



Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and Vulnerability Assessment for City of Valdez Glacier Campground, Valdez, Alaska PWSID #298200

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM REPORT NO. 884

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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Drinking Water Protection Program Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The public water system for City of Valdez Glacier Campground is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system consisting of one well. The City of Valdez Glacier Campground is located at Mile 79.5 of the Richardson Highway, near Valdez, Alaska. The wellhead received a susceptibility rating of Low and the aquifer received a susceptibility rating of Medium. Combining these two ratings produces a Low rating for the natural susceptibility of the well. potential and current sources of contaminants for City of Valdez Glacier Campground public drinking water source include pit toilets; paved highways and roads; and campgrounds and RV parks. These identified potential and existing sources of contamination are considered sources of bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals. Overall, the public water sources for City of Valdez Glacier Campground received a vulnerability rating of Medium for bacteria and viruses and nitrates and nitrites; and **Low** for volatile organic chemicals.

CITY OF VALDEZ GLACIER CAMPGROUND PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

City of Valdez Glacier Campground public water system is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system. The system consists of one well located at Mile 79.5 of the Richardson Highway, near Valdez, Alaska (See Map 1 of Appendix A). Valdez is located on Port Valdez in Prince William Sound, and is the southern terminus of the Richardson Highway and the trans-Alaska pipeline. The population of Valdez is approximately 4,030.

The Valdez Glacier Campground averages about 110 inches of precipitation per year. Water is derived from four primary wells and is stored in two 750,000-gallon reservoirs prior to piped distribution throughout the central portions of Valdez. Water storage capacity is 2.24 million gallons. Over 95 percent of homes are fully plumbed. Many homes use individual wells and septic tanks.

The elevation for Valdez Campground is approximately 30 feet above sea level. The campground is adjacent to an unnamed glacial stream. The aquifer for the City of Valdez Glacier Campground well is assumed to be alluvial sands and gravels along the valley bottom.

These sediments may be in connection with fractured bedrock along the mountain front.

According to a Sanitary Survey dated May 16, 1998, the existing well was installed in 1978 with 6-inch diameter casing to a depth of 93 feet below the ground surface. It is assumed that the length of the well screen is 10 feet. The Survey indicates that the land surface is sloped away from the well, providing adequate surface water drainage. It is assumed because the well was installed prior to 1992 that it is not grouted according to ADEC standards. Proper grouting provides added protection against contaminants traveling along the well casing and into source waters.

This system operates seasonally from May to September and serves approximately 25 non-residents through one service connection.

CITY OF VALDEZ GLACIER CAMPGROUND 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 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 estimated from information contained in the well logs and/or the Sanitary Survey. 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 usually 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 TOT 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
A	¹ / ₄ the distance for the 2-yr. time-of-travel
В	Less than the 2 year time-of-travel
C	Less Than the 5 year time-of-travel
D	Less than the 10 year time-of-travel

The DWPA for City of Valdez Glacier Campground extends over a mile to the northwest of the well, and includes only Zones A. Because the upland groundwater system may include fractured bedrock, the TOT may be more rapid than predicted. For this reason, the zones related to TOT have been expanded at the upland base. Development in the vicinity of the well is limited to only Zone A (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 City of Valdez Glacier Campground 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 2 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 TOT 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 CITY OF VALDEZ GLACIER CAMPGROUND 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 well for City of Valdez Glacier Campground is completed in an unconfined aquifer. Because unconfined aquifers are 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 Susceptibility scores and ratings for City of Valdez Glacier Campground.

Table 2. Susceptibility

	Score	Rating
Susceptibility of the	Score	Kating
Wellhead	5	Low
Susceptibility of the		
Aquifer	11	Medium
Natural Susceptibility	16	Low

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	25	Medium
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	33	High
Volatile Organic Chemicals	12	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)

=

 $\label{eq:Vulnerability} Vulnerability of the \\ Drinking Water Source to Contamination (0-100).$

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	40	Medium
Nitrates and Nitrites	50	Medium
Volatile Organic Chemicals	30	Low

Bacteria and Viruses

The contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses is **Medium** with pit toilets; paved highways and roads; and campgrounds and RV parks representing the risks to the drinking water well (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. Recent sampling events indicated no recent positive results were detected for bacteria and viruses. However, after combining the contaminant risks with the overall natural susceptibility of the well, the vulnerability of the well to contamination by bacteria and viruses is **Medium**.

Nitrates and Nitrites

The contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites is **High** with pit toilets; paved highways and roads; and campgrounds and RV parks representing the risks to this source of public drinking water (See Chart 5 - Contaminant Risks for Nitrates and/or Nitrites in Appendix D).

Sampling history for City of Valdez Glacier Campground indicates that nitrates have been detected in the water, but only in low concentrations (averaging the most recent results at 1.20 mg/L) or 12% of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). 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.

After combining the contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination by nitrates and nitrites is **Medium**.

