



Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and Vulnerability Assessment for Alaska Airlines Yakutat, Yakutat, Alaska PWSID #130342

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM REPORT NO. 704

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.

CONTENTS

SECTION Executive Summary Alaska Airlines Yakutat Public Drinking Water System Alaska Airlines Yakutat Drinking Water Protection Area Inventory of Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources Ranking of Contaminant Risks Vulnerability of Alaska Airlines Yakutat Drinking Water System References				
	TABLES			
TABLE	 Definition of Zones Susceptibility Contaminant Risks Overall Vulnerability 	2 3 3 3		
	APPENDICES			
APPENDIX	 A. Alaska Airlines Yakutat Drinking Water Protection Area (Map 1) B. Contaminant Source Inventory for Alaska Airlines Yakutat (Table 1) Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Alaska Airlines Yakutat - Bacand Viruses (Table 2) Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Alaska Airlines Yakutat - Nitrates/Nitrites (Table 3) Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Alaska Airlines Yakutat - Volatile Organic Chemicals (Table 4) C. Alaska Airlines Yakutat Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential and Existing 			
	Contaminant Sources (Map 2) D. Vulnerability Analysis for Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Alaska Airlines Yakutat Public Drinking Water Source (Charts 1 – 8)			

Drinking Water Protection Program Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The public water system for Alaska Airlines Yakutat is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system consisting of one well. The Alaska Airlines Yakutat is located in Yakutat, Alaska. The wellhead received a susceptibility rating of Low and the aquifer a susceptibility rating of Very High. Combining these two ratings produces a High rating for the natural susceptibility of the wells. Identified potential and current sources of contaminants for Alaska Airlines Yakutat public drinking water source includes: aboveground non-residential heating oil tanks; and paved highways and roads. 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 Alaska Airlines Yakutat received a vulnerability rating of Medium for bacteria and viruses, nitrates and nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals.

ALASKA AIRLINES YAKUTAT PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

Alaska Airlines Yakutat public water system is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system. The system consists of one well that is currently in service at the Alaska Airlines Yakutat in Yakutat, Alaska (See Map 1 of Appendix A). Yakutat is located on the Gulf of Alaska coast, where southeastern Alaska joins the major body to Alaska to the west. Yakutat is 225 miles northwest of Juneau. The population of Yakutat is approximately 800.

Yakutat averages about 150 inches of precipitation per year; and approximately 200 inches of snow. The groundwater aquifers underlying the area are recharged through the infiltration of precipitation and surface water. Groundwater aquifers in the region generally occur in the fractured bedrock and unconsolidated sediments deposited by glaciers and/or rivers. The elevation for Yakutat is near sea level.

According to a Sanitary Survey dated October 3, 1998, there is one well. This well was installed in 2002 at a depth of 65 feet below ground surface. The well casing is 6-inches in diameter and the screen length is assumed to be 10 feet.

The Survey for the water system indicates that the land surface is appropriately sloped away from the well providing adequate surface water drainage. The Sanitary Survey does not indicate whether the well is grouted, and no well log was available for a review. Proper grouting provides added protection against contaminants traveling along the well casing and into source waters.

This system operates year round and serves approximately 7 residents and 30 non-residents through the service connection.

ALASKA AIRLINES YAKUTAT 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 attribute 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 (Jokela, et. al., 1991). Additional methods were also used to take into account any uncertainties in groundwater flow and aquifer characteristics to arrive at a meaningful DPWA (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 Alaska Airlines Yakutat extends to the north of the well. Development in the vicinity of the well occurs in Zones A, B, and C (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 Alaska Airlines Yakutat 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 ALASKA AIRLINES YAKUTAT 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 the Alaska Airlines Yakutat 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 Alaska Airlines Yakutat

Table 2. Susceptibility

	Score	Rating
Susceptibility of the		
Wellhead	5	Low
Susceptibility of the		
Aquifer	25	Very High
Natural Susceptibility	30	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	10	Low
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	13	Low
Volatile Organic Chemicals	22	Medium

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	40	Medium
Nitrates and Nitrites	45	Medium
Volatile Organic Chemicals	50	Medium

Bacteria and Viruses

The contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses is **Low** with the paved highways and roads located within Zone A representing the risk 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. Bacteria and viruses sampling data were not detected in recent water sampling of the system at the Alaska Airlines Yakutat. 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 **Low** with the the paved highways and roads representing the risk to this source of public drinking water (See Chart 5 - Contaminant Risks for Nitrates and/or Nitrites in Appendix D).

