



Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and Vulnerability Assessment for United Pentacostal Church Drinking Water System, Bethel, Alaska

> PWSID # 271790.001 February 2004

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM REPORT 1225 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 United Pentacostal Church Source of Public Drinking Water, Bethel, Alaska

Drinking Water Protection Program Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Pentacostal Church has one Public Water System (PWS) well. The well (PWSID# 271790.001) has been used as a drinking water source since it was drilled in 1988.

The well is a Class B (transient/non-community) water system located at 451 Ridgecrest Drive, in Bethel, Alaska. Available records indicate that there is a 2,050-gallon storage tank, and that the untreated drinking water is derived directly from the wellhead. This system operates year-round and serves 3 residents and approximately 350 non-residents through two service connections. The wellhead received a susceptibility rating of **Very High** and the aquifer received a susceptibility rating of **High**. Combining these two ratings produce a **Very High** rating for the natural susceptibility of the well.

Identified potential and current sources of contaminants for the primary public drinking water source include: aboveground fuel tanks, wastewater holding tanks, water supply wells, a cemetery, landfills, a firehouse, an Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) recognized contaminated site, and a domestic wastewater treatment plant disposal pond/lagoon. These identified potential and existing sources of contamination are considered as sources of bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals. Overall, the water well received a vulnerability rating of **Very High** for the bacteria and viruses, nitrates and nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals contaminant categories.

UNITED PENTACOSTAL CHURCH PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

The United Pentacostal Church water well is a Class B (transient/non-community) public water system. The system consists of one well located at 451 Ridgecrest Drive, in Bethel, Alaska (Sec. 8, T8N, R71W, Seward Meridian; see Map A of Appendix A). Bethel serves as the regional center for 56 villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Food, fuel, transportation, medical care, and other services for the region are provided by Bethel. Bethel is located at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River, 40-miles inland from the Bering Sea, and approximately 400air miles west of Anchorage. The community has a population of 5,736 (ADCED, 2003). Average annual precipitation for Bethel is 16 inches, including approximately 50 inches of snowfall. Temperatures range from 42 to 62°F in summer and -2 to 19°F in winter.

The community of Bethel obtains a portion of their water supply from city wells. Some households are served by the central piped water and sewage collection system; however, approximately 75% of households have water delivered and sewage hauled by truck. Several facilities have individual wells and septic tanks (ADCED, 2003). Bethel receives electrical power from the Bethel Utilities Corporation. Power generating facilities are fueled by diesel. Refuse is collected by the City of Bethel and transported to the City operated landfill (ADCED, 2003).

According to information supplied by ADEC for the United Pentacostal Church PWS, depth of the water well is 429 feet below the ground surface. Based on available construction details, the well is screened in sand in a confined aquifer. The well is assumed not to be located in a floodplain.

Information acquired from a December 2002 sanitary survey for the public water system indicated that the land surface was not sloped away from the well. Generally, land surfaces that slope away from the wellhead promote surface water drainage, which reduces potential of contaminant migration down the well casing annulus. The well is not grouted according to ADEC regulations. Proper grouting provides added protection against contaminants traveling along the well casing annulus and into source waters.

The Bethel area is near the southern border of the continuous permafrost zone and the City, and most of the area west of the Kuskokwim River, appear to be underlain with permafrost. The permafrost generally extends to a depth of at least 300 feet below ground surface, with depths of over 600 feet below ground surface recorded in some areas. The geology in the area consists primarily of unconsolidated floodplain

alluvium, silt deposits, and reworked silt. The Bethel area consists of poorly drained wetlands that have permanently ponded water in local depressions. Sloughs, small lakes, ponds, and marshes in meander scars surround Bethel (Dames & Moore, 1996).

UNITED PENTACOSTAL CHURCH DRINKING WATER PROTECTION AREA

In order to evaluate whether a drinking water source is at risk, we must first evaluate what are the most likely pathways for surface contamination to reach the groundwater. These areas are determined by looking at the characteristics of the soil, groundwater, aquifer, and well.

The most probable area for contamination to reach the drinking water well is the area that contributes water to the well, the groundwater recharge area. This area is designated as the drinking water protection area (DWPA). Because releases of contaminants within the protection area are most likely to impact the drinking water well, this area will serve as the focus for voluntary protection efforts. An analytical calculation was used to determine the size and shape of the DWPA for the United Pentacostal Church PWS. The input parameters describing the attributes of the aquifer in this calculation were adopted from Groundwater (Freeze and Cherry, 1979). Available geology and groundwater contours were also considered to take into account any uncertainties in groundwater flow and aquifer characteristics to arrive at a meaningful protection area.

The protection areas established for wells by the ADEC are usually separated into four zones, limited by the watershed. These zones correspond to differences in the time-of-travel (TOT) of the water moving through the aquifer to the well (Please refer to the Guidance Manual for Class B Public Water Systems for additional information).

The time of travel for contaminants within the water varies and is dependent on the physical and chemical characteristics of each contaminant. The following is a summary of the four protection area zones for wells and the calculated time -of-travel for each:

Table 1. Definition of Zones

Zone	Definition
А	¹ / ₄ the distance for the 2-yr. time -of-travel
В	Less than the 2 year time-of-travel
С	Less Than the 5 year time -of-travel
D	Less than the 10 year time -of-travel

The DWPA for the United Pentacostal Church PWS was determined using an analytical calculation and includes Zones A through D (See Map A of Appendix A).