Volatile Organic Chemicals

The contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals is **Low** with pit toilets; paved highways and roads; and campgrounds and RV parks representing the only known risks for volatile organic chemicals (See Chart 7 – Contaminant Risks for Volatile Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

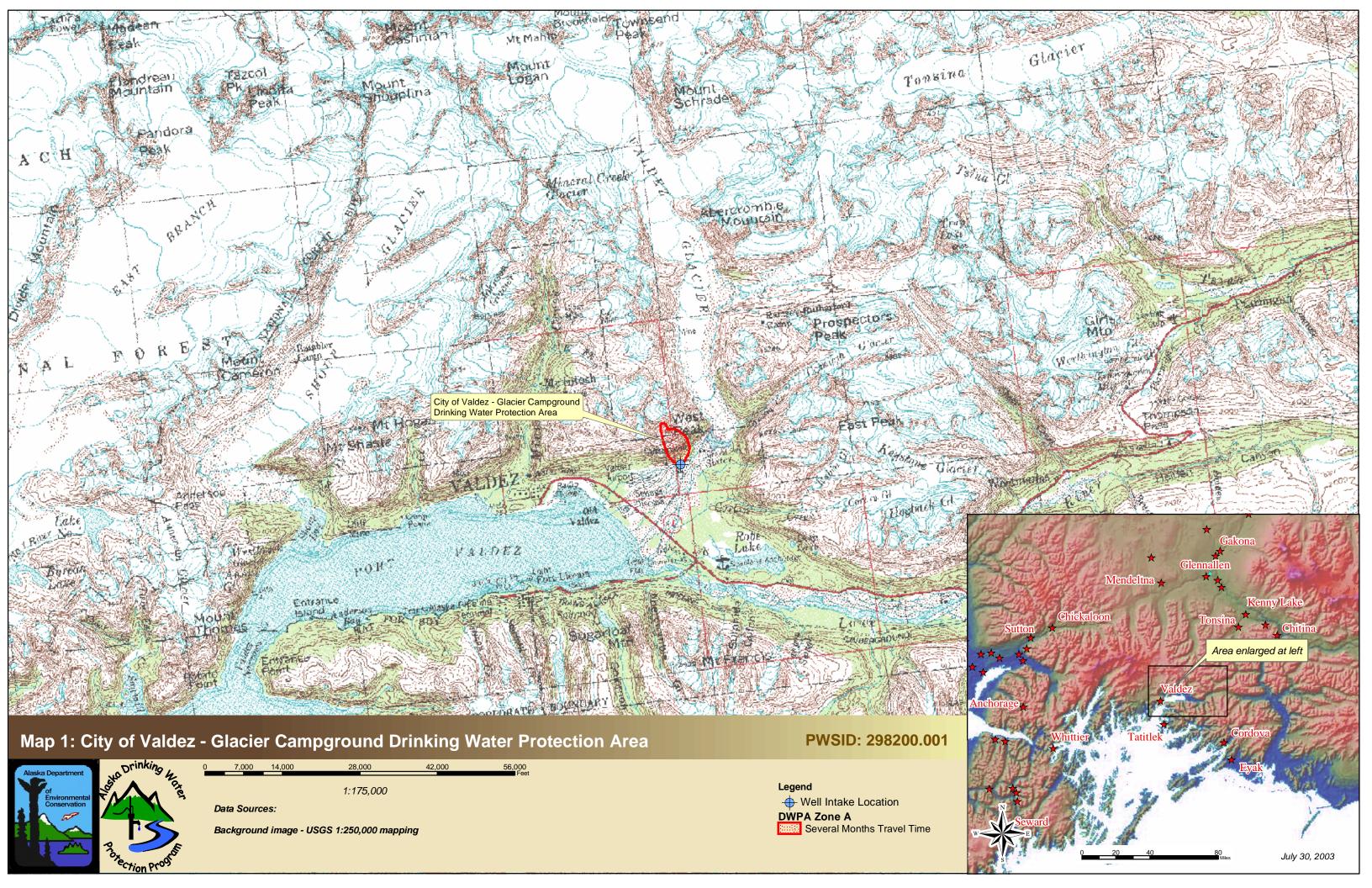
Recent sample data for the drinking water at City of Valdez Glacier Campground indicates that volatile organic chemicals have not been detected in the water. However, after combining the contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination by volatile organic chemicals is **Low**.

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- Freeze, R. Allen, and John A. Cherry, Groundwater. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall 1979.
- King, P.B., compiler, 1969, Tectonic map of North America: US Geological Survey Map (Scale 1:5,000,000) 2 sheets.
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (2002). < http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html#mcls (2003, September 1)

APPENDIX A

City of Valdez Glacier Campground Drinking Water Protection Area Location Map (Map 1)



APPENDIX B

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for City of Valdez Glacier Campground (Tables 1-4)

Table 1

Contaminant Source Inventory for City of Valdez Glacier Campground

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Map Number	Comments
Pit toilets (open hole), nonresidential (one or more)	D16	D16	A	2	Pit toilets at Glacier Campground
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	A	2	Road Southeast of Glacier Campground
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-2	A	2	Road North of Glacier Campground
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3	A	2	Road Northeast of Glacier Campground
Campgrounds and RV Parks	X35	X35-1	A	2	Campground Northeast of Well