Sampling history for Alaska Airlines Yakutat indicates that nitrates have been detected in the water, but only in very low concentrations (most recently at 0.27 mg/L on 1/25/01) or 3% 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 **Medium** with the aboveground non-residential heating oil tanks, and paved highways and roads creating the only known risk for volatile organic chemicals (See Chart 7 – Contaminant Risks for Volatile Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

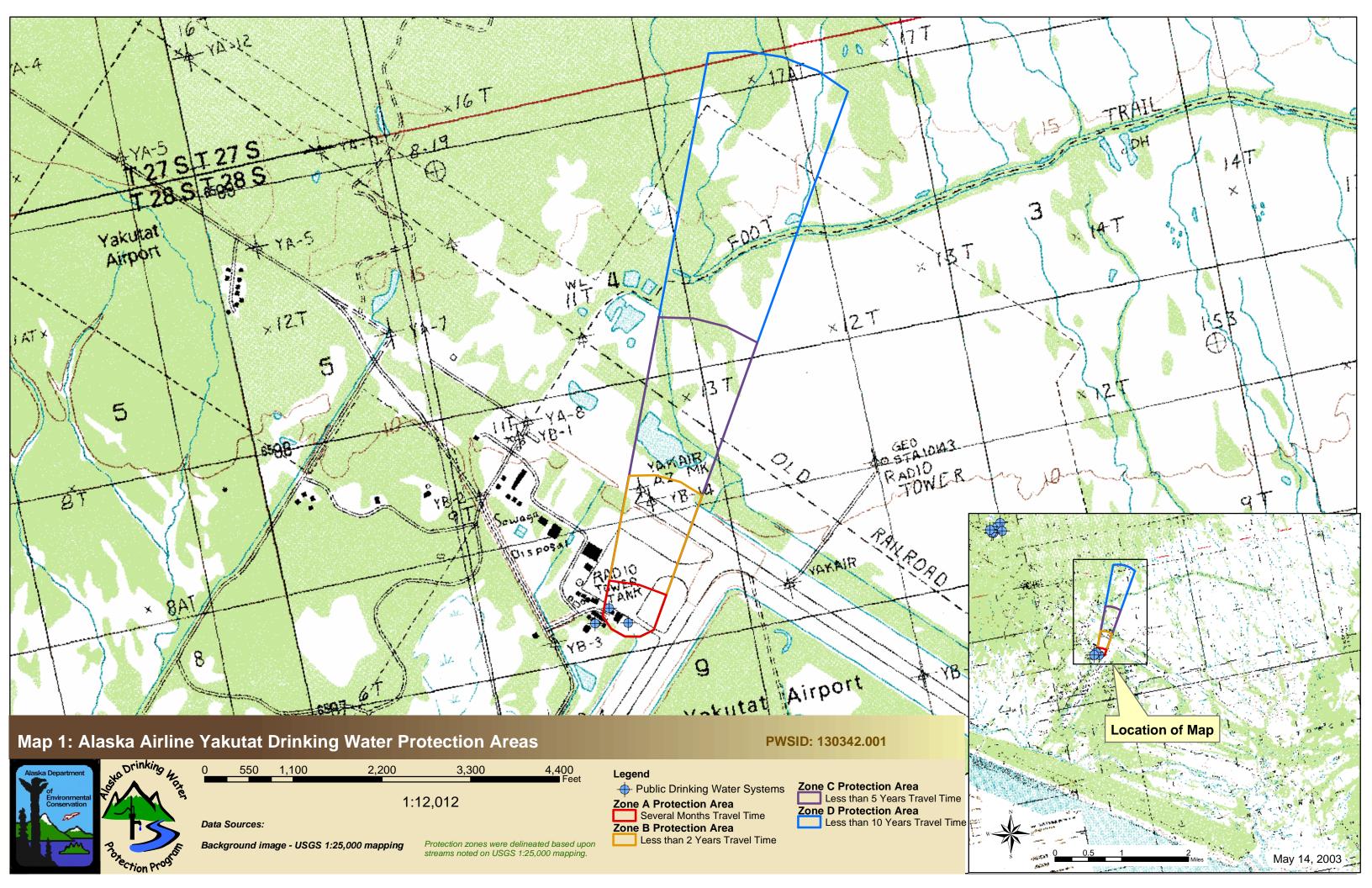
Recent sample data for the drinking water at Alaska Airlines Yakutat for volatile organic chemicals indicates a positive test for toluene (most recently at 0.024 mg/L on 6/19/1985) or 24% of the MCL. However, after combining the contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination by volatile organic chemicals is **Medium**.

