



Source Water Assessment

A Hydrogeologic Susceptibility and
Vulnerability Assessment for the
City of Hoonah, Alaska

PWSID # 130067.001

September 2003

Drinking Water Protection Program Report #852

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 the City of Hoonah Public Water System

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Hoonah water system is a Class A (community) water system that obtains water from Ear Mountain Creek. The intake is located approximately 3-miles south of Hoonah and is accessible via a gravel access road, although access to the watershed area is restricted from public use. The overall protection area is approximately 1.5 square miles in size and received a susceptibility rating of “**very high**”. *A rating of high to very high is typical for all systems with surface water intakes.* Potential and existing sources of the following contaminants were evaluated for the Source Water Assessment: bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, heavy metals, cyanide, and other inorganic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, volatile organic chemicals, and other organic chemicals. A gravel road was identified as a potential source of contaminants for the drinking water source. This evaluation included all available water sampling data submitted to ADEC by the system operator. The samples may have been collected from either raw water or post-treated water. Combining the susceptibility of the surface water source with the contaminant risks, this water system has received a vulnerability rating of “**medium**” for nitrates and/or nitrites, synthetic organic chemicals, volatile organic compounds, heavy metals, cyanide and other inorganic chemicals, and other organic chemicals; and “**very high**” for bacteria and viruses.

DRINKING WATER SYSTEM AND AREA OVERVIEW

The City of Hoonah (Sec. 28, T043S, R061E, Copper River Meridian) is a Tlingit community located on the northeast shore of Chichagof Island, 40 air miles west of Juneau (Please see the inset of Map 1 in Appendix A for location). The current population is approximately 870 (ADCED, 2003). The City of Hoonah water system is a Class A (community) water system that operates year round. The system’s intake is located approximately 3-miles south of Hoonah on Ear Mountain Creek (See Map 1 of Appendix A). Access to the intake is available via gravel road, although a local ordinance restricts public activity around the intake area.

98% of the households in Hoonah are fully plumbed. Piped sewage is processed in a sewage treatment plant and the City provides refuse collection (ADCED, 2003).

The geology of the watershed area is heavily composed of carbonate rocks. The majority of them being limestone and marble. Most areas are well drained because the water percolates through the underlying carbonate bedrock. Because of this, wetlands are not typically present, except on areas of glacial hardpans or non-carbonate intrusion. Alpine areas here have significant bare areas, where soils are too thin to support vegetation. Lower elevations support forests of western hemlock and Sitka spruce. Both surface and subsurface waters often have high pH levels (USDA, 2001).

Hoonah's maritime climate is characterized by cool summers and mild winters. Summer temperatures average 52 to 63; winter temperatures average 26 to 39. Temperature extremes have been recorded from -25 to 87. Precipitation averages 100 inches annually, with 71 inches of snowfall. (ADCED, 2003).

The most recent Sanitary Survey (2000) indicates that the intake screens are maintained and protected from ice buildup and siltation. The survey also indicates that the system has an average daily output of 525,600 gallons. The system operator provided documentation showing that the mean annual flow of Ear Mountain Creek is 11.4 cfs, with a mean monthly flow of 24.9 cfs in May and 3.1 cfs in January.

CITY OF HOONAH DRINKING WATER PROTECTION AREA

Identifying the pathways most likely for surface contamination to reach water intake areas is the first step in determining the water system’s risk. These are initially determined by looking at the drainage area contributing overland water flow to a surface water source intake. The entire drainage area is also known as the “drinking water protection area”. Please refer to pages 10-11 of the “Guidance Manual for Class A Public Water Systems” for additional information.

The protection area established for surface water sources by the ADEC is usually separated into three zones, limited by the watershed boundary. These zones correspond to the overland-flow distance that water travels to get to the source. The ADEC Drinking Water Protection Program's Technical Advisory Committee developed guidelines for derivation of these zones in 1998. The following is a summary of the three protection area zones:

Table 1. Definition of Zones

Zone	Definition
A	Areas within 1000-ft of lakes or streams
B	Areas within 1-mile of lakes or streams
C	The watershed boundary

The protection area for the City of Hoonah includes each of these Zones (See Map 1 of Appendix A). It should be noted here that, because of the small watershed size, Zones C and B are identical.

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 Hoonah protection area. This inventory was completed through a search of agency records and other publicly available information. There is a wide array of potential contamination sources to surface water. These contaminants are found within agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial areas, but *can also occur within areas that have little or no development.*

For Class A public water system assessments, six categories of drinking water contaminants were inventoried. They include:

- Bacteria and viruses;
- Nitrates and/or nitrites;
- Volatile organic chemicals;
- Heavy metals, cyanide, and other inorganic chemicals;
- Synthetic Organic Chemicals; and
- Other Organic Chemicals.

Sources identified in the City of Hoonah protection area are displayed on Map 2 of Appendix C and summarized in Table 1 of Appendix B.

RANKING OF CONTAMINANT RISKS

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

- Low;
- Medium;
- High; and
- Very High.

The time-of-travel for contaminants within the water is dependent on the physical and chemical characteristics of each contaminant. Bacteria and Viruses are only inventoried in Zone A because of their short life span. Only "Very High" and "High" rankings are inventoried within Zones B and C due to the probability of contaminant dilution by the time the contaminants reach the water intake.

The remaining tables in Appendix B (if necessary) contain the ranking of potential and existing sources of contamination with respect to bacteria and viruses, nitrates and/or nitrites, volatile organic chemicals, heavy metals, cyanide, and other inorganic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, and other organic chemicals.