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Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for City of Valdez Glacier Campground Sources of Bacteria and Viruses

Table 2

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Pit toilets (open hole), nonresidential (one or more)	D16	D16	A	Medium	2	Pit toilets at Glacier Campground
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	A	Low	2	Road Southeast of Glacier Campground
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-2	A	Low	2	Road North of Glacier Campground
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3	A	Low	2	Road Northeast of Glacier Campground
Campgrounds and RV Parks	X35	X35-1	A	Low	2	Campground Northeast of Well

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Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for City of Valdez Glacier Campground Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites

Table 3

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Pit toilets (open hole), nonresidential (one or more)	D16	D16	A	Medium	2	Pit toilets at Glacier Campground
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	A	Low	2	Road Southeast of Glacier Campground
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-2	A	Low	2	Road North of Glacier Campground
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3	A	Low	2	Road Northeast of Glacier Campground
Campgrounds and RV Parks	X35	X35-1	A	Low	2	Campground Northeast of Well

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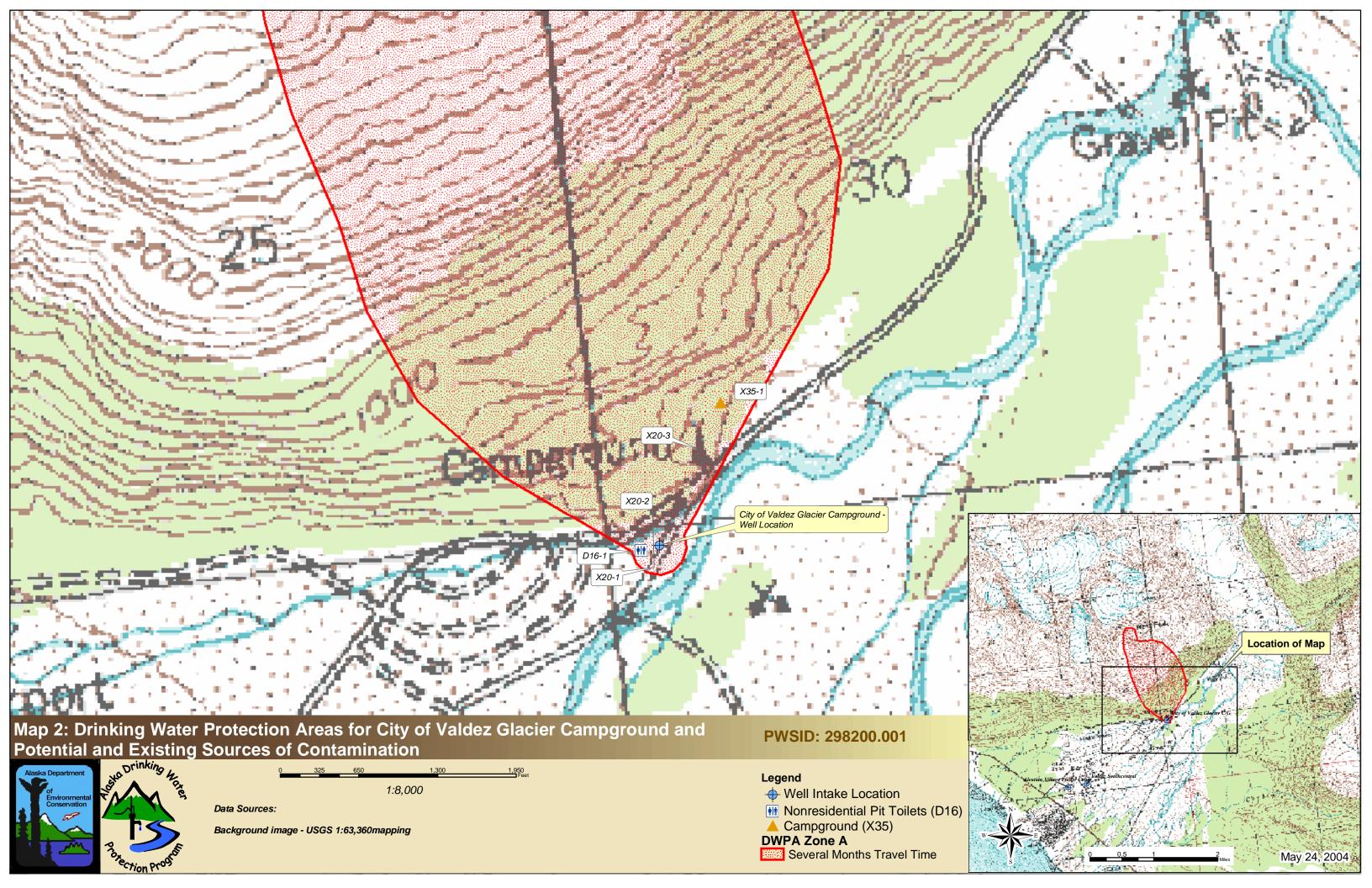
Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for City of Valdez Glacier Campground Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals

Table 4

	Contaminant			Risk Ranking	Map	
Contaminant Source Type	Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	for Analysis	Number	Comments
Pit toilets (open hole), nonresidential (one or more)	D16	D16	A	Low	2	Pit toilets at Glacier Campground
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	A	Low	2	Road Southeast of Glacier Campground
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-2	A	Low	2	Road North of Glacier Campground
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3	A	Low	2	Road Northeast of Glacier Campground
Campgrounds and RV Parks	X35	X35-1	A	Low	2	Campground Northeast of Well

APPENDIX C

City of Valdez Glacier Campground
Drinking Water Protection Area
and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources
(Map 2)



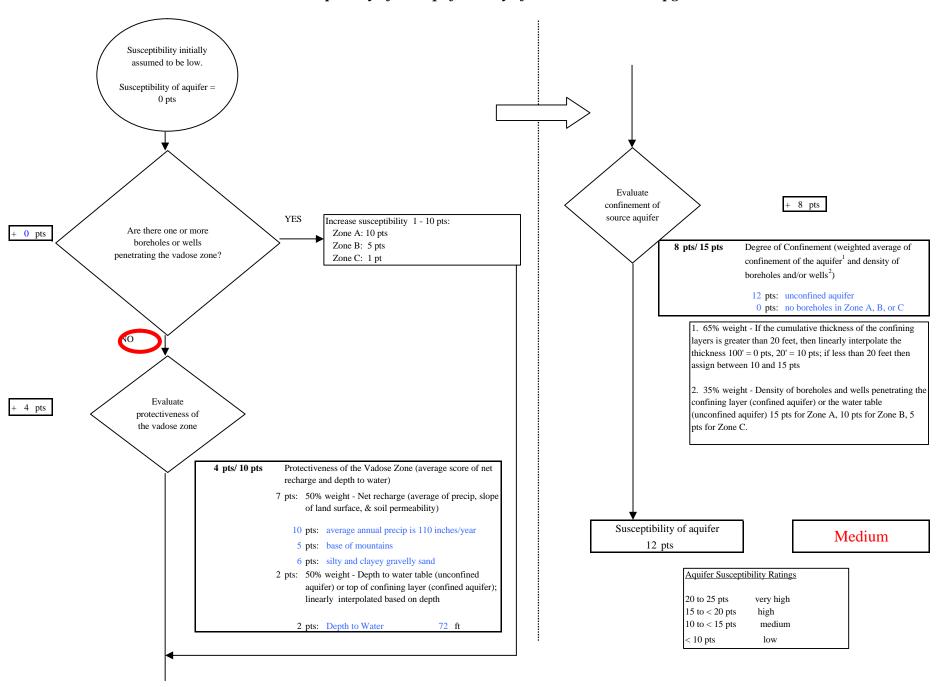
APPENDIX D

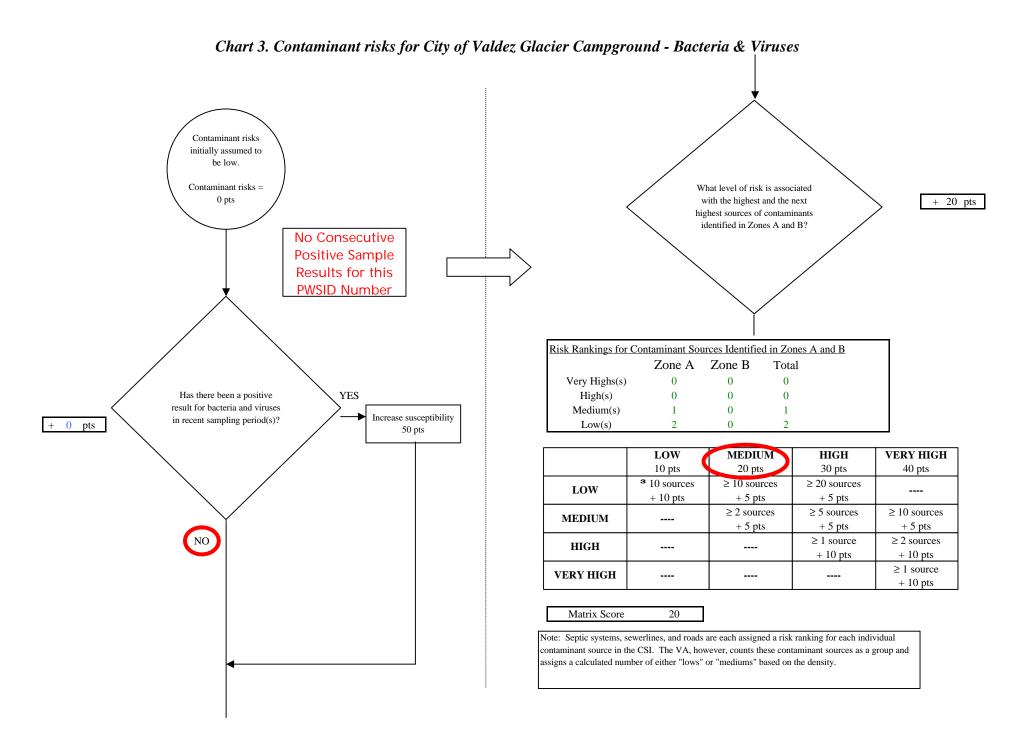
Vulnerability Analysis for City of Valdez Glacier Campground Public Drinking Water Source (Charts 1-8)

