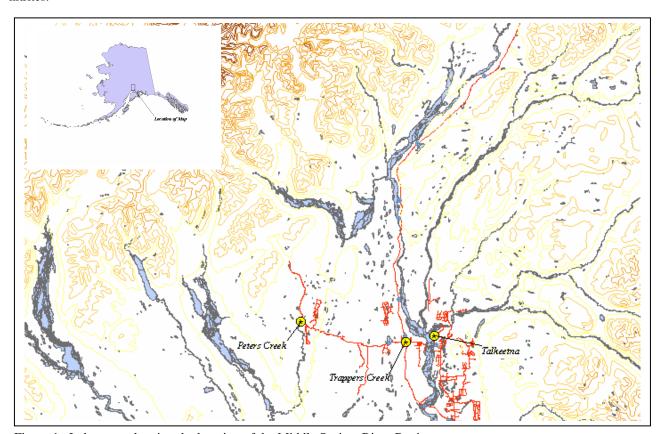


Figure 1. Index map showing the location of the Middle Susitna River Region.

This source water assessment combines a review of the natural conditions at the site and the potential and existing contaminant risks. These are combined to determine the overall vulnerability of the drinking water source to contamination.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE MIDDLE SUSITNA RIVER REGION

### Location

The Susitna River watershed is the largest watershed in Southcentral Alaska with the community of Talkeetna located at the confluence of the Chulitna, Talkeetna, and Susitna rivers. The area surrounding Talkeetna is shown in Figure 1. Talkeetna is located in the Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Borough.

Glacial and alluvial forces have shaped the Susitna River Region surrounding Talkeetna. These forces have resulted in the broad U-shaped river valleys, lakes, streams and undulating ridges and hills. Landforms in and around the Middle Susitna River Region are typified by the broad river floodplains, low ridges and lowlands.

### **Precipitation**

Talkeetna averages about 30 inches of precipitation per year, including about 107 inches of snowfall.

### **Topography and Drainage**

The area topography varies from about 300 feet to 400 feet within the river floodplains to several thousand feet on the surrounding ridges and mountain flanks.

### Groundwater

Although the quality can vary significantly in a short distance, groundwater supplies are generally abundant in the area. Many homes and businesses in the area rely on individual wells for their water supply. Most of these wells are shallow with depths of less than 100 feet to 200 feet. Static water levels in many of these wells are less than 15 feet below the surface. The coarse, alluvial, sandy gravel in the floodplains of the areas streams and rivers provides a large aquifer even in the winter when infiltration is low.

### **Geology and Soils**

Most of the soils in the area provide good sources of sand, gravel and topsoil. The deposition of silt, clay and organic muck in old lakes, oxbows and depressions means that some areas have soil conditions that vary over relatively short distances.

### YMCA PEGGY LAKE CAMP PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

YMCA Peggy Lake Camp is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system. The system consists of one well near Peggy Lake at Mile 100 of the Parks Highway.

A well log was not on file for this system, so well construction information was assumed to be an average of surrounding wells. A total depth of approximately 106 feet below ground surface was determined. The most recent Sanitary Survey (5/15/99) indicates the well was installed with a cap providing a sanitary seal. A properly installed sanitary seal may provide protection against contaminants from entering the source waters at the well casing. The land surface is also appropriately sloped away from the well providing adequate surface water drainage. The well was not grouted according to ADEC regulations. Proper grouting provides added protection against contaminants travelling along the well casing and into source waters.

This system operates seasonally and serves no residents and more than 40 non-residents through one service connection.

### YMCA PEGGY LAKE CAMP 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. Some areas are more likely to allow contamination to reach the well than others. 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 a release of contaminants within the DWPA are most likely to impact the drinking water well, this area will serve as the focus for voluntary protection efforts.

An analytical calculation was used to determine the size and shape of the DWPA. The input parameters describing the attributes of the aquifer in this calculation were adopted from the U.S. Geological Survey (*Patrick, Brabets, and Glass, 1989*), and State of Alaska Department of Water Resources. Additional methods were also used to take into account any uncertainties in groundwater flow and aquifer characteristics to arrive at a meaningful DWPA (Please

refer to the Guidance Manual for Class B Public Water Systems for additional information).

The DWPAs established for wells by the ADEC are separated into four zones. These zones correspond to differences in the time-of-travel (TOT) of the water moving through the aquifer to the well. The 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 DWPA zones and the calculated TOT for each:

**Table 1. Definition of Zones** 

Definition
<sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> the distance for the 2 year TOT
Less than the 2 year TOT
Less Than the 5 year TOT
Less than the 10 year TOT

As an example, water moving through the aquifer in Zone B will reach the well in less than 2 years from the time it crosses the outer limit of Zone B.

Zone A also incorporates the area downgradient from the well to take into account the area of the aquifer that is influenced by pumping of the well. Water within the aquifer in Zone A will reach the well in several hours to several months.

### 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 YMCA Peggy Lake Camp 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; and
- Volatile organic chemicals.

Inventoried potential sources of contamination within Zones A through Zone D were associated with residential and light industrial type activities. The sources are summarized in the tables in Appendix B.

### RANKING OF CONTAMINANT RISKS

Once the potential and existing sources of contamination have been identified, they are sorted and ranked 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. Further, contaminant risks are a function of the number and density of those types of contaminant sources as well as the proximity of those sources to the well.

### VULNERABILITY OF YMCA PEGGY LAKE CAMP DRINKING WATER SOURCE

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

- Natural susceptibility; and
- Contaminant risks.

Each of the three categories of drinking water contaminants has been analyzed and an overall vulnerability score of 0 to 100 is ultimately assigned:

Natural Susceptibility (0 - 50 points)

+

Contaminant Risks (0 - 50 points)

=

Vulnerability of the Drinking Water Source to Contamination (0 - 100).

A score for the Natural Susceptibility is achieved by analyzing the properties of the well and the aquifer.

Susceptibility of the Wellhead (0 - 25 Points)

+

Susceptibility of the Aquifer (0 - 25 Points)

=

Natural Susceptibility (Susceptibility of the Well) (0-50 Points)

The well for YMCA Peggy Lake Camp is completed in an unconfined aquifer setting. Because an unconfined aquifer is recharged by surface water and precipitation that migrates downward from the surface, contaminants at the surface have the potential to adversely impact this aquifer. Table 2 shows the Overall Susceptibility score and rating for YMCA Peggy Lake Camp.