INVENTORY OF POTENTIAL AND EXISTING CONTAMINANT SOURCES

The Drinking Water Protection Program has completed an inventory of potential and existing sources of contamination within the United Pentacostal Church DWPA. This inventory was completed through a search of agency records and other publicly available information. Potential sources of contamination to the drinking water aquifer include a wide range of categories and types. Potential drinking water contaminants are found within agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial areas, but can also occur within areas that have little or no development.

For the basis of all Class B public water system assessments, three categories of drinking water contaminants were inventoried. They include:

- Bacteria and viruses,
- Nitrates and/or nitrites,
- Volatile organic chemicals.

The sources are displayed on Map C of Appendix C and summarized in Table 1 of Appendix B.

RANKING OF CONTAMINANT RISKS

Once the potential and existing sources of contamination have been identified, they are assigned a ranking according to what type and level of risk they represent. Ranking of contaminant risks for a "potential" or "existing" source of contamination is a function of toxicity and volumes of specific contaminants associated with that source. Rankings include:

- Low,
- Medium,
- High, and
- Very High.

The time-of-travel for contaminants within the water varies and is dependent on the physical and chemical characteristics of each contaminant. Bacteria and Viruses are only inventoried in Zones A and B because of their short life span. Only "Very High" and "High" rankings are inventoried within the outer Zone D due to the probability of contaminant dilution by the time the contaminants get to the well. Tables 2 through 4 in Appendix B contain the ranking of potential and existing sources of contamination with respect to bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, and volatile organic chemicals.

VULNERABILITY OF THE UNITED PENTACOSTAL CHURCH 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 Suscept	ibility Ratings
40 to 50 pts	Very High
30 to < 40 pts	High
20 to < 30 pts	Medium
< 20 pts	Low

The United Pentacostal Church water well is in a confined aquifer. Confined aquifers are less susceptible to potential groundwater quality impacts posed by the migration of surface water contaminants downward from the surface. Table 2 shows the Susceptibility scores and ratings for both wells in this PWS.

Table 2. Susceptibility

	Score	Rating
Susceptibility of the	25	Very High
Wellhead		
Susceptibility of the	15	High
Aquifer		
Natural Susceptibility	40	Very 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 Ris	k 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	50	Very High
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	50	Very High
Volatile Organic Chemical	ls 45	Very High

Finally, an overall vulnerability score is assigned for each water system by combining each of the contaminant risk scores with the natural susceptibility score:

Natural Susceptibility (0 - 50 points)

Again, rankings are assigned according to a point score:

Overall Vulnerab	ility Ratings
80 to 100 pts 60 to < 80 pts 40 to < 60 pts < 40 pts	Very High High Medium 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	90	Very High
Nitrates and Nitrites	90	Very High
Volatile Organic Chemicals	85	Very High

Bacteria and Viruses

The contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses is **Very High**. The risk is primarily attributed to the presence of bacteria in recent sampling results and the presence of a landfill in Zone B (See Table 2 – Appendix B).

A positive bacteria count has been reported and confirmed in a follow-up sample in recent (within five years) sampling events. Only a small amount of bacteria and viruses are required to endanger public health.

After combining the contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses with the natural susceptibility of the well, the

overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is **Very High**.

Nitrates and Nitrites

The contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites is **Very High**. The risk to this source of public drinking water is attributed to the presence of a domestic wastewater treatment plant disposal pond/lagoon and landfills in Zones B and C (See Table 3 – Appendix B).

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

After combining the contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to nitrate and nitrite contamination is **Very High**

Volatile Organic Chemicals

The contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals is **Very High**. The risk is primarily attributed to the presence of an ADEC recognized contaminated site and landfills in Zones B and C (see Table 4 – Appendix B).

No recent sampling data was available in ADEC records for the United Pentacostal Church (See Chart 7 – Contaminant Risks for Volatile Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

After combining the contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the well, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is **Very High**