VULNERABILITY OF THE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

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

- Surface Water Susceptibility; and
- Contaminant risks.

Appendix D contains 13 charts, which together form the ‘Vulnerability Analysis’ for the public drinking water Source Water Assessment. Chart 1 analyzes the ‘Susceptibility of the Surface Water Source’ to contamination by looking at the climate, terrain, and intake location. Chart 2 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 intake area. Chart 3 contains the ‘Vulnerability Analysis for Bacteria and Viruses’, which is a composite score of the Vulnerability Analysis and the overall Susceptibility. Charts 4 through 13 repeat the Contaminant Risks and Vulnerability Analyses for nitrates and nitrites, volatile organic chemicals, heavy metals, cyanide, and other inorganic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, and other organic chemicals, respectively.

A score for the Surface Water Susceptibility of the source is reached by considering the properties of the water intake and the surrounding area. The derivation of this information is presented below and the data for this source is shown in Chart 1 of Appendix D.

Susceptibility of the Surface Water Source – always considered to be “high” (30 points)

+

Adequate Construction of the Intake (0 – 5 Points)

+

Runoff Potential Within Zone B (0 – 5 Points)

+

Dilution Capacity of the Surface Water (0 – 10 Points)

=

Natural Susceptibility
(0 – 50 Points)

A ranking is assigned for the Surface Water Susceptibility according to the point score:

Surface Water Source Susceptibility Ratings	
40 to 50 pts	Very High
30 to < 40 pts	High

Table 2. Susceptibility of the Water Source

	Score	Rating
Minimum Allowable Susceptibility	30	
Intake Construction Adequate	0	
Runoff Potential	5	
Dilution Capacity	15	
Overall Susceptibility	50	Very High

For contaminants, risks to a drinking water source depend on the type, number or density, and distribution of the contaminant sources. The Contaminant Risk score has been derived from an examination of existing, and historical contamination sources that have been detected in the protection area 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 the 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 for each category of drinking water contaminants.

Table 3. City of Hoonah Contaminant Risks

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	50	Very High
Nitrates and/or Nitrites	2	Low
Volatile Organic Chemicals	2	Low
Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and Other Inorganic Chemicals	2	Low
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	0	Low
Other Organic Chemicals	2	Low

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

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Susceptibility of the Surface Water Source} \\
 (0 - 50 \text{ points}) \\
 + \\
 \text{Contaminant Risks } (0 - 50 \text{ points}) \\
 = \\
 \text{Vulnerability of the} \\
 \text{Drinking Water Source to Contamination } (0 - 100).
 \end{array}$$

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 and ratings for each of the six categories of drinking water contaminants. Note: scores are rounded off to the nearest five.

Table 4. City of Hoonah Overall Vulnerability

Category	Score	Rating
Bacteria and Viruses	100	Very High
Nitrates and Nitrites	50	Medium
Volatile Organic Chemicals	50	Medium
Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and Other Inorganic Chemicals	50	Medium
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	50	Medium
Other Organic Chemicals	50	Medium

Bacteria and Viruses

The contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses is “very high”. Typically, coliform detection in raw water samples collected from surface water sources is normal. (See Chart 2 – Contaminant Risks for Bacteria and Viruses in Appendix D).

Coliforms (a bacteria) are found naturally in the environment and although they aren’t necessarily a health threat, they are an indicator of other potentially harmful bacteria in the water, more specifically, fecal coliforms and E. coli which only come from human and animal fecal waste. Harmful bacteria can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms (EPA, 2003). Positive samples increase the overall vulnerability of the drinking water source, indicating that the source is susceptible to bacteria and virus contamination.

A positive bacteria count was detected in sampling collected on January 9, 2003. A possible source of bacteria is via paved or unpaved roads.

After combining the contaminant risk for bacteria and viruses with the natural susceptibility of the source, the overall vulnerability of the source to bacteria and virus contamination becomes “very high”.

Nitrates and Nitrites

The contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites is “low” (See Chart 4 - Contaminant Risks for Nitrates and/or Nitrites in Appendix D). Nitrates are very mobile, moving at approximately the same rate as water.

Sampling history for the water source indicates that nitrates have not been detected in the sampling period 1997 - 2001. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for nitrates is 10 milligrams per liter (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 (EPA, 2003).

A possible source of nitrate/nitrites are paved/unpaved roads.

After combining the contaminant risk for nitrates and nitrites with the natural susceptibility of the source, the overall

vulnerability of the source to contamination is “medium”.

Volatile Organic Chemicals

The contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals is “low” (See Chart 6 – Contaminant Risks for Volatile Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

Chloroform and trihalomethanes were detected during sampling in 2001-2002. The MCL for chloroform is 0.2 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and the MCL for total trihalomethanes is 0.1 mg/L. Both of these chemicals typically originate during the process of water treatment. Other volatile organic chemicals may also originate from paved or unpaved roads.

After combining the contaminant risk for volatile organic chemicals with the natural susceptibility of the source, the overall vulnerability of the source to contamination is “medium”.

Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and Other Inorganic Chemicals

The contaminant risk for heavy metals is “low”. Copper and lead were detected in samples collected during 1997-2000 (See Chart 8 – Contaminant Risks for Heavy Metals, Cyanide, and Other Inorganic Chemicals in Appendix D). The MCL for copper is 1.3 mg/l. and the MCL for lead is 0.015 mg/l.