Table 2. Natural Susceptibility - Susceptibility of the Wellhead and Aquifer to Contamination

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

Contaminant risks to a drinking water source depend on the type, number or density, and distribution of contaminant sources. This data has been derived from an examination of existing or historical contamination that has been detected at the drinking water source through routine sampling. It also evaluates potential sources of contamination. 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	13	Low
Volatile Organic Chemicals	27	Medium

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.

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 of YMCA Peggy Lake Camp to Contamination by Category

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	35	Low
Nitrates and Nitrites	35	Low
Volatile Organic Chemicals	50	Medium

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.

The gravel and paved roads, shooting range, residential areas, laundromat, aboveground closed gasoline and diesel tanks, contaminated site, gasoline station, single-family septic systems, and underground gasoline and diesel tanks create a risk increase for the bacteria and viruses, nitrates and nitrites, and volatile organic compounds.

Only a small amount of bacteria and viruses are required to endanger public health. Bacteria and viruses have not been detected during recent water sampling of the system at YMCA Peggy Lake Camp.

Nitrates and/or nitrites are found in natural background concentration at this site, as elsewhere throughout Alaska. Nitrate concentrations in uncontaminated groundwater are typically less than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and are derived primarily from the decomposition of organic matter in soils, adopted from the U.S. Geological Survey (Wang, et al., 2000).

Sampling history for YMCA Peggy Lake Camp well indicates that low concentrations of nitrate have been detected (see Chart 5 - Contaminant Risks for Nitrates and/or Nitrites in Appendix D). The maximum reported existing nitrate concentration is approximately 0.08 mg/L or 1% 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. Due to the high solubility and weak retention by soil, nitrates are very mobile, moving at approximately the same rate as water. Though existing nitrate contamination was detected at the site, concentrations remain at very safe levels with respect to human health.

Roads, a shooting range, residential areas, a laundromat, aboveground closed gasoline and diesel tanks, a contaminated site, a gasoline station, single-family septic systems, and underground gasoline and diesel tanks form the greatest risks for volatile organic chemicals.

### **SUMMARY**

A Source Water Assessment has been completed for the sources of public drinking water serving YMCA Peggy Lake Camp. The overall vulnerability of this source to contamination is **Medium** for volatile organic chemicals, **Low** for bacteria and viruses, and **Low** for nitrates and nitrites. 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 YMCA Peggy Lake Camp 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 YMCA Peggy Lake Camp public drinking water source.

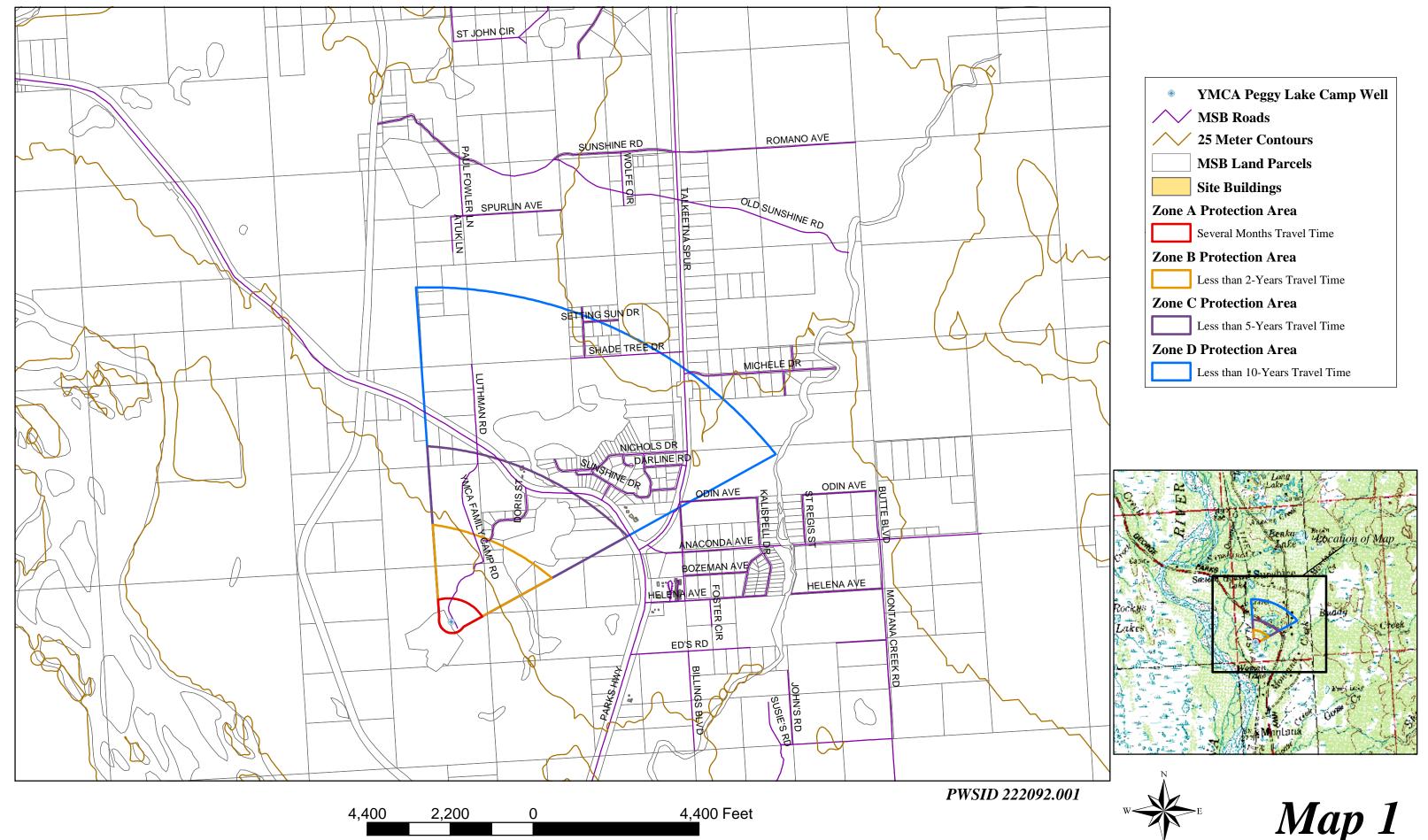
### **REFERENCES CITED**

- Patrick, L.D., Brabets, T.P., and Glass, R.L., 1989, Simulation of ground-water flow at Anchorage, Alaska: US Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 88-4139, 41p.
- Wang, B., Strelakos, P.M., and Jokela, J.B., 2000, Nitrate source indicators in ground water of the scimitar subdivision, Peters Creek Area, Anchorage, Alaska: US Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 00-4137.
- Weather Underground, June 18, 2002, Web extension to the *Western Regional Climate Center* [WWW document]. URL http://www.wunderground.com