Using the Source Water Assessment

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

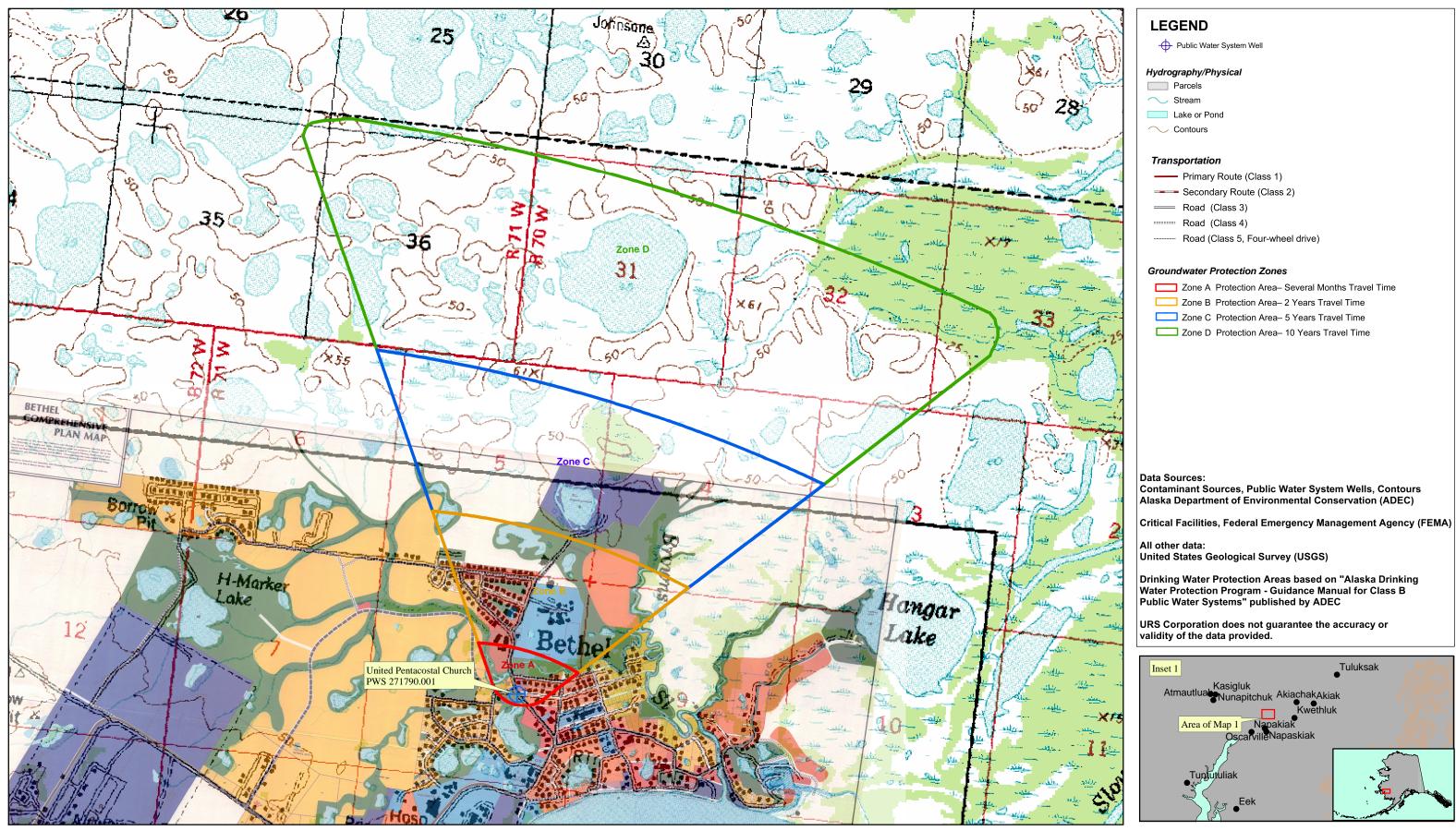
REFERENCES

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- Dames & Moore, 1996. Final Water and Sewer Facilities Master Plan Update Report, City of Bethel.
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- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2002 [WWW document]. URL <u>http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html</u>.

APPENDIX A

Drinking Water Protection Area Location Map (Map A)

Public Water Well System for PWS #271790.001 United Pentacostal Church



0	0.25	0.5	1	1.5	2
					Miles

	Zone	A	Pro	oteo	ction	Area-	S	everal	Month	าร	Travel	Time
	Zone	в	Pro	oteo	ction	Area-	2	Years	Trave	۱٦	Time	
_		~	-				-		-		- .	

United Pentacostal Church PWS 271790.001

Appendix A Map A

APPENDIX B

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

Contaminant Source Inventory for United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle

PWSID 271790.001

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Map Number	Comments
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-01	А	С	
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-03	А	С	
Wastewater Holding Tank	T22	T22-01	А	С	
Water supply wells	W09	W09-01	А	С	2 water supply wells in Zone A
Cemeteries	X01	X01-01	А	С	
Landfills (municipal; Class II)	D50	D50-01	В	С	
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-02	В	С	Owl Street Residence
Contaminated sites, DEC recognized, non-Superfund, non-RCRA	U04	U04-01	В	С	Owl Street Residence, RecKey #1992250124701, Status: Closed, diesel contaminated soils due to an undetermined amount of heating oil released from a leaking storage tank.
Water supply wells	W09	W09-02	В	С	3 water supply wells in Zone B
Firehouses	X38	X38-01	В	С	
Domestic wastewater treatment plant disposal ponds/lagoons	D02	D02-01	С	С	
Landfills (municipal; Class II)	D50	D50-01	С	С	
Landfills (industrial; type of industrial waste?)	D52	D52-01	С	С	
Landfills (industrial; type of industrial waste?)	D52	D52-01	D	С	

Table 2

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle Sources of Bacteria and Viruses

PWSID 271790.001

Contaminant **Risk Ranking** Мар Contaminant Source Type CS ID tag Number *Comments* Zone for Analysis Source ID T22 T22-01 С Wastewater Holding Tank А Low Landfills (municipal; Class II) D50 D50-01 В High С С D02 С Domestic wastewater treatment plant disposal D02-01 High ponds/lagoons D50 D50-01 С С Landfills (municipal; Class II) High

Table 3

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites

PWSID 271790.001

Contaminant **Risk Ranking** Мар Contaminant Source Type CS ID tag *Comments* Zone for Analysis Number Source ID T22 T22-01 С Wastewater Holding Tank Α Low Cemeteries X01 X01-01 Α Medium С Landfills (municipal; Class II) D50 В С D50-01 Very High С С Domestic wastewater treatment plant disposal D02 D02-01 High ponds/lagoons D50 D50-01 С С Landfills (municipal; Class II) Very High