A typical source of these chemicals is the infrastructure of the distribution system following the treatment process. They may also originate from paved or unpaved roads.

After combining the contaminant risk for heavy metals with the natural susceptibility of the source, the overall vulnerability of the well to contamination is “medium”.

Synthetic Organic Chemicals

The contaminant risk for synthetic organic chemicals is “low”. After combining the contaminant risk with the natural susceptibility of the source, the overall vulnerability to synthetic organic chemicals of the source is “medium” (See Chart 11 – Contaminant Risks for Synthetic Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

Review of the historical sampling data indicates that test results for dibromochloropropane and ethylene dibromide in 2002 were negative.

Other Organic Chemicals

The contaminant risk for other organic chemicals is “low”. After combining the contaminant risk with the natural susceptibility of the source, the overall vulnerability to other organic chemicals of the source is “medium” (See Chart 13 – Contaminant Risks for Other Organic Chemicals in Appendix D).

A possible source of these chemicals are paved/unpaved roads

Review of the historical sampling data indicates that no other organic chemicals have been sampled recently.

REFERENCES

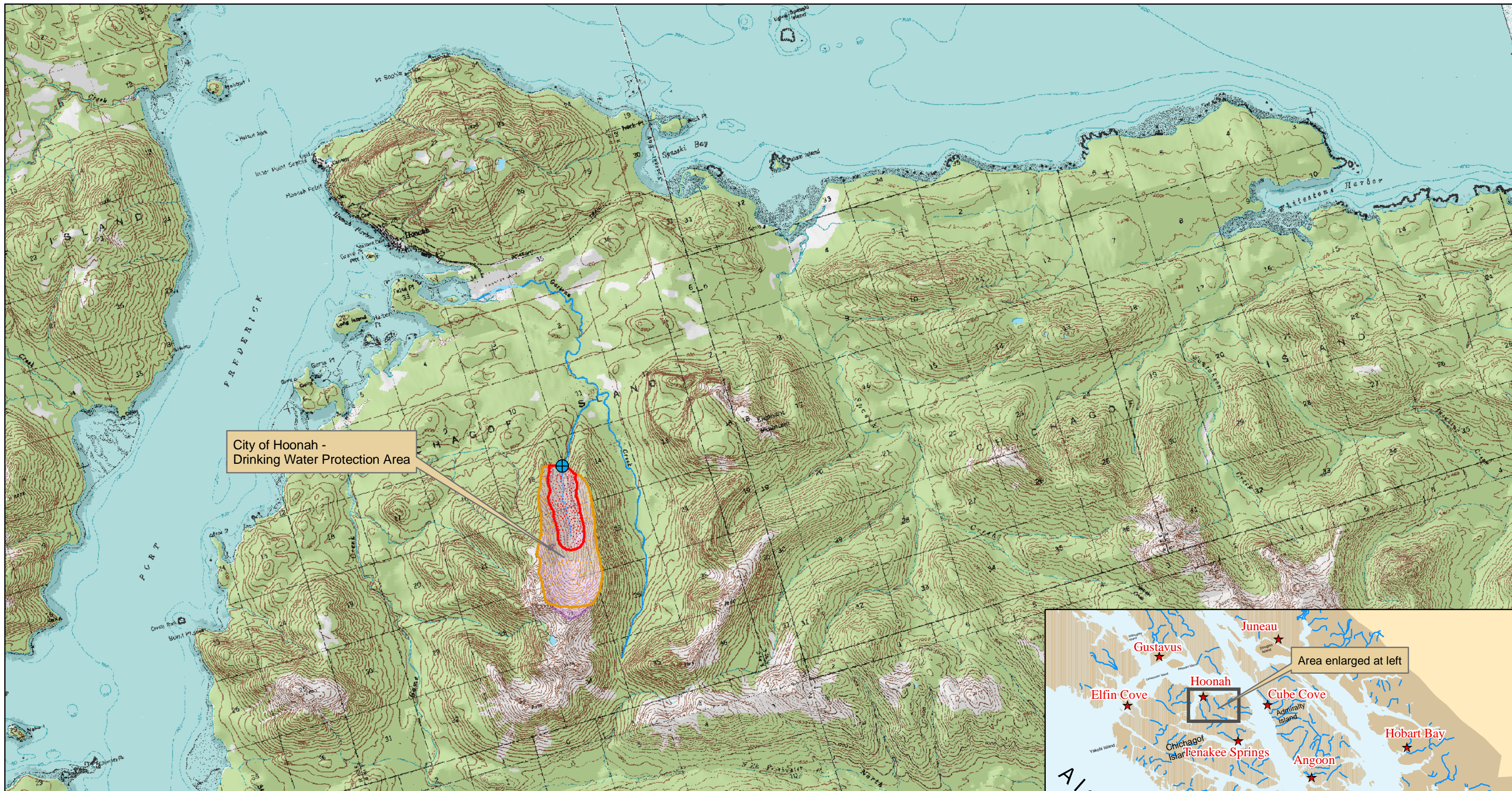
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APPENDIX A

City of Hoonah Drinking Water Protection Area Location Map (Map 1)