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APPENDIX A

Alaska Airlines Yakutat Drinking Water Protection Area Location Map (Map 1)



APPENDIX B

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for Alaska Airlines Yakutat (Tables 1-4)

Table 1

Contaminant Source Inventory for Alaska Airlines Yakutat

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Map Number	Comments
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-1	A	2	Heating Oil Tank for Airport Building
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-2	A	2	Heating Oil Tank for Airport Building
Water supply wells	W09	W09-1	A	2	Water Supply Well for Yakutat Airport Lodge
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	A	2	Road to Yakutat Airport and Lodge
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-3	В	2	Heating Oil Tank for Airport Building
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-4	В	2	Heating Oil Tank for Airport Building
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-2	В	2	Road/Parking Lot for Planes at Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3	В	2	Runway at Yakutat Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-4	В	2	Road Northwest of Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-5	С	2	Road Northeast of Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-6	С	2	Road Northwest of Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-7	D	2	Road North of Airport

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

Table 2

Alaska Airlines Yakutat 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, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	A	Low	2	Road to Yakutat Airport and Lodge
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-2	В	Low	2	Road/Parking Lot for Planes at Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3	В	Low	2	Runway at Yakutat Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-4	В	Low	2	Road Northwest of Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-7	D	Low	2	Road North of Airport

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

Alaska Airlines Yakutat Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites

Table 3

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	A	Low	2	Road to Yakutat Airport and Lodge
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-2	В	Low	2	Road/Parking Lot for Planes at Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3	В	Low	2	Runway at Yakutat Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-4	В	Low	2	Road Northwest of Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-5	C	Low	2	Road Northeast of Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-7	D	Low	2	Road North of Airport