Susceptibility initially assumed to be low. Susceptibility of $wellhead = 0 \ pts$ NO Is the well Increase susceptibility 5 pts + 5 pts properly grouted? Is the well Increase susceptibility 20 pts Assumed No, Well + 0 pts capped? Constructed Yes, 05/16/98 Before 1992 Sanitary Survey 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? very high 20 to 25 pts No, 05/16/98 15 to < 20 pts high 10 to < 15 pts Sanitary Survey medium NO < 10 pts low Is the land NO surface sloped Increase susceptibility 5 pts + 0 pts away from the well? Yes, 05/16/98 Sanitary Survey

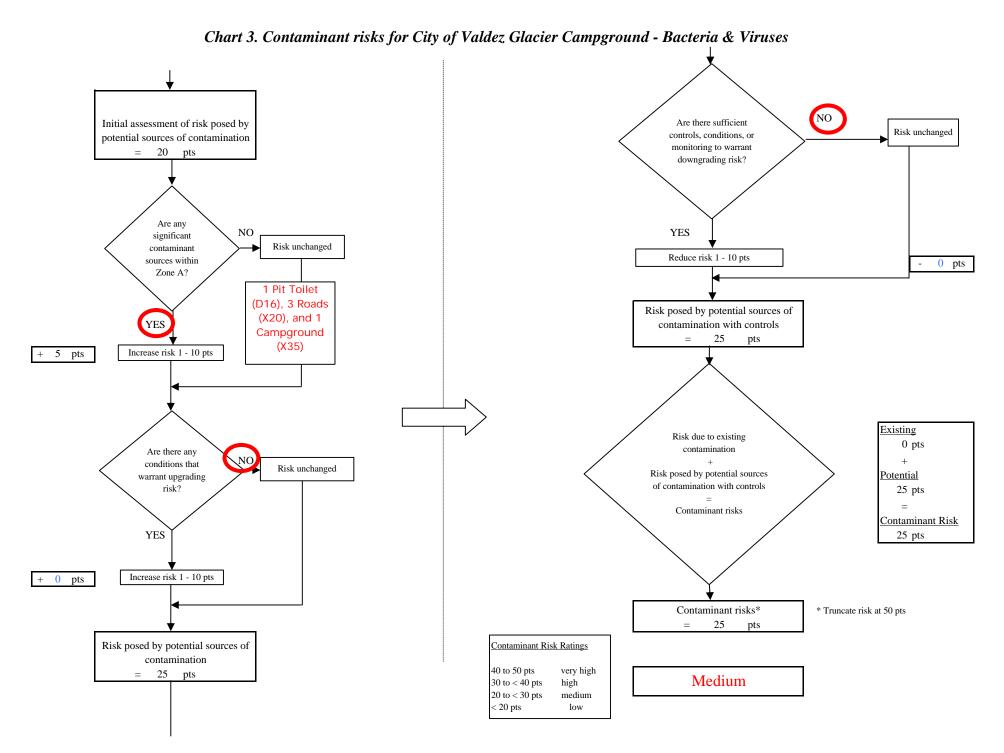
Chart 1. Susceptibility of the wellhead - City of Valdez Glacier Campground