Map 1: City of Hoonah - Drinking Water Protection Area

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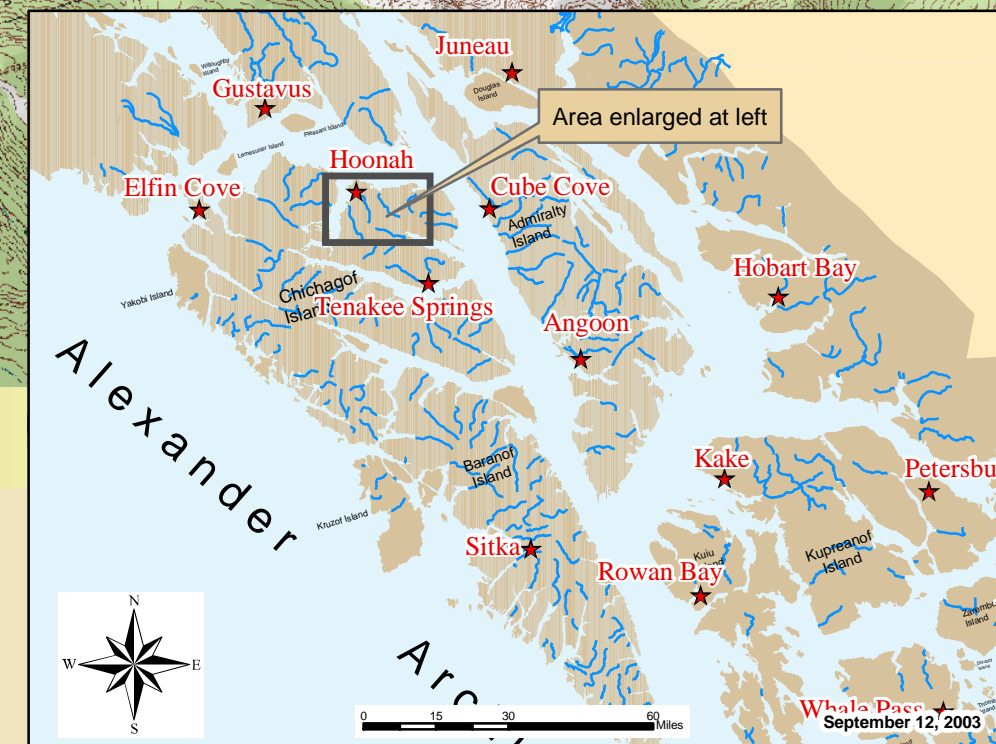
Data Sources:
Background image
- USGS 1:63,000 mapping
Lakes, streams, & roads
- U.S. Forest Service, Tongass

0 3,500 7,000 14,000 21,000 Feet
1:84,000

Protection zones were delineated based upon streams noted on USGS 1:63,000 mapping.

Legend

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| City of Hoonah - PWS Intake | Stream |
| Zone A Protection Area | Roads |
| Zone B Protection Area | Lake |
| Zone C Protection Area | |



Whale Pass
September 12, 2003

APPENDIX B

Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Rankings (Tables 1 - 6)

<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24 - 1	A	B	U.S. Forest Service, Tongass GIS Data.

Table 2

*Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for
City of Hoonah PWS
Sources of Bacteria and Viruses*

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<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Risk Ranking for Analysis</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24 - 1	A	Low	B	U.S. Forest Service, Tongass GIS Data.

Table 3

*Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for
City of Hoonah PWS
Sources of Nitrates/Nitrites*

PWSID 130067.001

<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Risk Ranking for Analysis</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24 - 1	A	Low	B	U.S. Forest Service, Tongass GIS Data.

Table 4

*Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for
City of Hoonah PWS
Sources of Volatile Organic Chemicals*

PWSID 130067.001

<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Risk Ranking for Analysis</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24 - 1	A	Low	B	U.S. Forest Service, Tongass GIS Data.

Table 5

*Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for
City of Hoonah PWS
Sources of Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals*

PWSID 130067.001

<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Risk Ranking for Analysis</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24 - 1	A	Low	B	U.S. Forest Service, Tongass GIS Data.