### **APPENDIX A**

YMCA Peggy Lake Camp Drinking Water Protection Area (Map 1)

### Drinking Water Protection Areas for YMCA Peggy Lake Camp



### **APPENDIX B**

### Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for YMCA Peggy Lake Camp (Tables 1-4)

### Table 1

### Contaminant Source Inventory for YMCA Peggy Lake Camp

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Location	Map Number	Comments
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-1	A	YMCA Family Camp Road	2	
Shooting ranges (outdoor, commercial or community)	C40	C40-1	В	West of YMCA Family Camp Road	3	
Residential Areas	R01	R1-1	В	Residence along Doris Street	2	2 acres of residential area in Zone B
Laundromats without dry cleaning	C22	C22-1	C	North of corner of Park and Doris Street	3	
Residential Areas	R01	R1-2	C	Residence along Doris Street	2	7 acres of residential area in Zone C
Closed tanks, gasoline (above ground)	T11	T11-1	C	North of corner of Park and Doris Street	3	
Closed tanks, gasoline (above ground)	T11	T11-2	C	North of corner of Park and Doris Street	3	
Closed tanks, diesel (above ground)	T07	T7-1	C	North of corner of Park and Doris Street	3	
Contaminated sites, DEC recognized, non-Superfund, non-RCRA	U04	U4-1	C	North of corner of Park and Doris Street	3	
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	C	Parks Highway	2	
Gasoline stations (without repair shop)	C15	C15-1	D	Between Sunshine Drive and Parks Highway	3	
Septic systems (serves one single-family home)	R02	R2-1-R2-4	D	Between Sunshine Drive and Parks Highway	3	
Tanks, gasoline (underground)	T12	T12-1	D	Between Sunshine Drive and Parks Highway	3	
Tanks, gasoline (underground)	T12	T12-2	D	Between Sunshine Drive and Parks Highway	3	
Tanks, diesel (underground)	T08	T8-1	D	Between Sunshine Drive and Parks Highway	3	

### Table 2

### YMCA Peggy Lake Camp

### Sources of Bacteria and Viruses

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	U	Overall Rank after Analysis	Location	Map Number	Comments
communication confidence Type	5011.00 12	00 12 18	20.00	jor minutysts	ujici izidatysts	2000000	1100000	
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-1	A	Low	1	YMCA Family Camp	2	
						Road		
Residential Areas	R01	R1-1	В	Low	2	Residence along Doris	2	2 acres of residential area in Zone B
						Street		

### Table 3

### YMCA Peggy Lake Camp

### Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Overall Rank after Analysis	Location	Map Number	Comments
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-1	A	Low	1	YMCA Family Camp Road	2	
Shooting ranges (outdoor, commercial or community)	C40	C40-1	В	Low	2	West of YMCA Family Camp Road	3	
Residential Areas	R01	R1-1	В	Low	3	Residence along Doris Street	2	2 acres of residential area in Zone B
Laundromats without dry cleaning	C22	C22-1	С	Low	4	North of corner of Park and Doris Street	3	
Residential Areas	R01	R1-2	C	Low	5	Residence along Doris Street	2	7 acres of residential area in Zone C
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	C	Low	6	Parks Highway	2	

Table 4

### YMCA Peggy Lake Camp

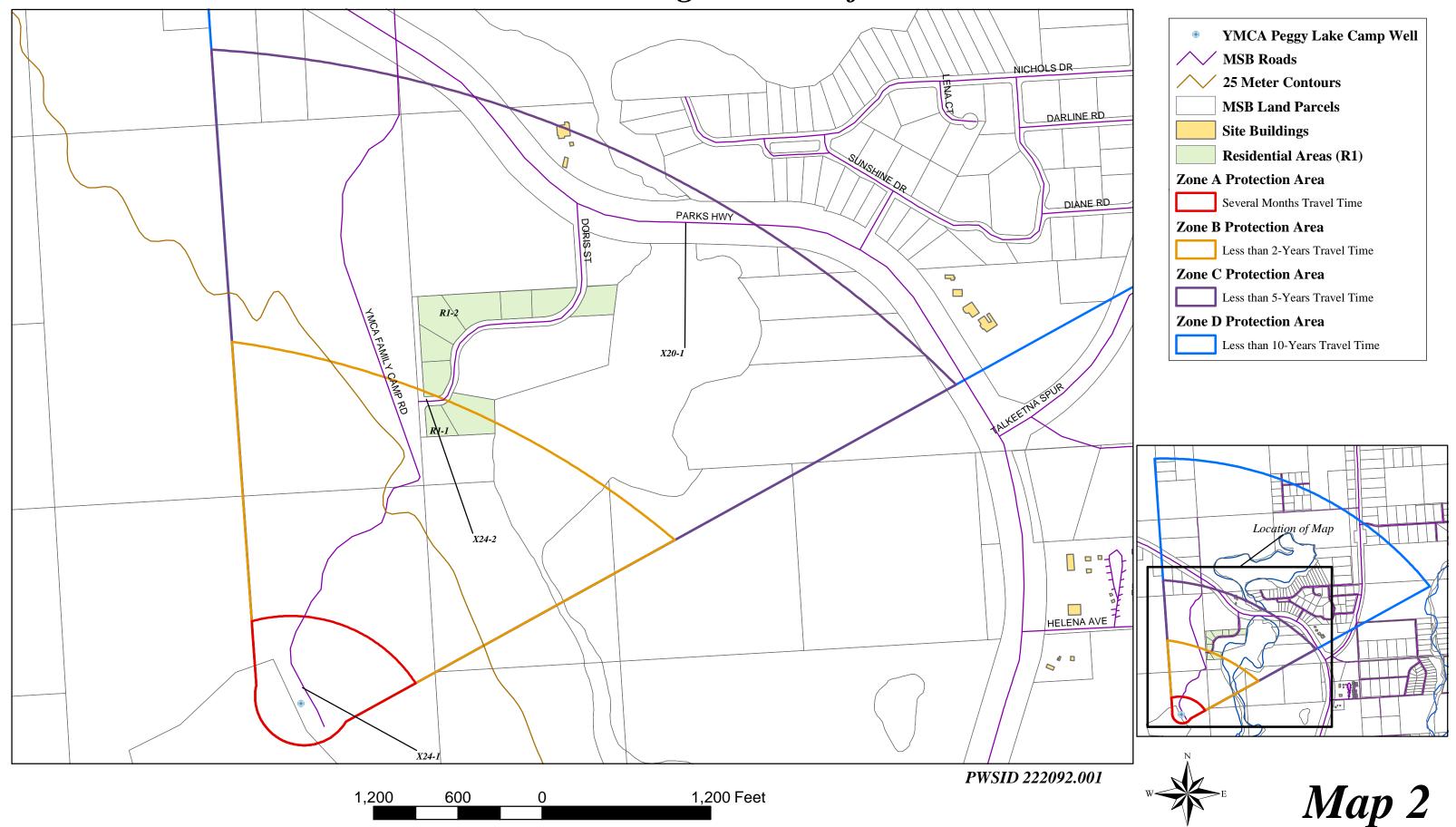
### Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Overall Rank after Analysis	Location	Map Number	Comments
Gasoline stations (without repair shop)	C15	C15-1	D	High	1	Between Sunshine Drive and Parks Highway	3	
Tanks, gasoline (underground)	T12	T12-1	D	High	2	Between Sunshine Drive and Parks Highway	3	
Tanks, gasoline (underground)	T12	T12-2	D	High	3	Between Sunshine Drive and Parks Highway	3	
Tanks, diesel (underground)	T08	T8-1	D	High	4	Between Sunshine Drive and Parks Highway	3	
Closed tanks, gasoline (above ground)	T11	T11-1	C	Medium	5	North of corner of Park and Doris Street	3	
Closed tanks, gasoline (above ground)	T11	T11-2	C	Medium	6	North of corner of Park and Doris Street	3	
Closed tanks, diesel (above ground)	Т07	T7-1	C	Medium	7	North of corner of Park and Doris Street	3	
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24-1	A	Low	8	YMCA Family Camp Road	2	
Residential Areas	R01	R1-1	В	Low	9	Residence along Doris Street	2	2 acres of residential area in Zone B
Laundromats without dry cleaning	C22	C22-1	C	Low	10	North of corner of Park and Doris Street	3	
Residential Areas	R01	R1-2	C	Low		Residence along Doris Street	2	7 acres of residential area in Zone C
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	C	Low		Parks Highway	2	