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for

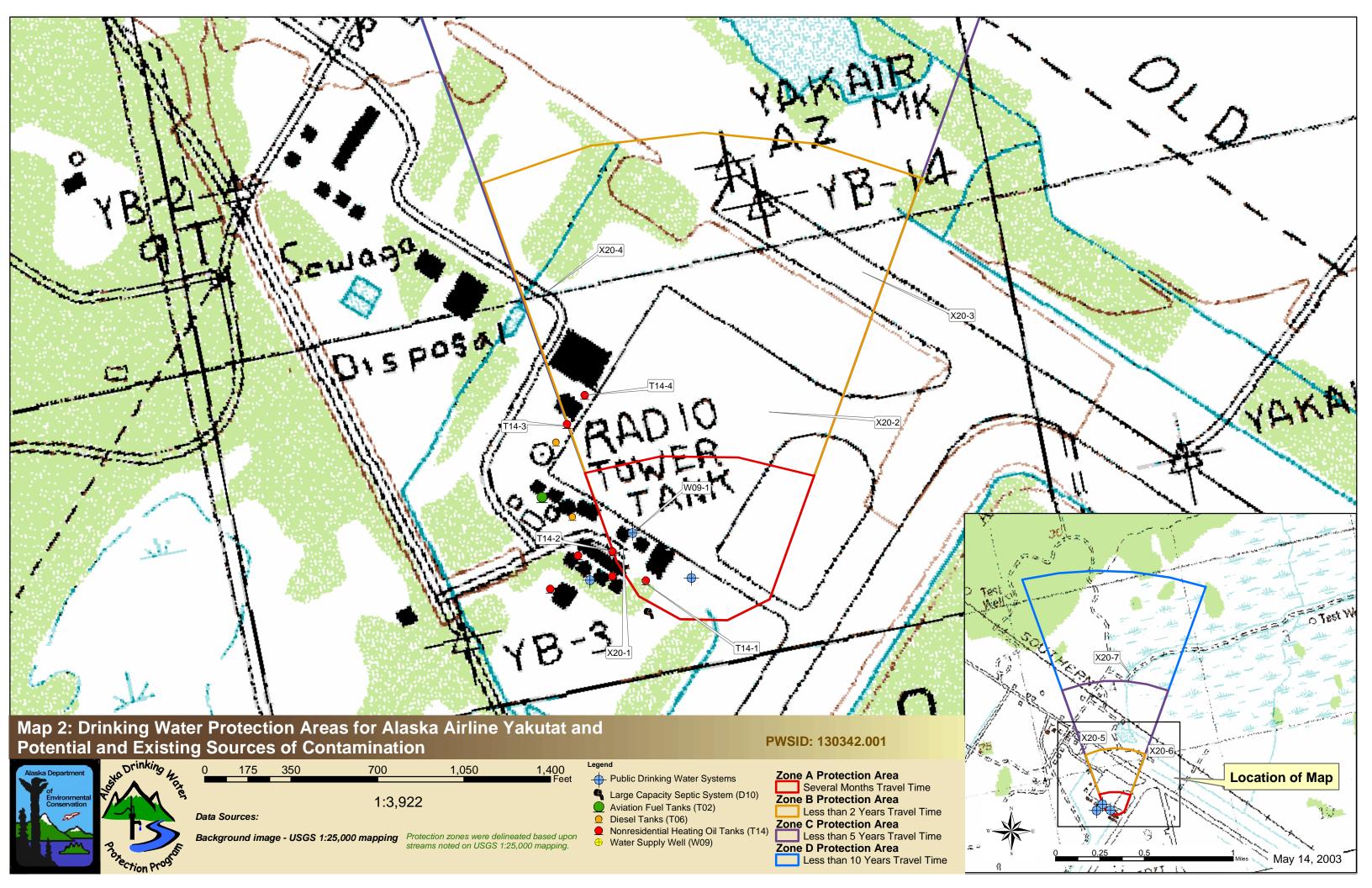
Table 4

Alaska Airlines Yakutat Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-1	A	Low	2	Heating Oil Tank for Airport Building
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-2	A	Low	2	Heating Oil Tank for Airport Building
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-1	A	Low	2	Road to Yakutat Airport and Lodge
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-3	В	Low	2	Heating Oil Tank for Airport Building
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-4	В	Low	2	Heating Oil Tank for Airport Building
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-2	В	Low	2	Road/Parking Lot for Planes at Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-3	В	Low	2	Runway at Yakutat Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-4	В	Low	2	Road Northwest of Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-5	C	Low	2	Road Northeast of Airport
Highways and roads, paved (cement or asphalt)	X20	X20-7	D	Low	2	Road North of Airport

APPENDIX C

Alaska Airlines Yakutat
Drinking Water Protection Area
and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources
(Map 2)