Table 6

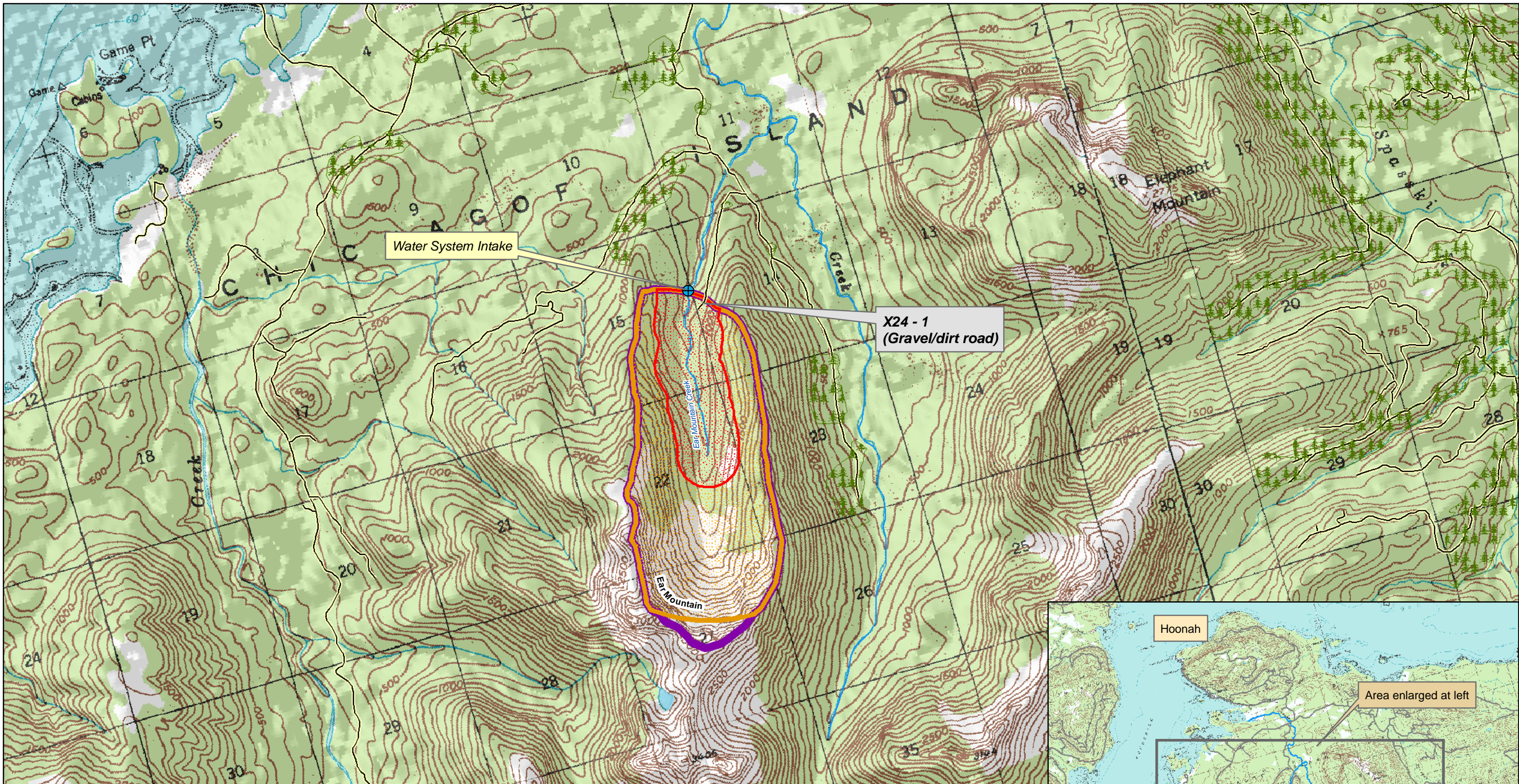
*Contaminant Source Inventory and Risk Ranking for
City of Hoonah PWS
Sources of Other Organic Chemicals*

PWSID 130067.001

<i>Contaminant Source Type</i>	<i>Contaminant Source ID</i>	<i>CS ID tag</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Risk Ranking for Analysis</i>	<i>Map Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Highways and roads, dirt/gravel	X24	X24 - 1	A	Low	B	U.S. Forest Service, Tongass GIS Data.

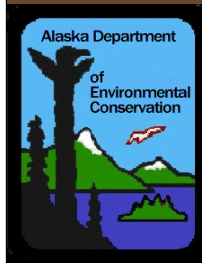
APPENDIX C

City of Hoonah Drinking Water Protection Area and Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources (Map 2)



Map 2: Potential and Existing Contaminant Sources

PWSID: 130067.001



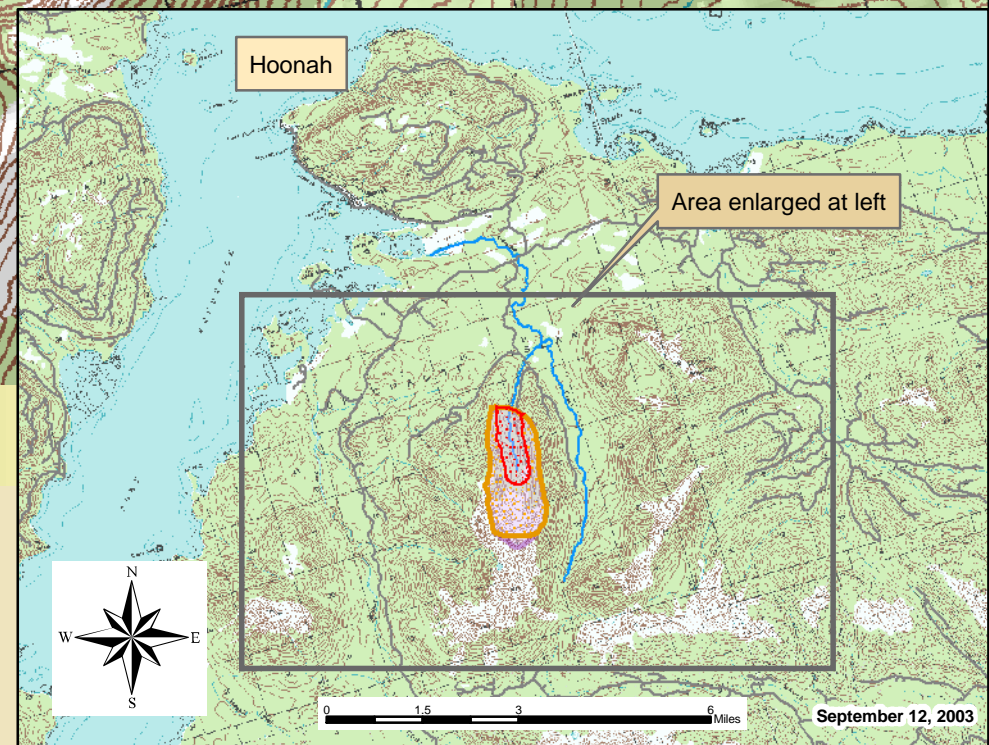
Data Sources:

Background image
 - USGS 1:63,000 mapping
Lakes, streams, & roads
 - U.S. Forest Service

Protection zones were delineated based upon streams noted on USGS 1:63,000 mapping.