Table 4

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals

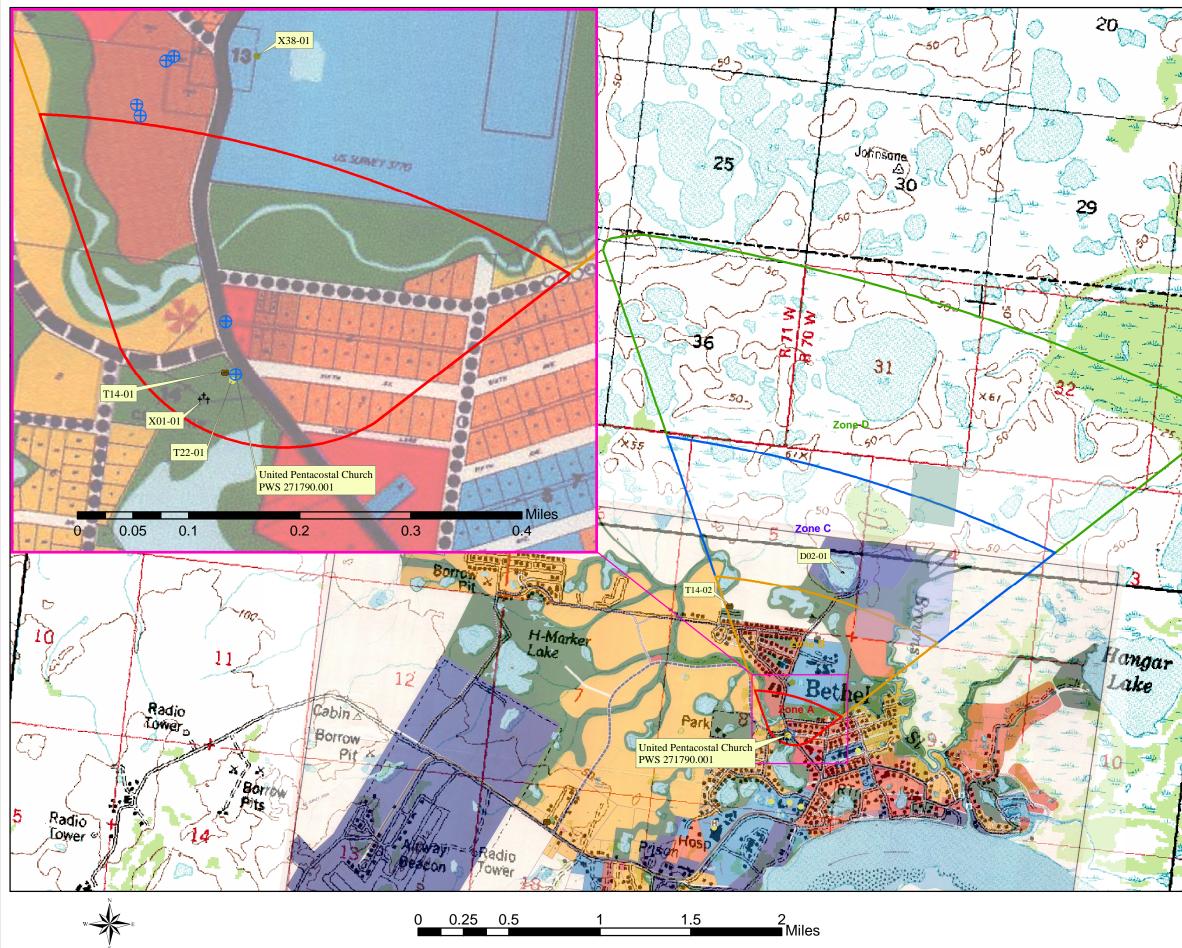
PWSID 271790.001

Contaminant Source Type	Contaminant Source ID	CS ID tag	Zone	Risk Ranking for Analysis	Map Number	Comments
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-01	А	Low	С	
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-03	А	Low	С	
Wastewater Holding Tank	T22	T22-01	А	Medium	С	
Landfills (municipal; Class II)	D50	D50-01	В	High	С	
Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground)	T14	T14-02	В	Low	С	Owl Street Residence
Contaminated sites, DEC recognized, non-Superfun non-RCRA	U04	U04-01	В	High	С	Owl Street Residence, RecKey #1992250124701, Status: Closed, diesel contaminated soils due to an undetermined amount of heating oil released f a leaking storage tank.
Firehouses	X38	X38-01	В	Low	С	
Domestic wastewater treatment plant disposal ponds/lagoons	D02	D02-01	С	Low	С	
Landfills (municipal; Class II)	D50	D50-01	С	High	С	

APPENDIX C

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

Public Water Well System for PWS #271790.001 United Pentacostal Church Showing Potential and Existing Sources of Contamination





← Public Water System Well

Hydrography/Physical

Parcels

- Lake or Pond
- \sim Contours

e contouro

Transportation

- Primary Route (Class 1)
- ____ Secondary Route (Class 2)
- Road (Class 3)
- Road (Class 4)
- Road (Class 5, Four-wheel drive)

Groundwater Protection Zones

- Zone A Protection Area– Several Months Travel Time
- Zone B Protection Area– 2 Years Travel Time
- Zone C Protection Area– 5 Years Travel Time
- Zone D Protection Area- 10 Years Travel Time

Existing or Potential Contaminant Sources

- ✤ Domestic wastewater treatment plant disposal ponds/lagoons (D02)
- Landfills (municipal; Class II) (D50)
- Landfills (industrial) (D52)
- Tanks, heating oil, nonresidential (aboveground) (T14)
- Wastewater holding tank (T22)
- t[†]t Cemetaries (X01)
- Firehouse)X38)

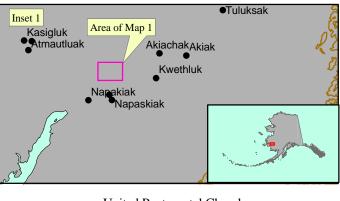
Data Sources: Contaminant Sources, Public Water System Wells, Contours Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)

Critical Facilities, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

All other data: United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Drinking Water Protection Areas based on "Alaska Drinking Water Protection Program - Guidance Manual for Class B Public Water Systems" published by ADEC

URS Corporation does not guarantee the accuracy or validity of the data provided.