APPENDIX D

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

Chart 1. Susceptibility of the wellhead - Alaska Airlines Yakutat

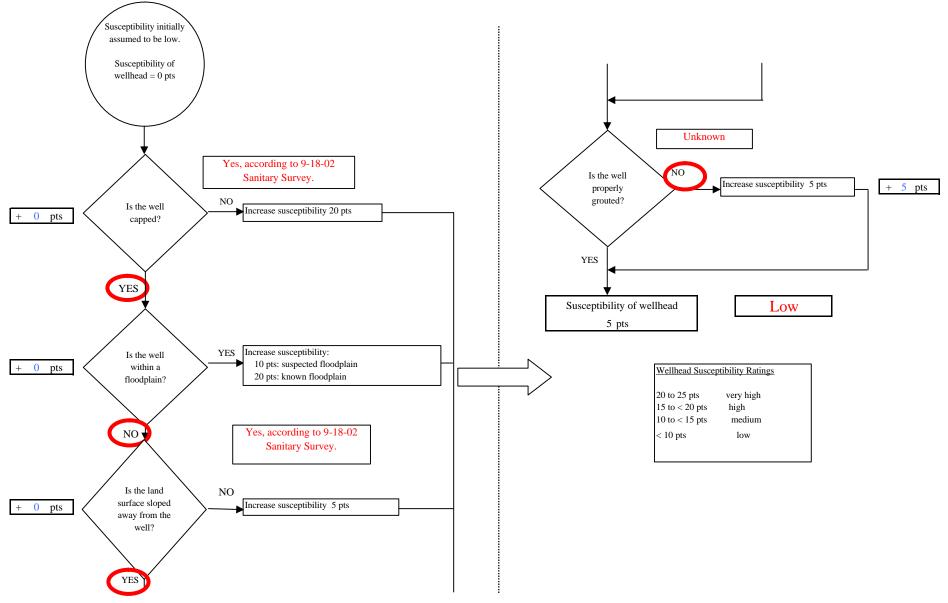


Chart 2. Susceptibility of the aquifer - Alaska Airlines Yakutat

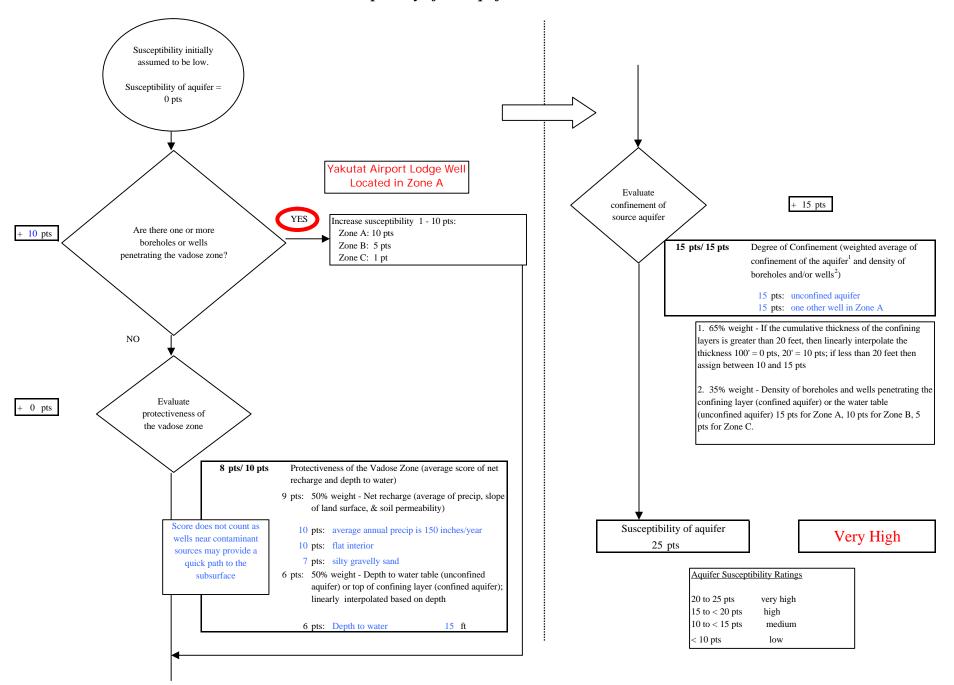
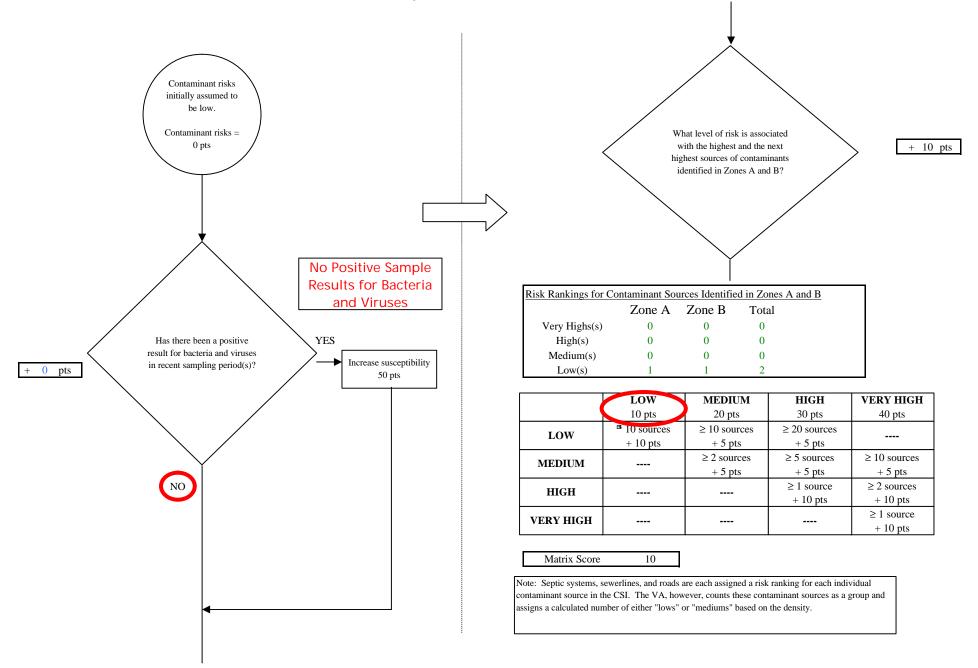
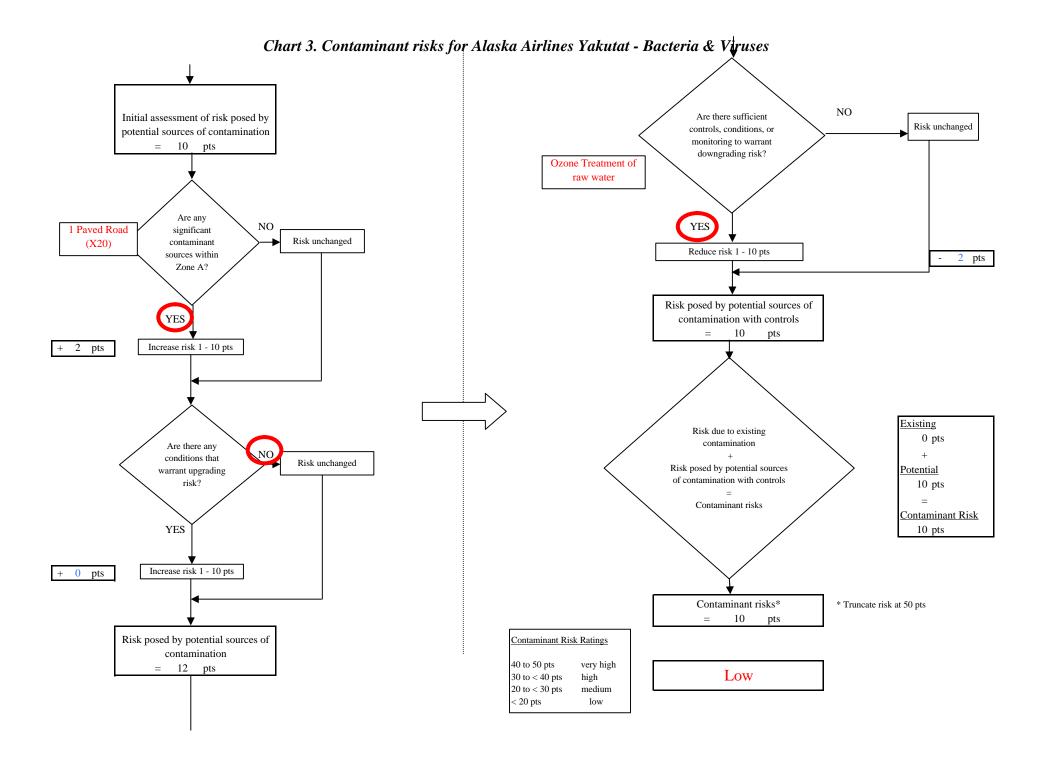
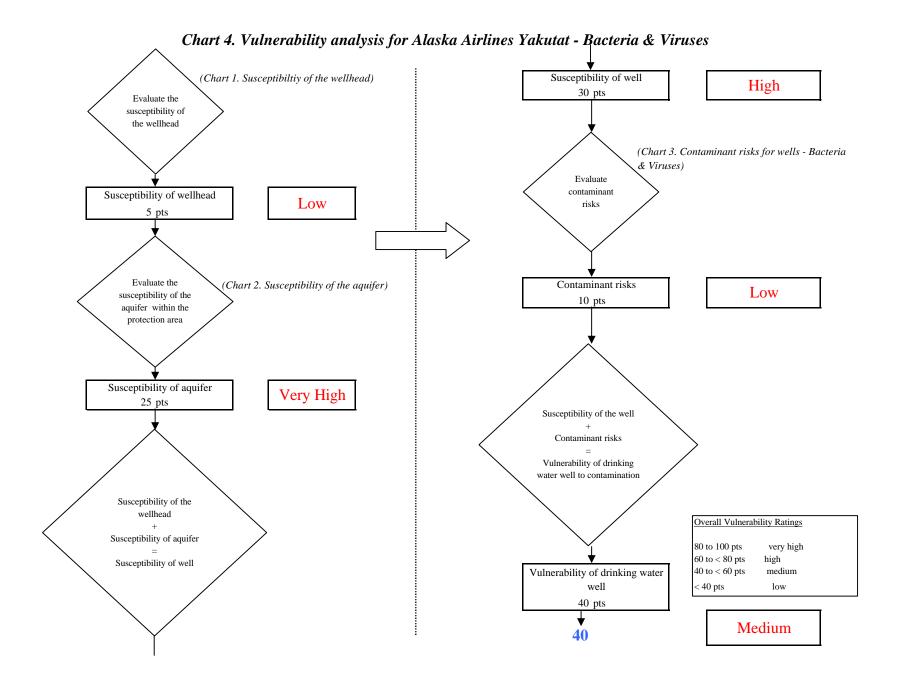