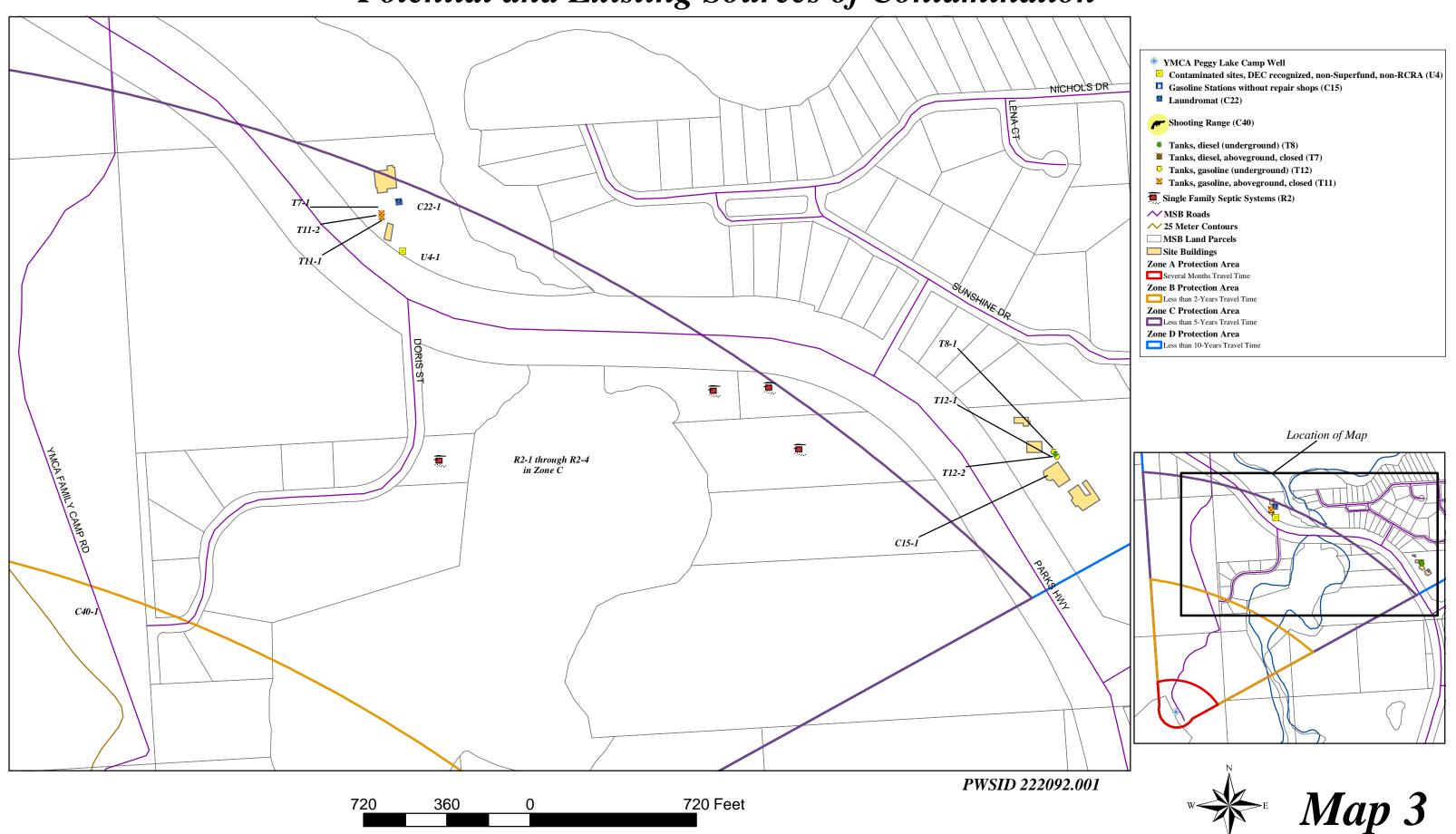
### **APPENDIX C**

YMCA Peggy Lake Camp Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources (Maps 2-3)