Legend

- City of Hoonah - PWS Intake
- Potential Logging Area
- Zone A Protection Area
- Zone B Protection Area
- Zone C Protection Area
- Lake
- Stream
- Roads



September 12, 2003

APPENDIX D

Vulnerability Analysis and Contaminant Risks (Charts 1-13)

Chart 1. Susceptibility of the Surface Water Source - City of Hoonah

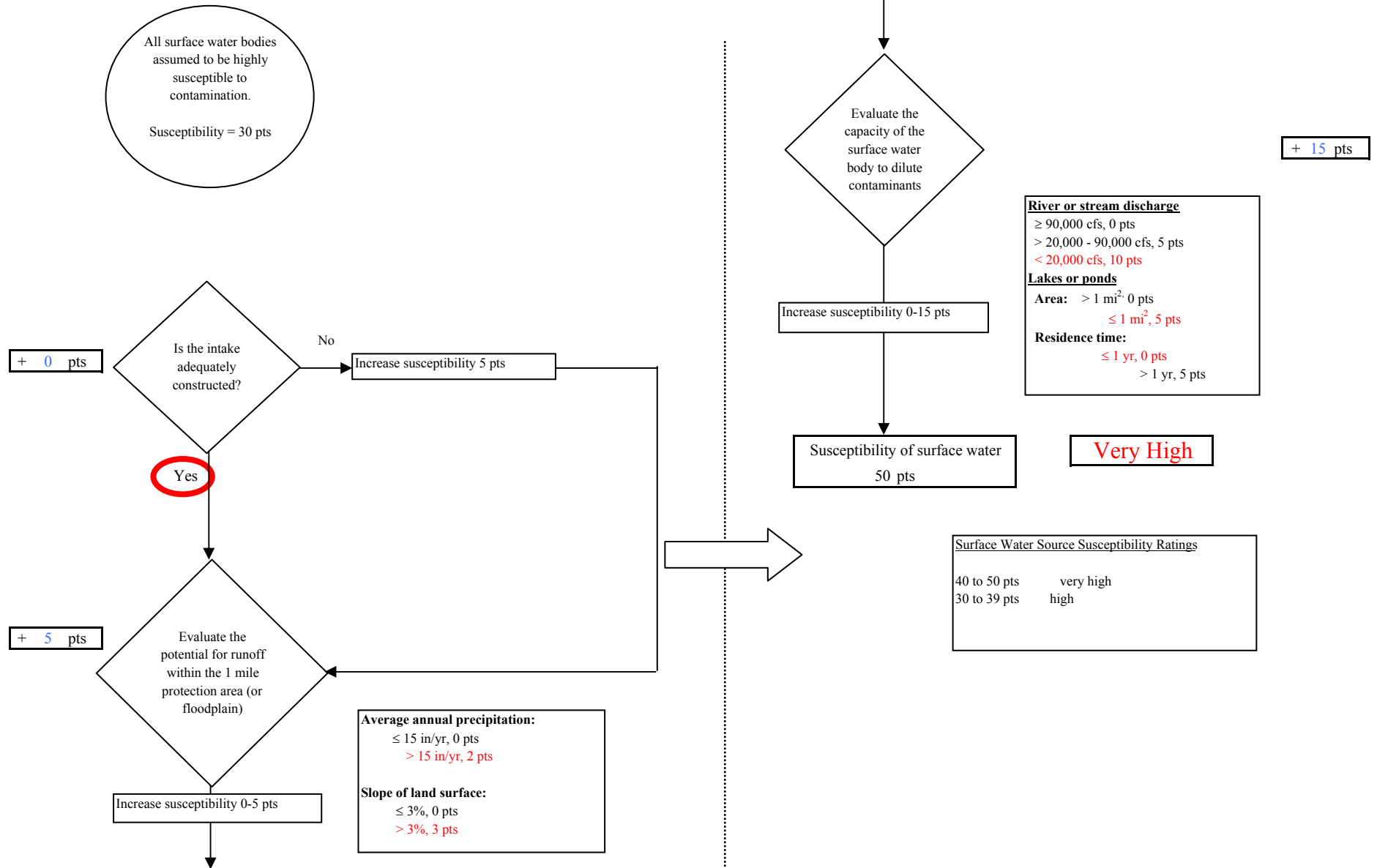


Chart 2. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Bacteria & Viruses

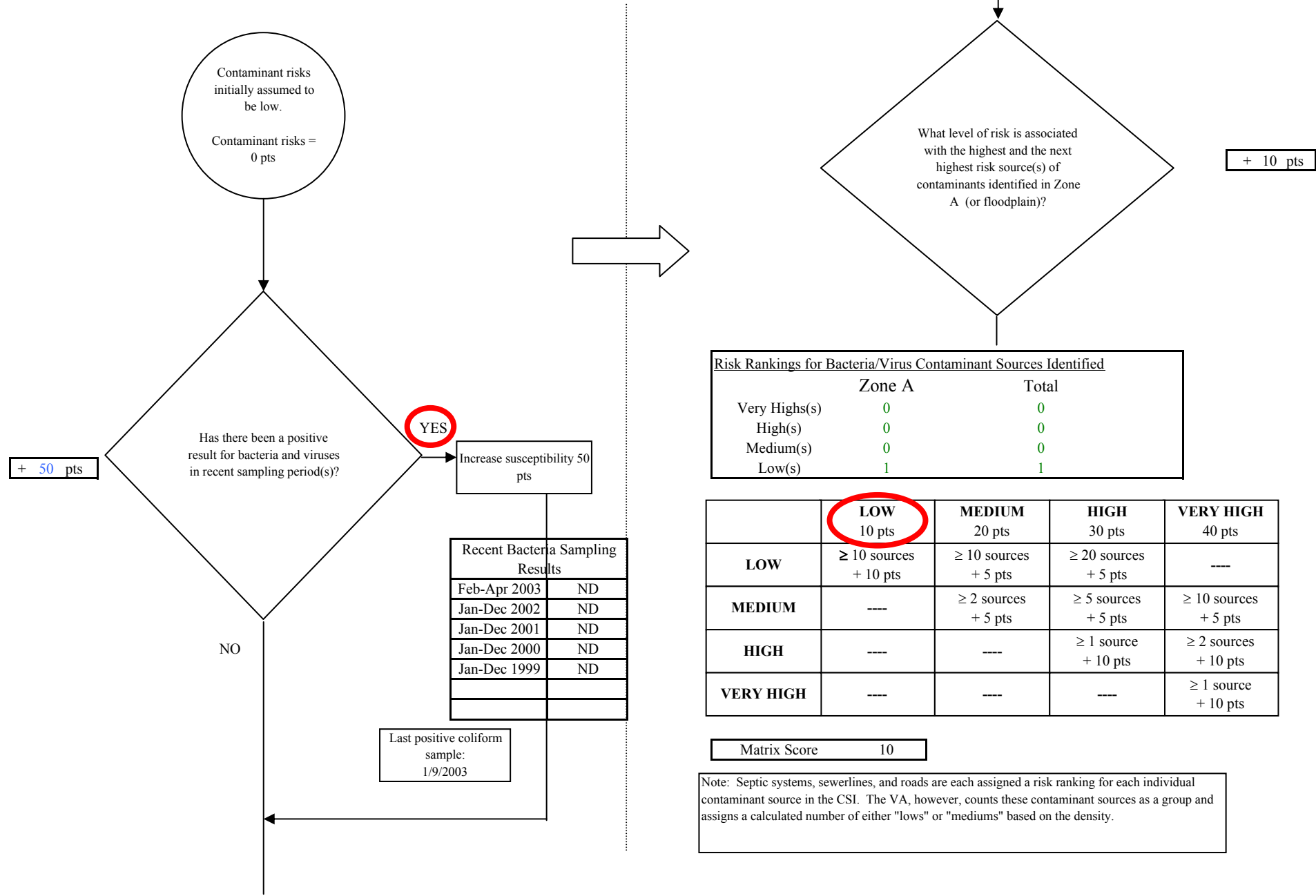


Chart 2. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Bacteria & Viruses