Chart 3. Contaminant risks for Alaska Airlines Yakutat - Bacteria & Viruses







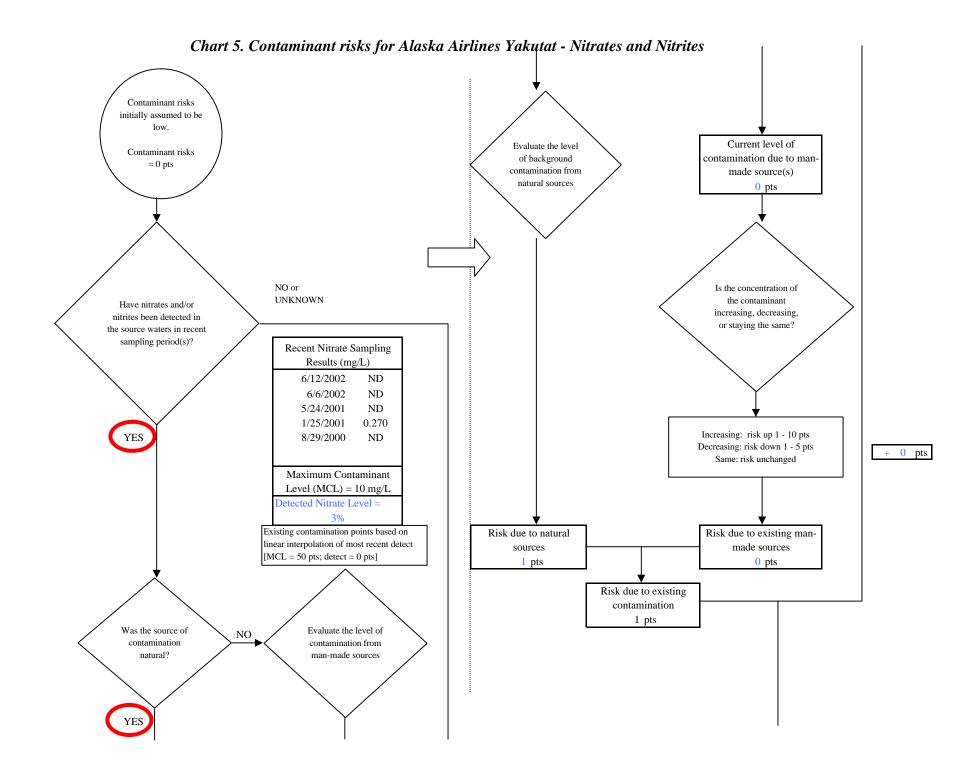
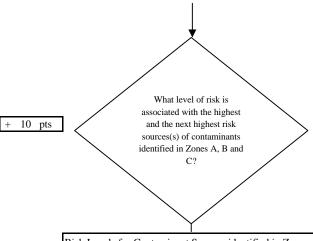