## Drinking Water Protection Areas for YMCA Peggy Lake Camp and Potential and Existing Sources of Contamination



# Drinking Water Protection Areas for YMCA Peggy Lake Camp and Potential and Existing Sources of Contamination



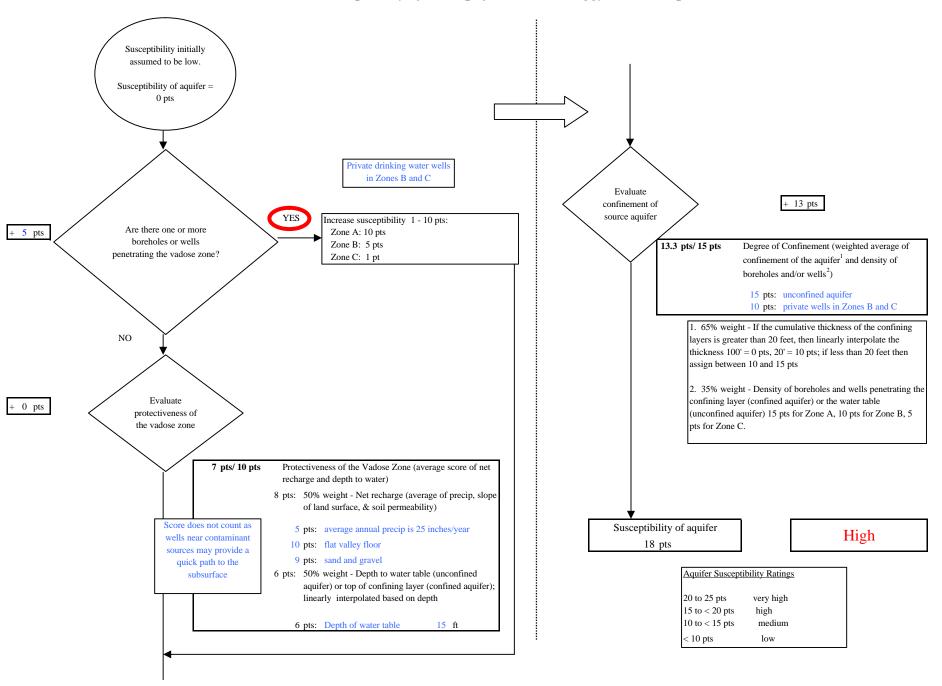
### **APPENDIX D**

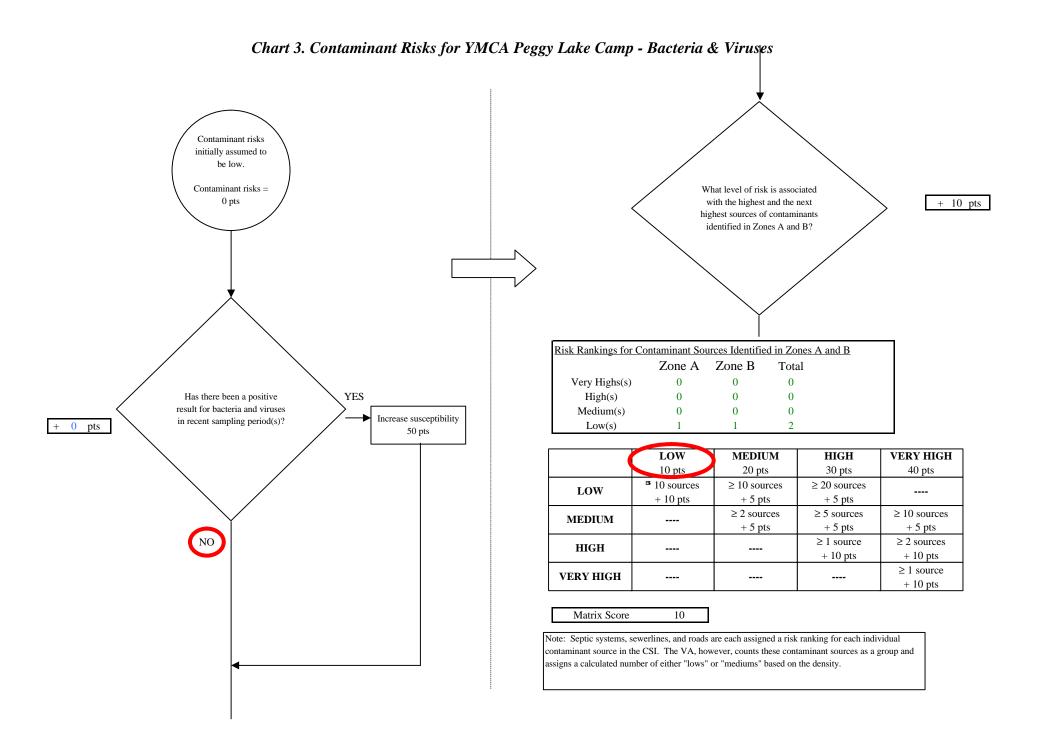
### Vulnerability Analysis for YMCA Peggy Lake Camp Public Drinking Water Source (Charts 1-8)

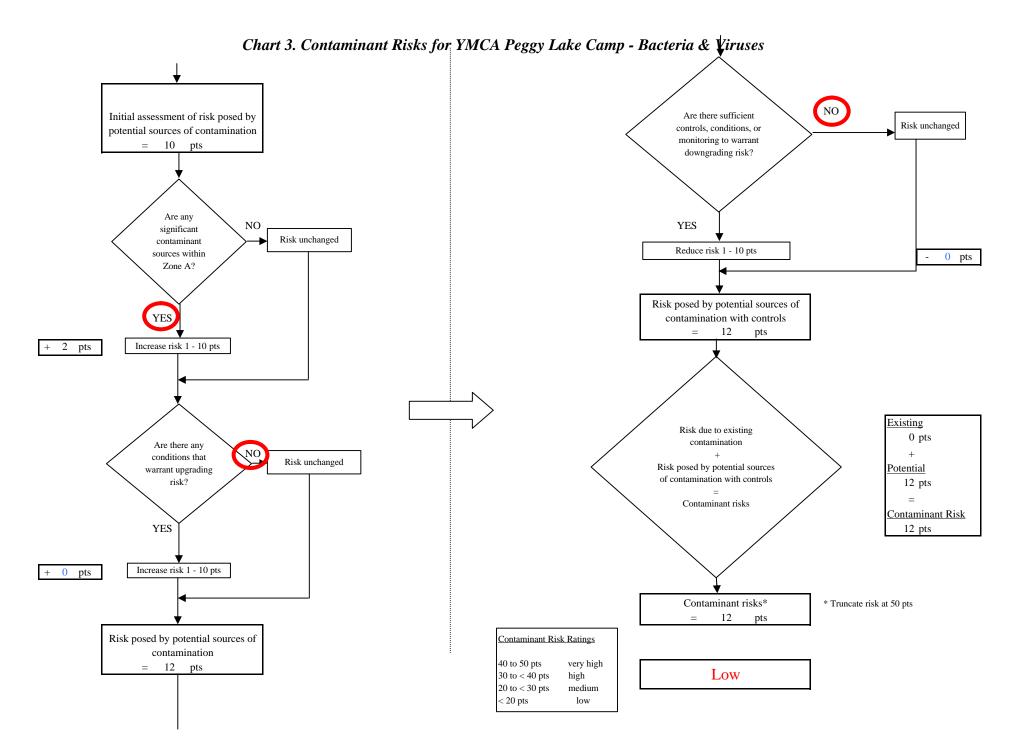
Susceptibility initially assumed to be low. Susceptibility of wellhead = 0 ptsNO Is the well Increase susceptibility 5 pts + 5 pts properly grouted? Is the well Increase susceptibility 20 pts + 0 pts capped? YES YES Susceptibility of wellhead Low 5 pts YES Increase susceptibility: Is the well 10 pts: suspected floodplain pts within a Wellhead Susceptibility Ratings 20 pts: known floodplain floodplain? 20 to 25 pts very high 15 to < 20 pts high 10 to < 15 pts medium NO < 10 pts low Is the land NO surface sloped Increase susceptibility 5 pts + 0 pts away from the well?