Chart 2. Susceptibility of the aquifer - City of Valdez Glacier Campground

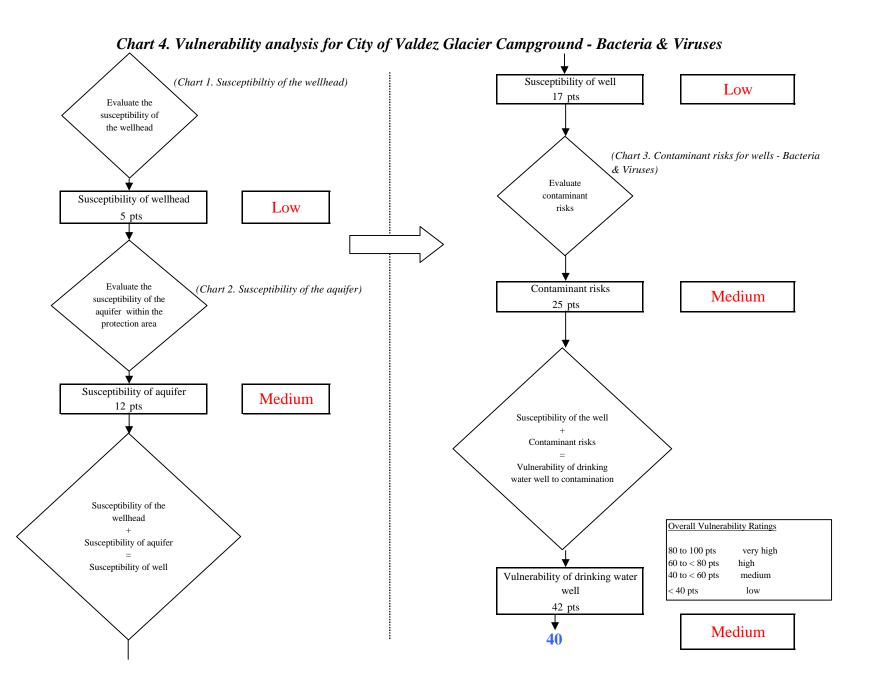


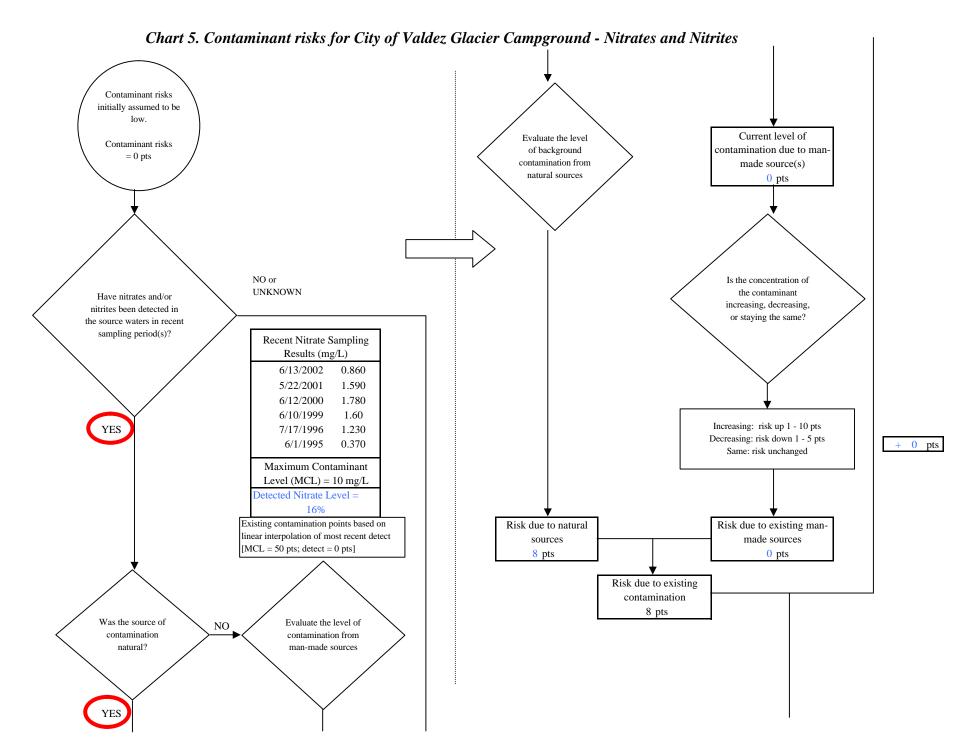


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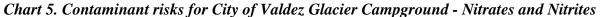


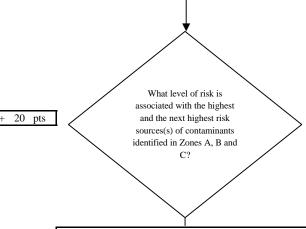
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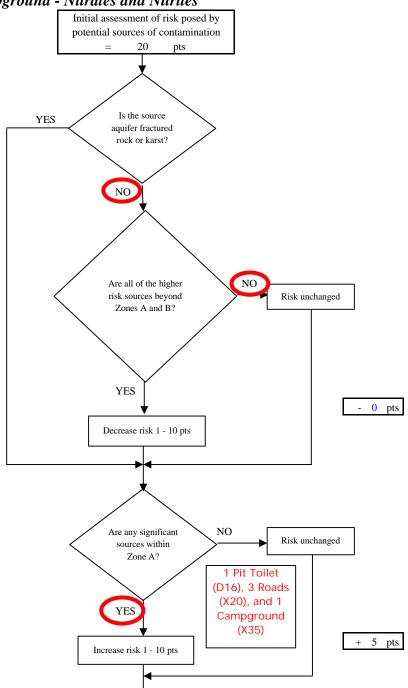