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for Alaska Airlines Yakutat - Nitrates and Nitrites

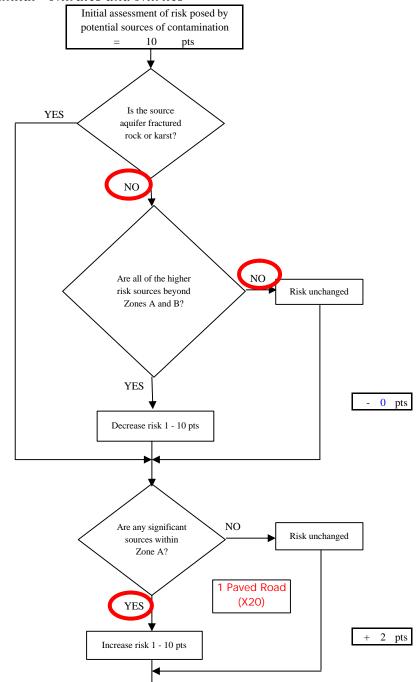


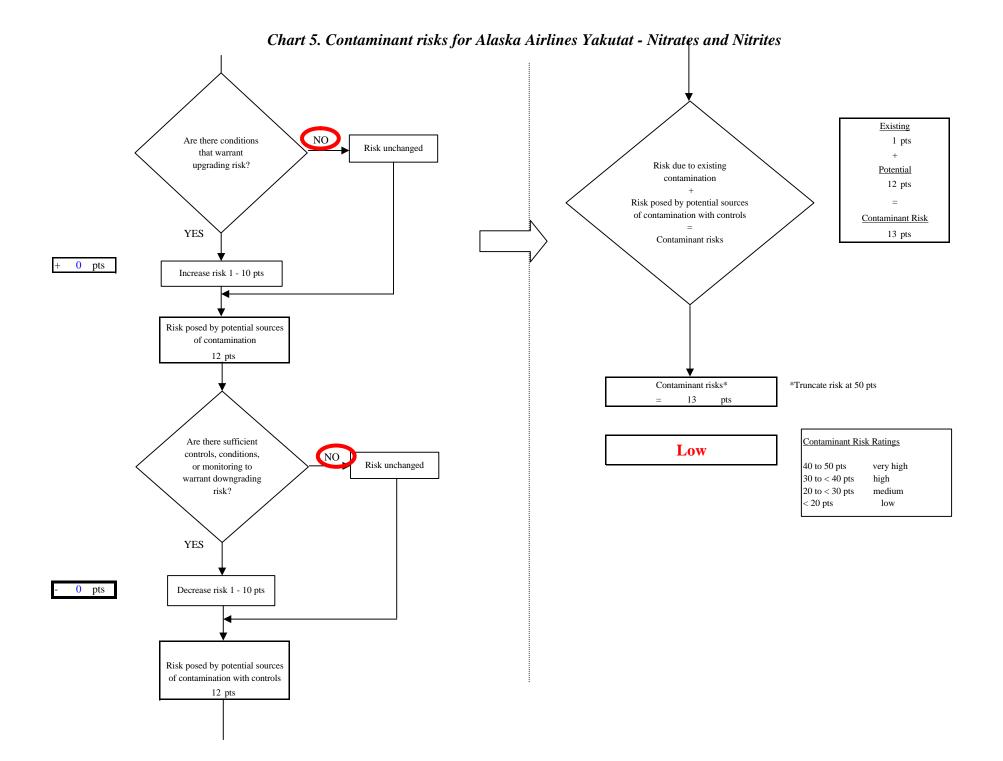
Risk Levels for Contami	k Levels for Contaminant Sources identified in Zones A, B and C			
	Zone A	Zones B&C	Total	
Very Highs(s)	0	0	0	
High(s)	0	0	0	
Medium(s)	0	0	0	
Low(s)	1	1	2	