Chart 1. Susceptibility of the Wellhead - YMCA Peggy Lake Camp

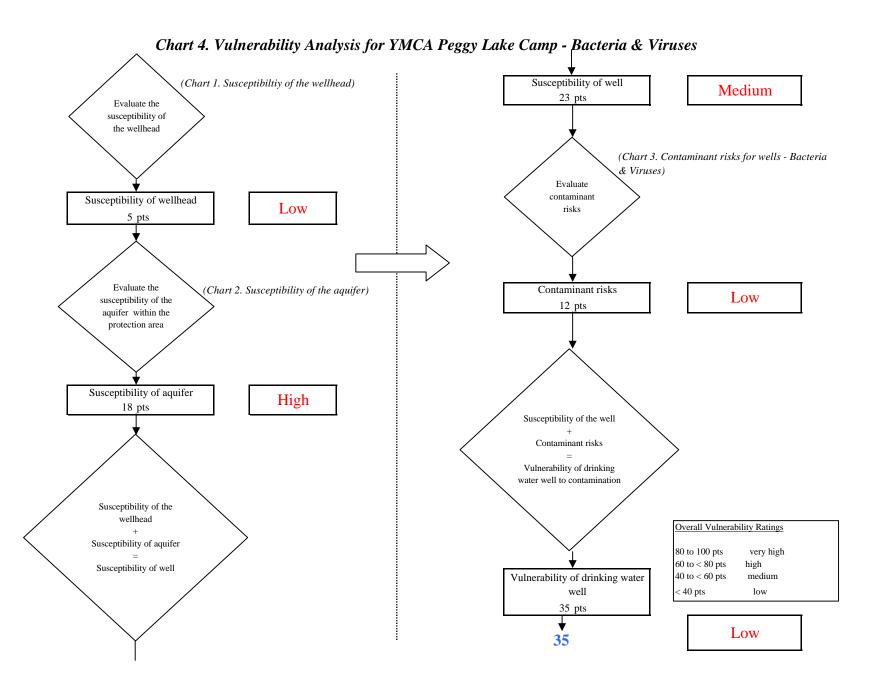
Chart 2. Susceptibility of the Aquifer - YMCA Peggy Lake Camp

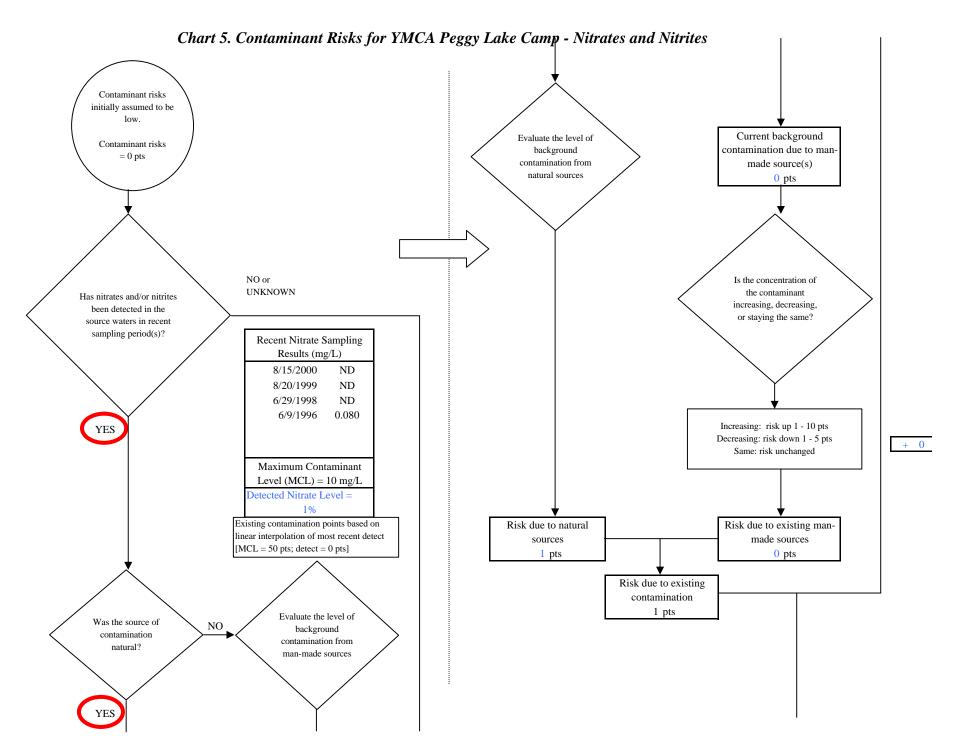






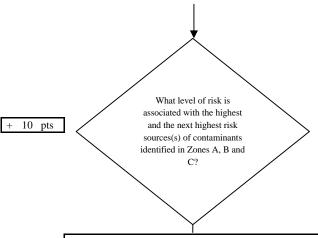
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Chart 5. Contaminant Risks for YMCA Peggy Lake Camp - Nitrates and Nitrites