United Pentacostal Church PWS 271790.001

Appendix C Map C

APPENDIX D

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

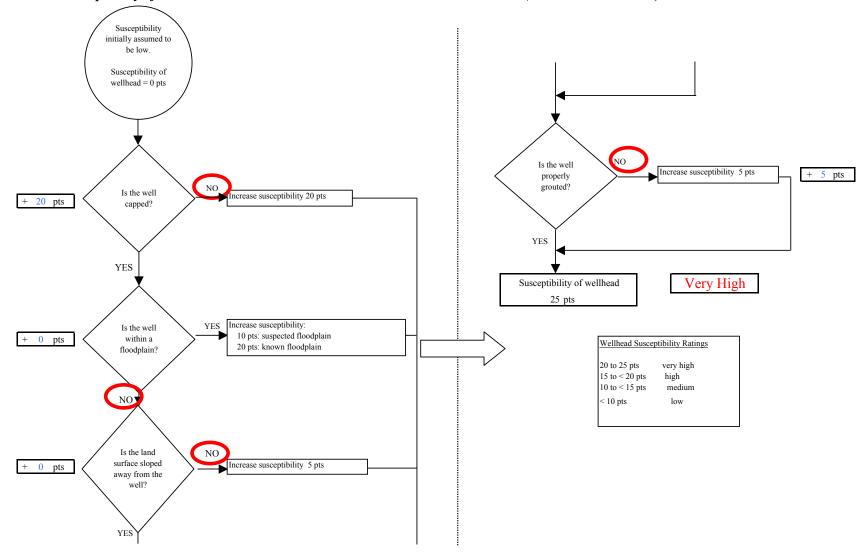


Chart 1. Susceptibility of the wellhead - United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle (PWS No. 271790.001)

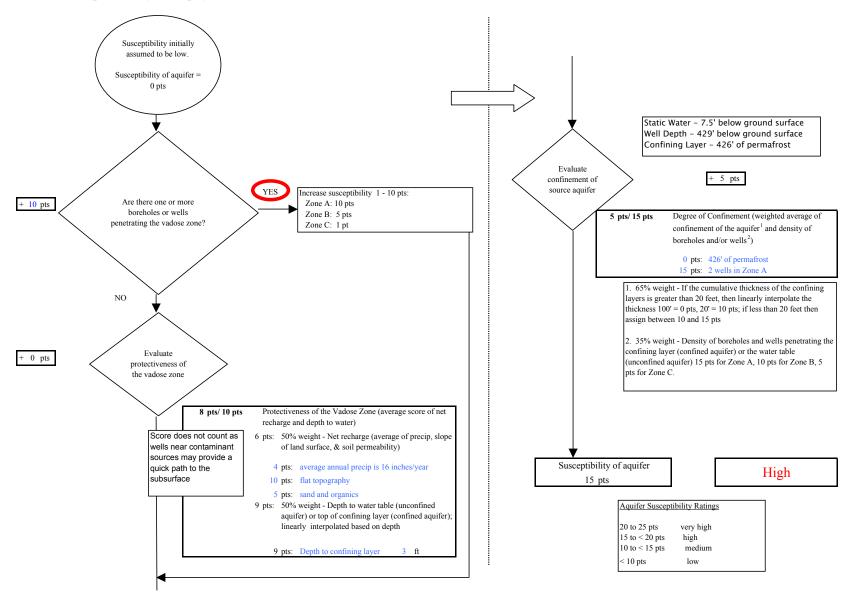


Chart 2. Susceptibility of the aquifer United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle (PWS No. 271790.001)

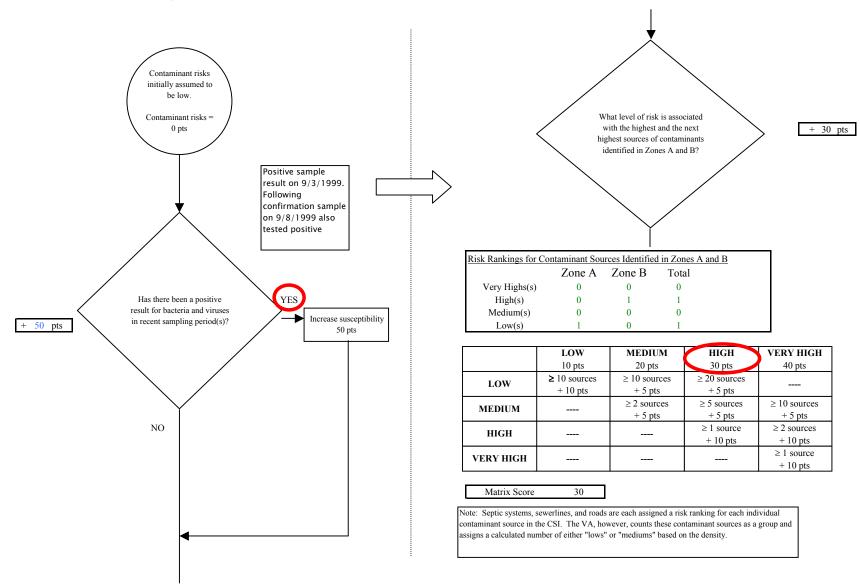


Chart 3. Contaminant risks for United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle (PWS No. 271790.001) - Bacteria & Viruses