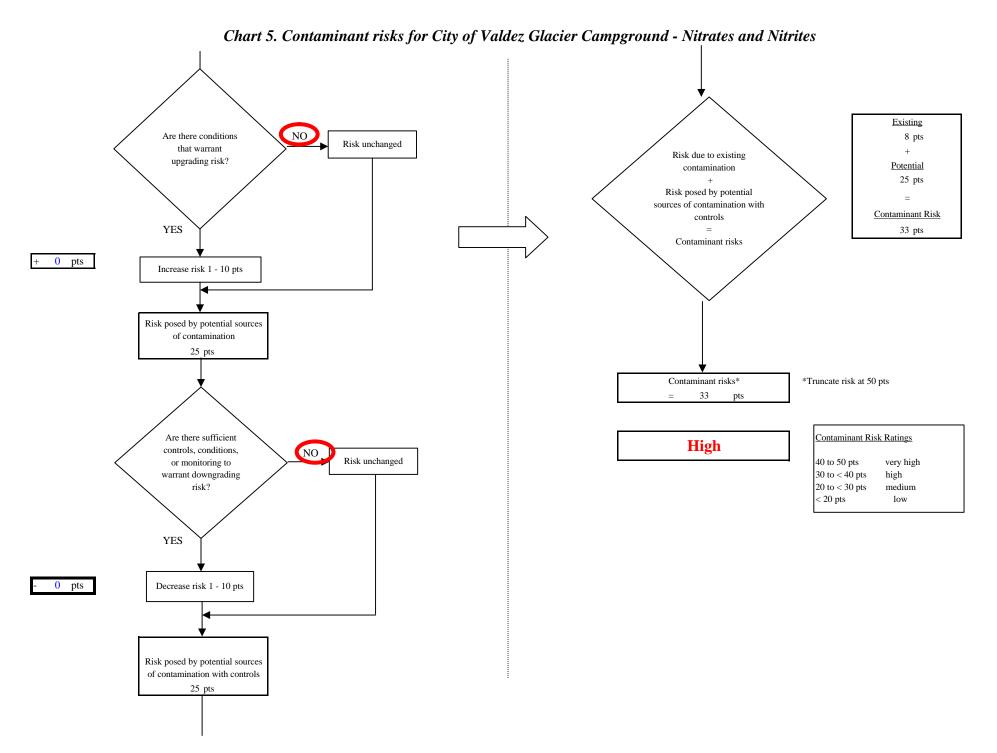
k Levels for Contaminant Sources identified in Zones A, B and C			
	Zone A	Zones B&C	Total
Very Highs(s)	0	0	0
High(s)	0	0	0
Medium(s)	1	0	1
Low(s)	2	0	2

	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

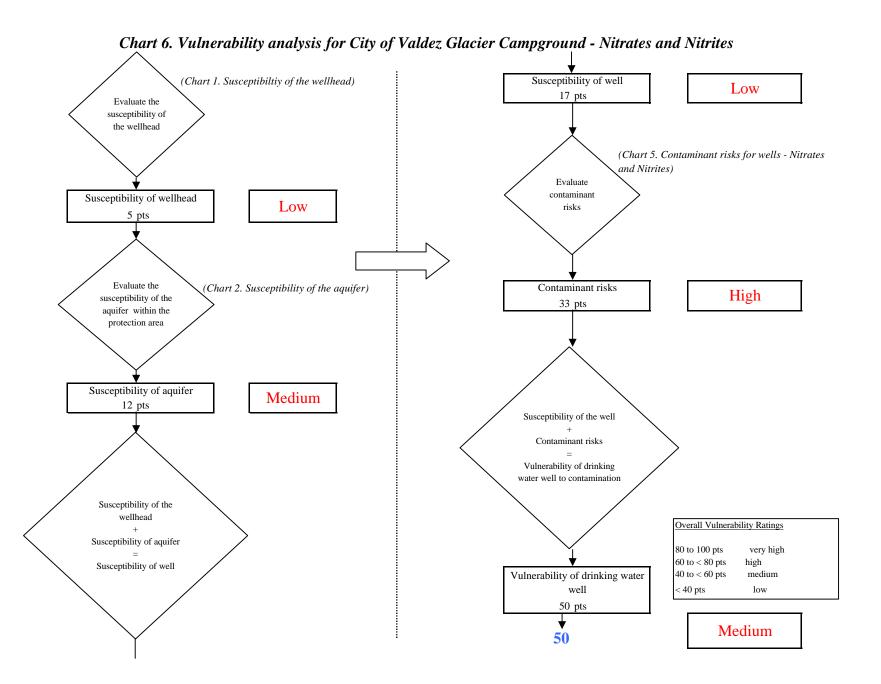
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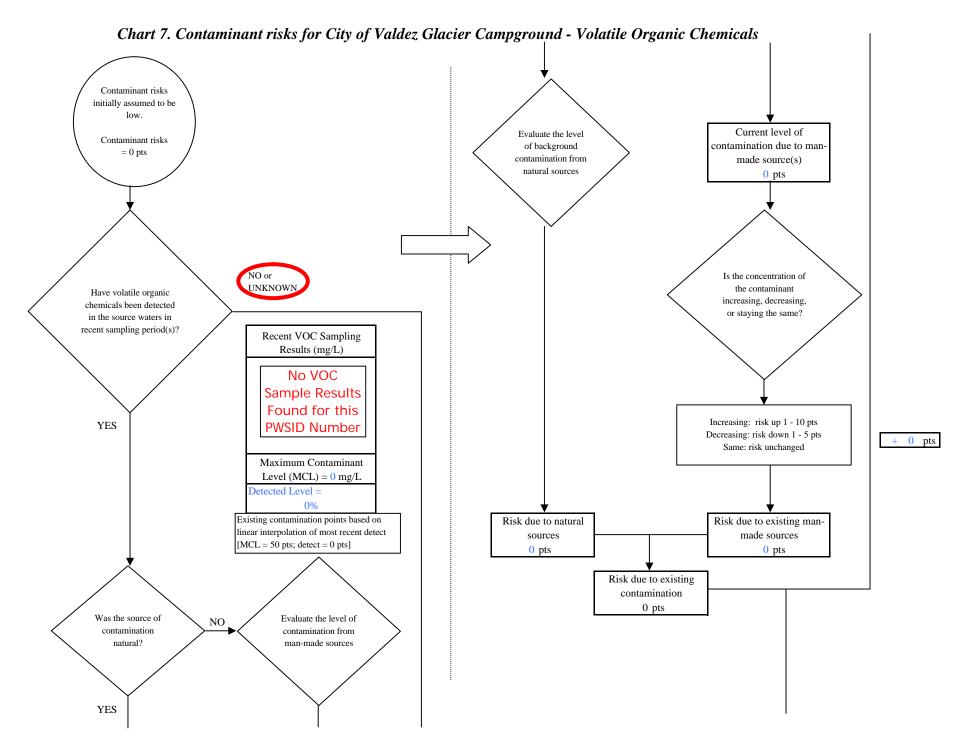
Note: Septic systems, sewerlines, and roads are each assigned a risk ranking for each individual contaminant source in the CSI. The VA, however, counts these contaminant sources as a group and assigns a calculated number of either "lows" or "mediums" based on the density.