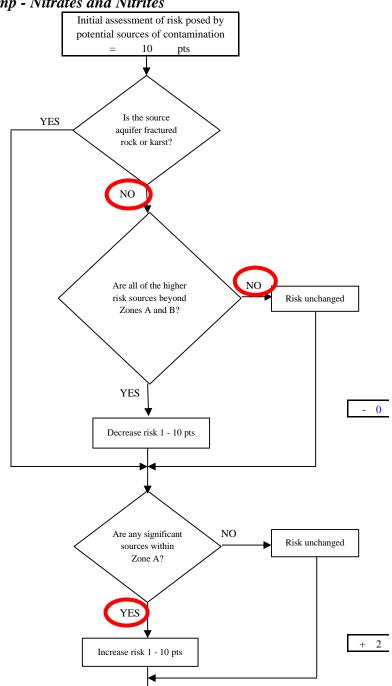


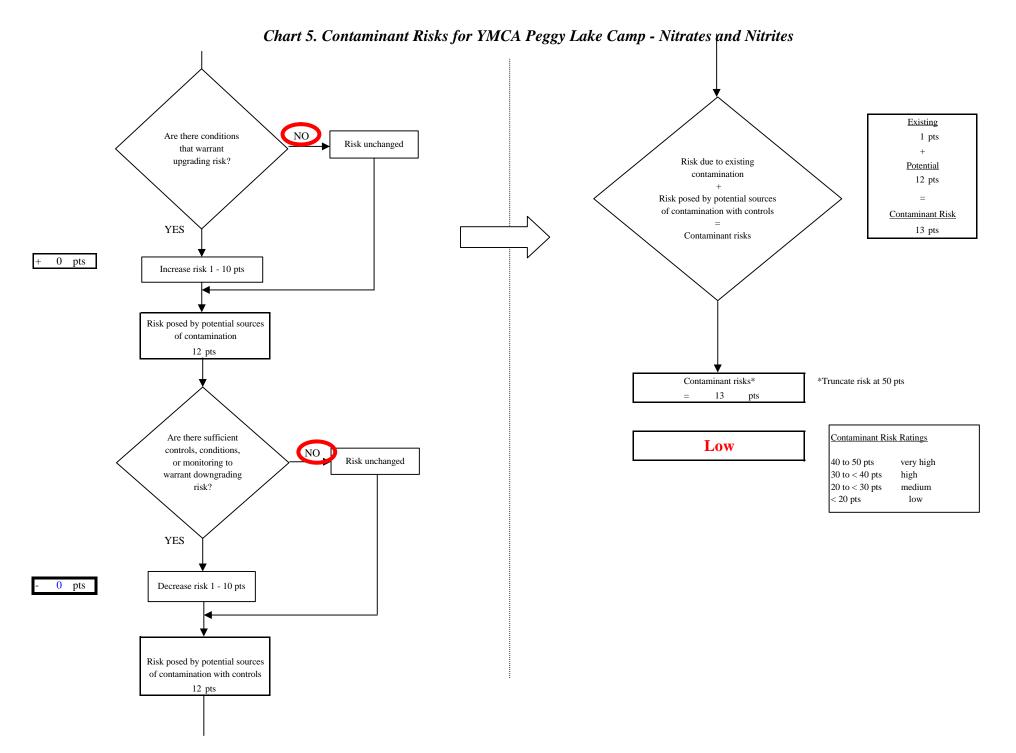
Risk Levels for Contaminant Sources identified in Zones A, B and C					
	Zone A	Zones B&C	Total		
Very Highs(s)	0	0	0		
High(s)	0	0	0		
Medium(s)	0	0	0		
Low(s)	1	4	5		

	LOW 10 pts	MEDIUM 20 pts	HIGH 30 pts	VERY HIGH 40 pts
LOW	3 10 sources + 10 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts	≥ 20 sources + 5 pts	
MEDIUM		≥ 2 sources + 5 pts	≥ 5 sources + 5 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts
HIGH			≥ 1 source + 10 pts	≥ 2 sources + 10 pts
VERY HIGH				≥ 1 source + 10 pts