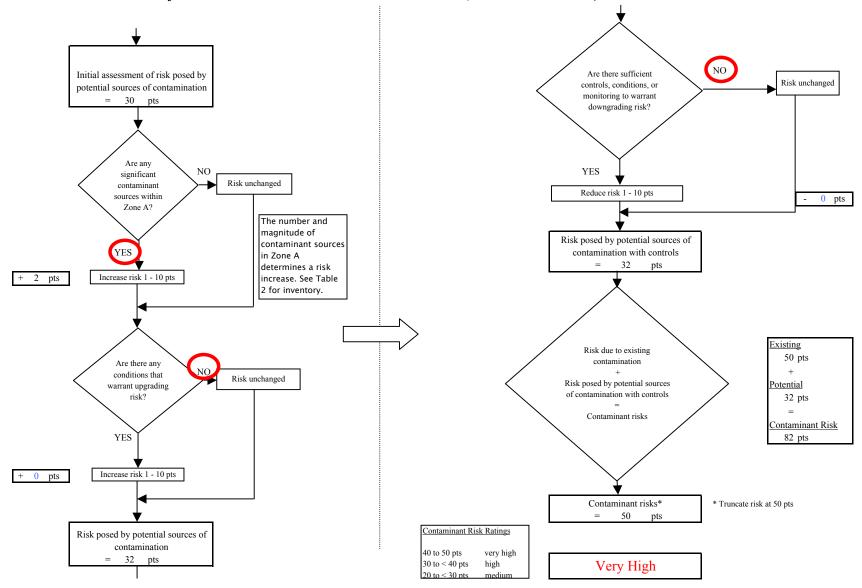


Chart 3. Contaminant risks for United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle (PWS No. 271790.001) - Bacteria & Viruses

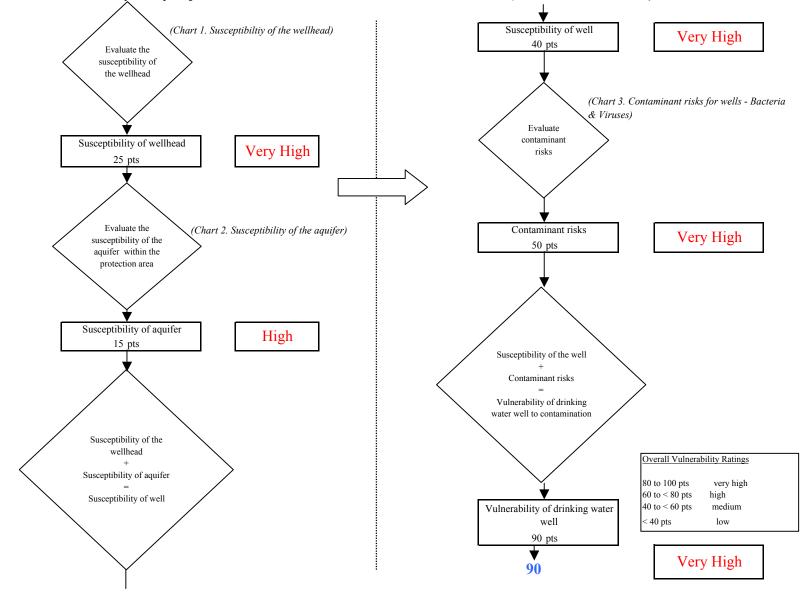


Chart 4. Vulnerability analysis for United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle (PWS No. 271790.001) - Bacteria & Viruses

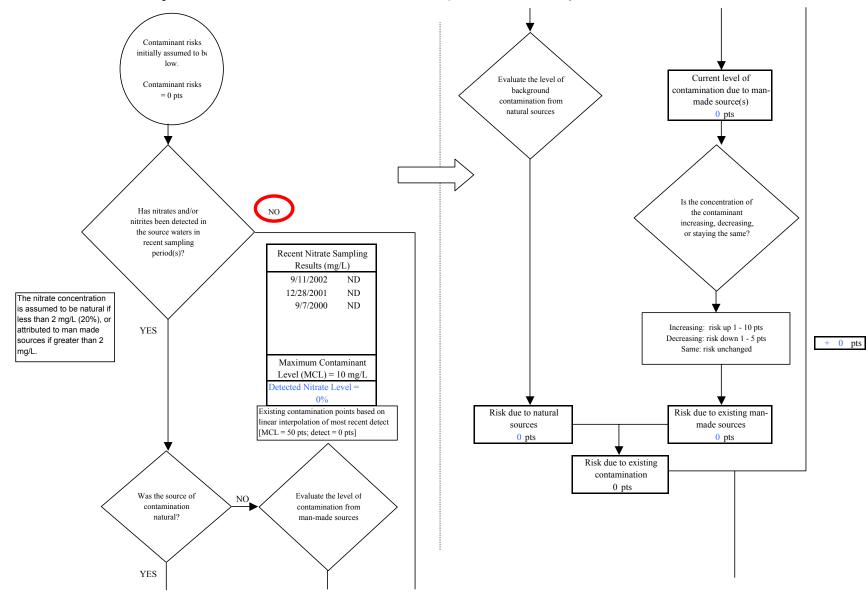


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle (PWS No. 271790.001) - Nitrates and Nitrites