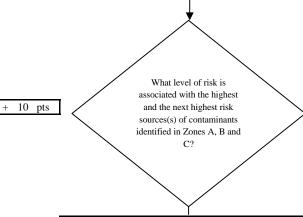
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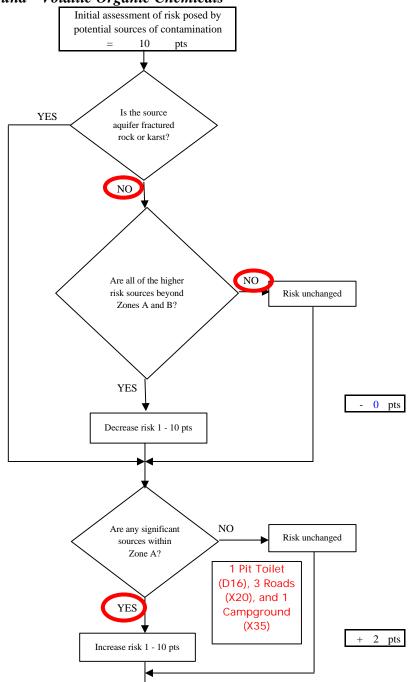


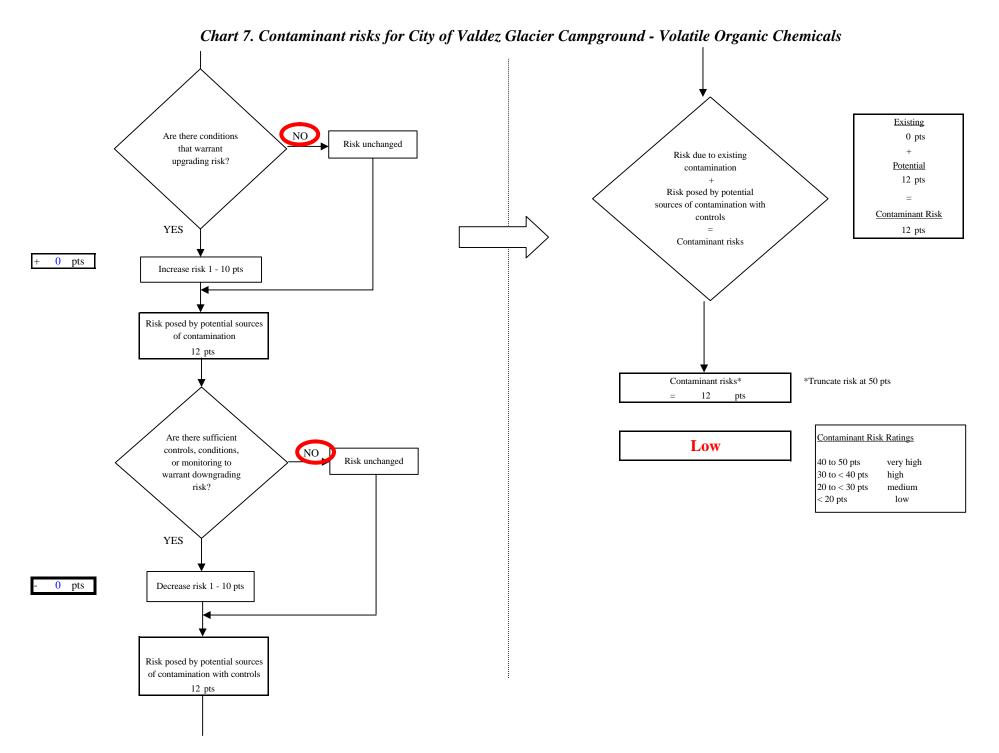
k Levels for Contam	inant Sources	identified in Zone	s A, B and C
	Zone A	Zones B&C	Total
Very Highs(s)	0	0	0
High(s)	0	0	0
Medium(s)	0	0	0
Low(s)	3	0	3

	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	10
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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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