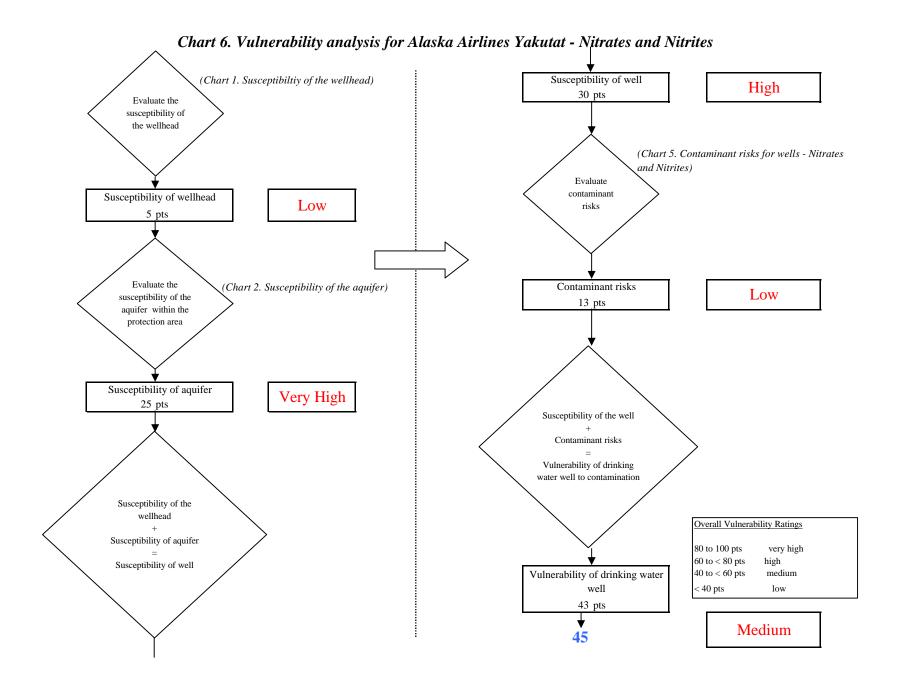
	LOW 10 pts	MEDIUM 20 pts	HIGH 30 pts	VERY HIGH 40 pts
LOW	* 10 sources + 10 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts	≥ 20 sources + 5 pts	
MEDIUM		≥ 2 sources + 5 pts	≥ 5 sources + 5 pts	≥ 10 sources + 5 pts
HIGH			≥ 1 source + 10 pts	≥ 2 sources + 10 pts
VERY HIGH				≥ 1 source + 10 pts

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.







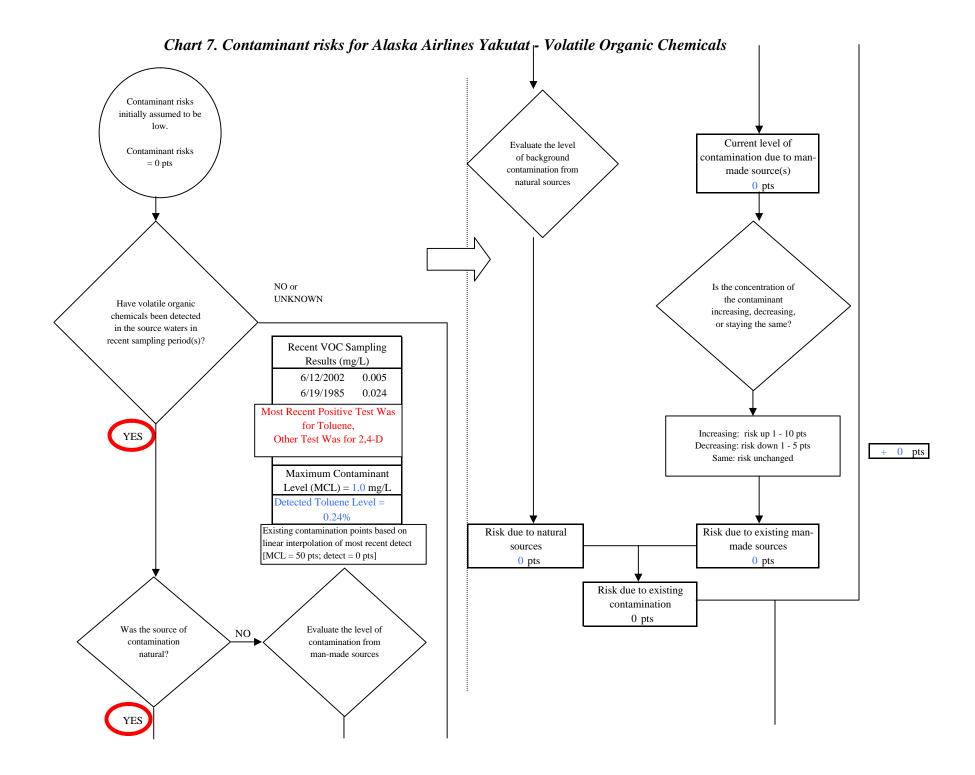
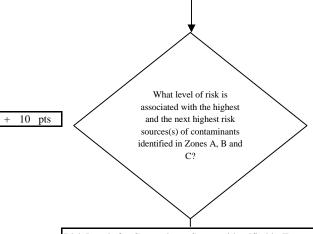


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for Alaska Airlines Yakutat - Volatile Organic Chemicals



isk Levels for Contami	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)	0	0	0	
Low(s)	3	3	6	

	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
--------------	----

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.