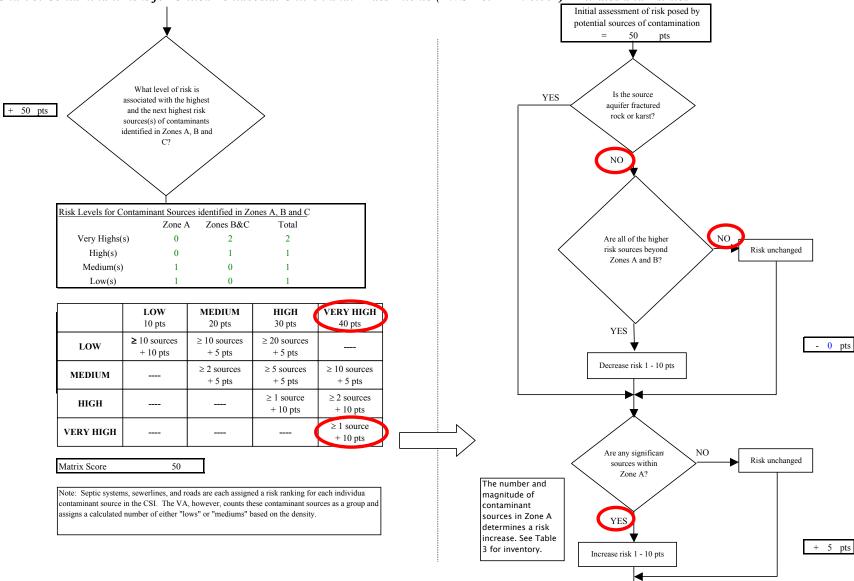


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle (PWS No. 271790.001) - Nitrates and Nitrites

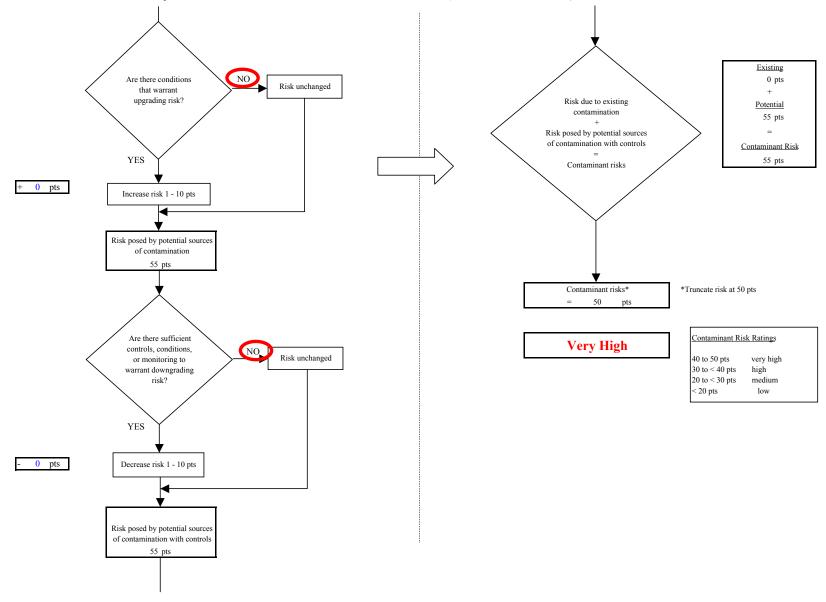


Chart 5. Contaminant risks for United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle (PWS No. 271790.001) - Nitrates and Nitrites

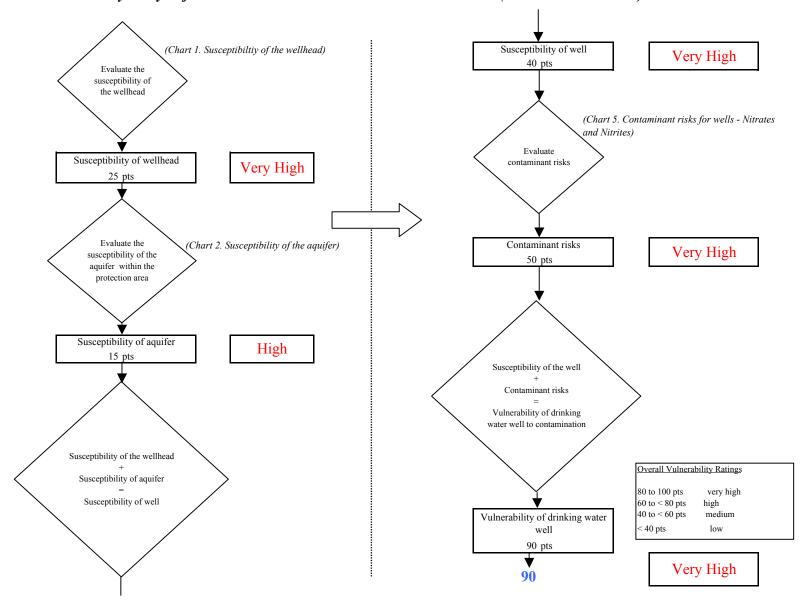


Chart 6. Vulnerability analysis for United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle (PWS No. 271790.001) - Nitrates and Nitrites

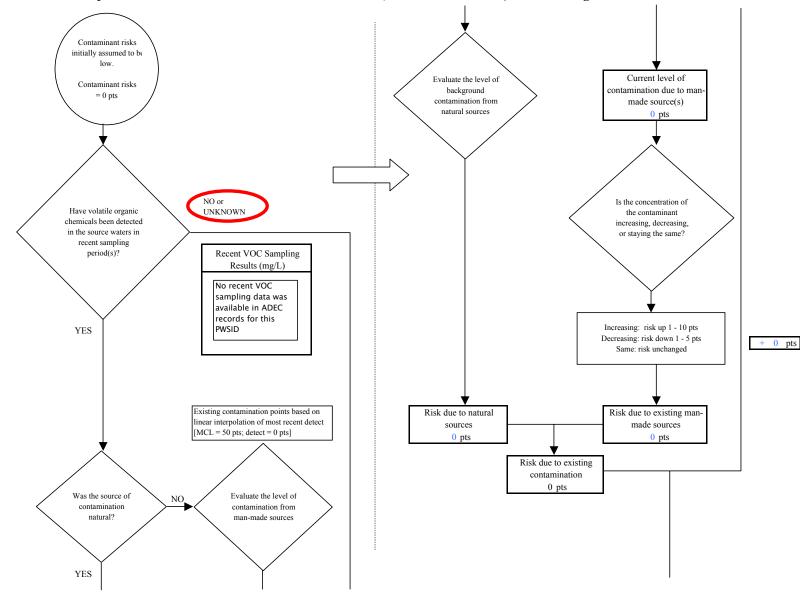


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle (PWS No. 271790.001) - Volatile Organic Chemicals