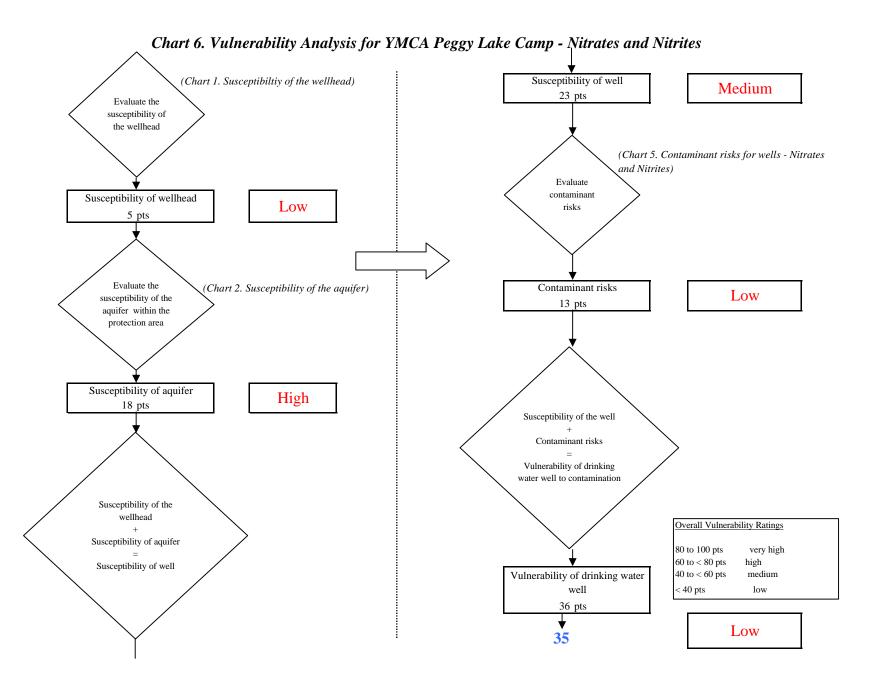
Matrix Score	10

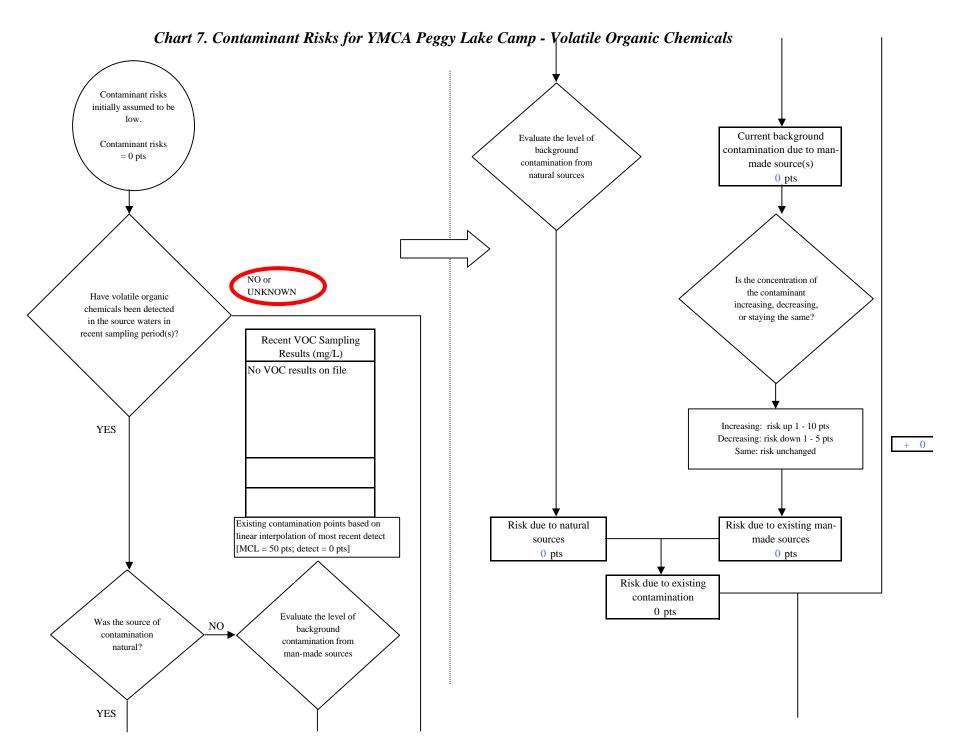
Note: Septic systems, sewerlines, and roads are each assigned a risk ranking for each individual contaminant source in the CSI. The VA, however, counts these contaminant sources as a group and assigns a calculated number of either "lows" or "mediums" based on the density.





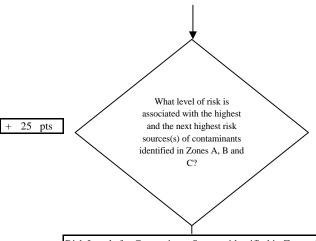
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Chart 7. Contaminant Risks for YMCA Peggy Lake Camp - Volatile Organic Chemicals

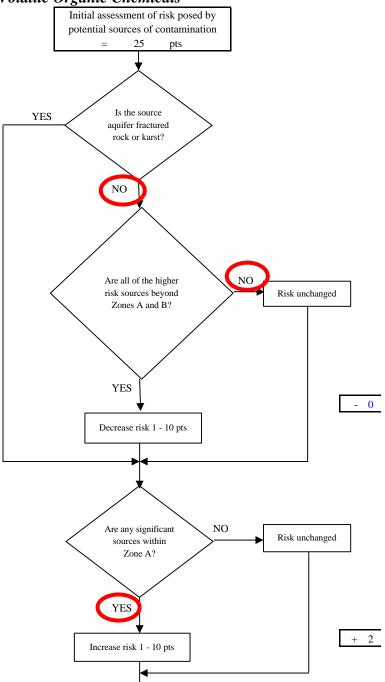


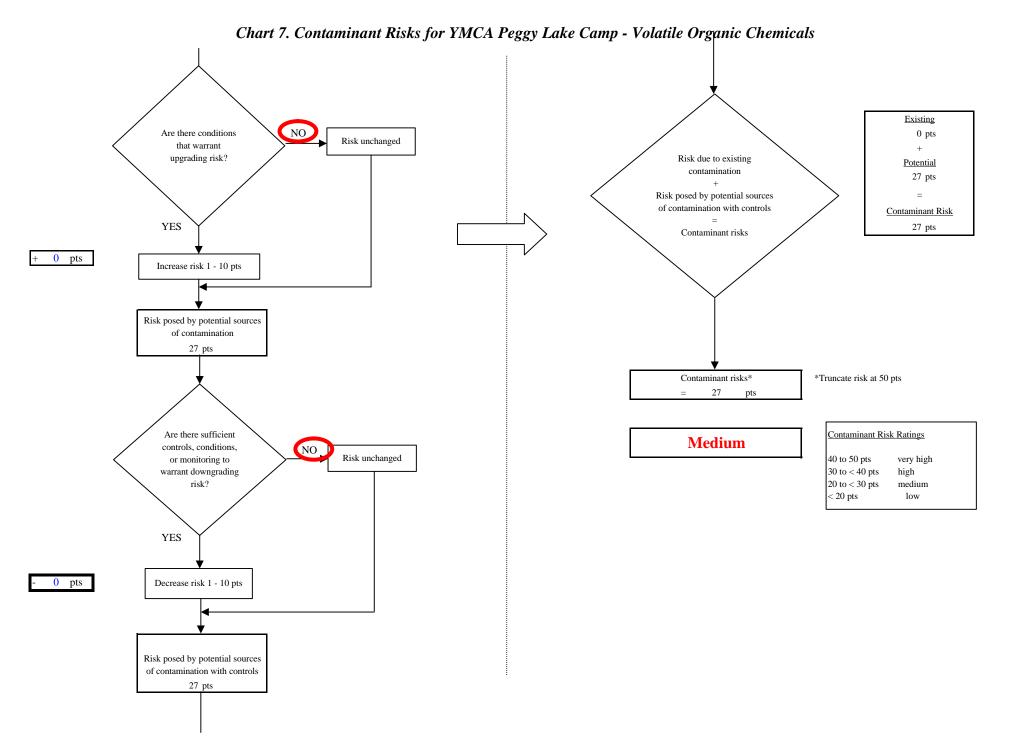
Risk Levels for Contaminant Sources identified in Zones A, B and C					
	Zone A	Zones B&C	Total		
Very Highs(s)	0	0	0		
High(s)	0	0	0		
Medium(s)	0	3	3		
Low(s)	1	3	4		

	LOW 10 pts	MEDIUM 20 pts	HIGH 30 pts	VERY HIGH 40 pts
LOW	* 10 sources + 10 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts	≥ 20 sources + 5 pts	
MEDIUM		≥ 2 sources + 5 pts	≥ 5 sources + 5 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts
HIGH			≥ 1 source + 10 pts	≥ 2 sources + 10 pts
VERY HIGH				≥ 1 source + 10 pts

Matrix Score 25

Note: Septic systems, sewerlines, and roads are each assigned a risk ranking for each individual contaminant source in the CSI. The VA, however, counts these contaminant sources as a group and assigns a calculated number of either "lows" or "mediums" based on the density.





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