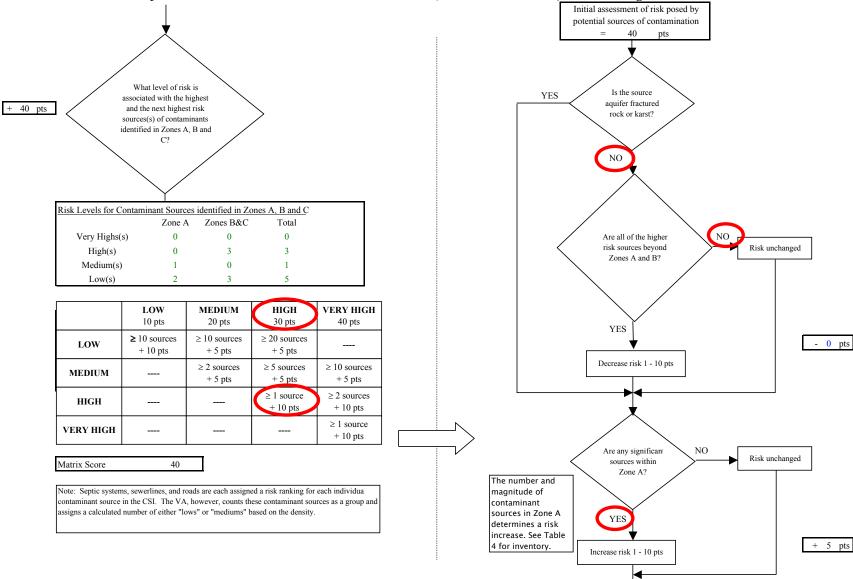


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle (PWS No. 271790.001) - Volatile Organic Chemicals

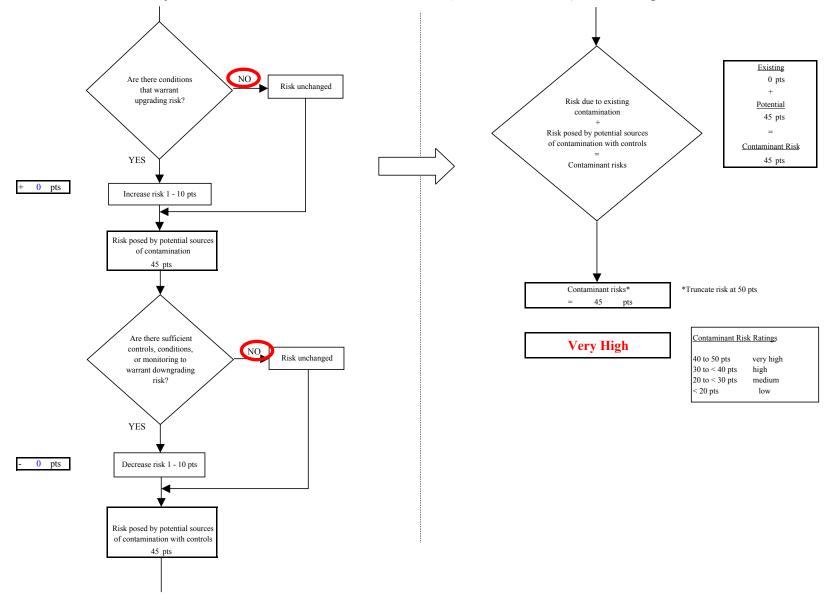


Chart 7. Contaminant risks for United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle (PWS No. 271790.001) - Volatile Organic Chemicals

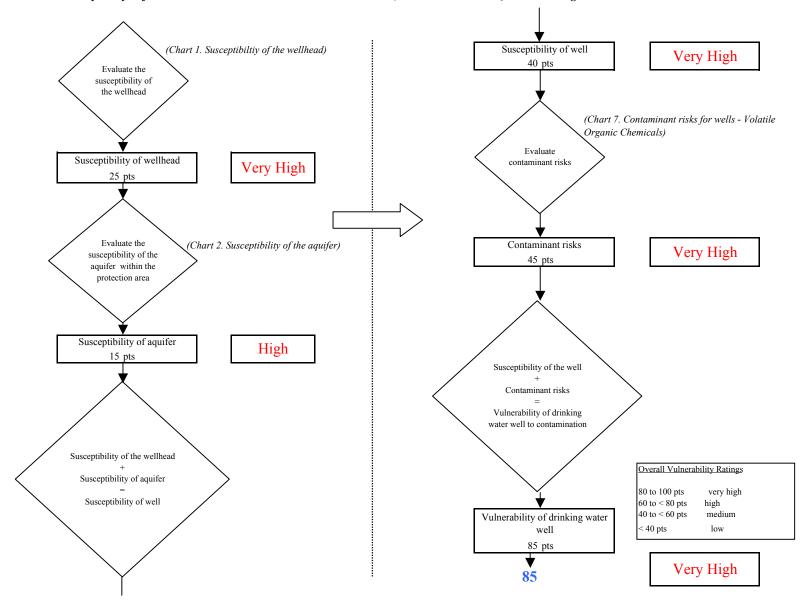


Chart 8. Vulnerability analysis for United Pentacostal Church aka: Brass Buckle (PWS No. 271790.001) - Volatile Organic Chemicals