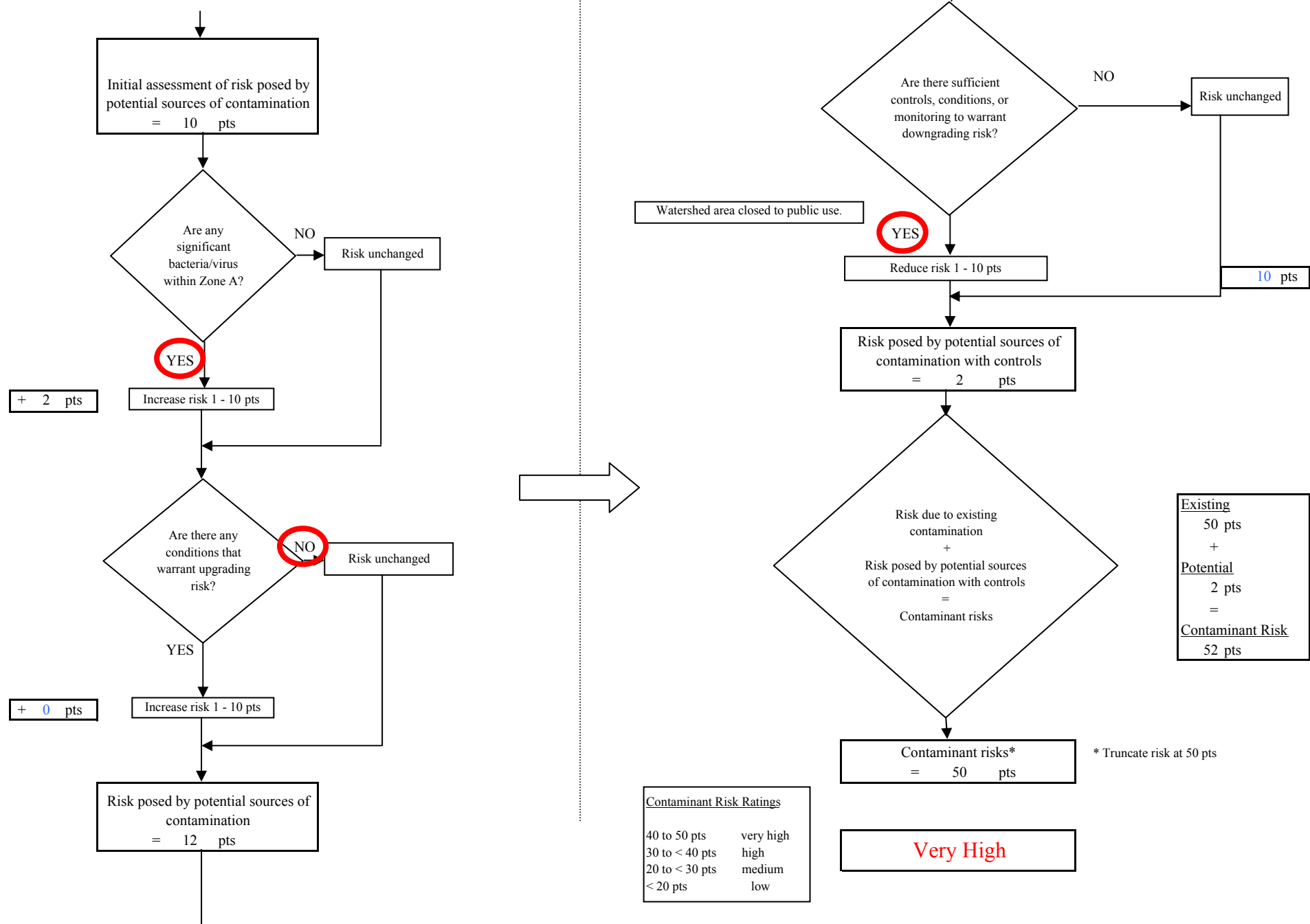


Chart 3. Vulnerability analysis for City of Hoonah - Bacteria & Viruses

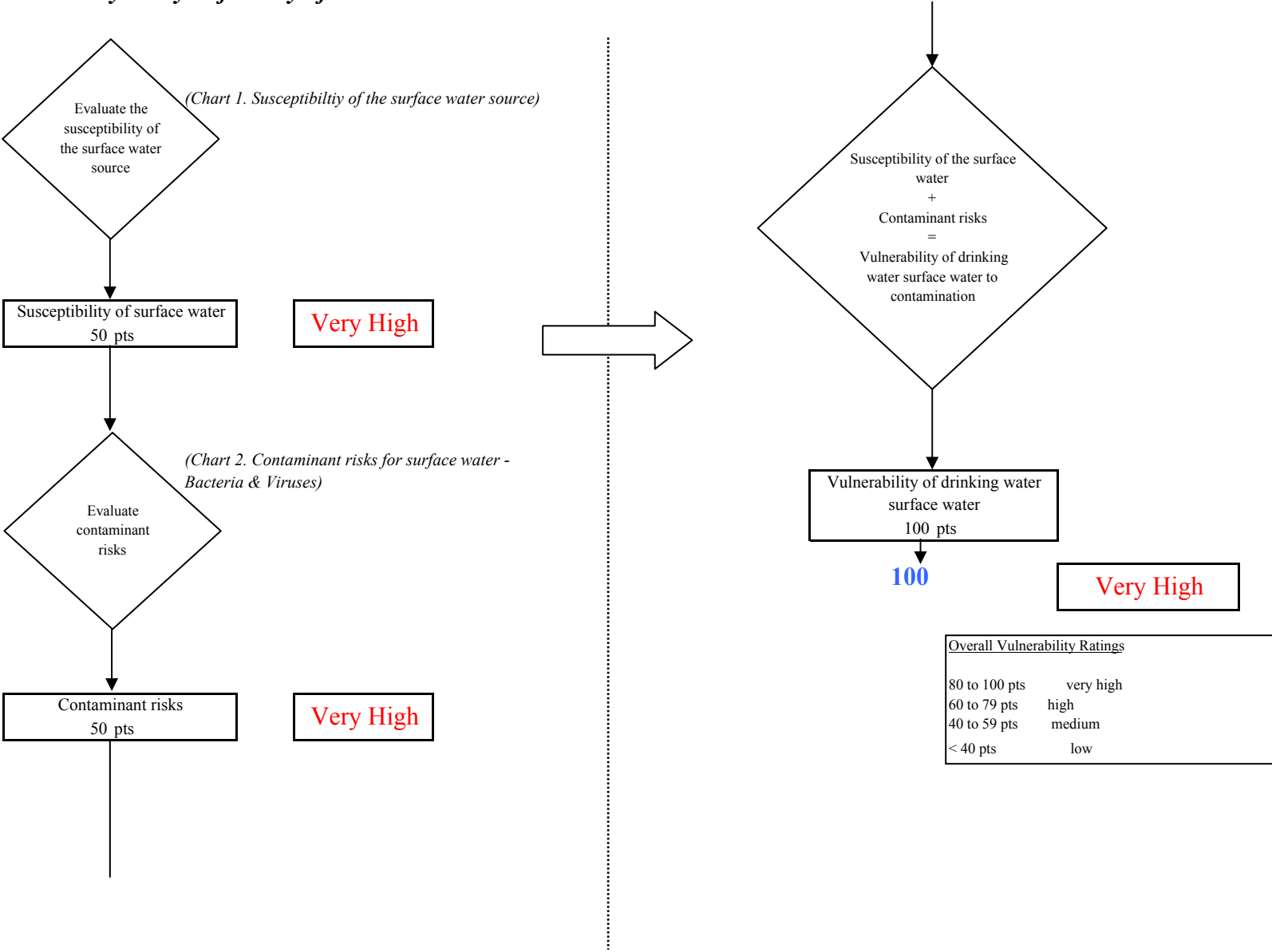


Chart 4. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Nitrates and Nitrites

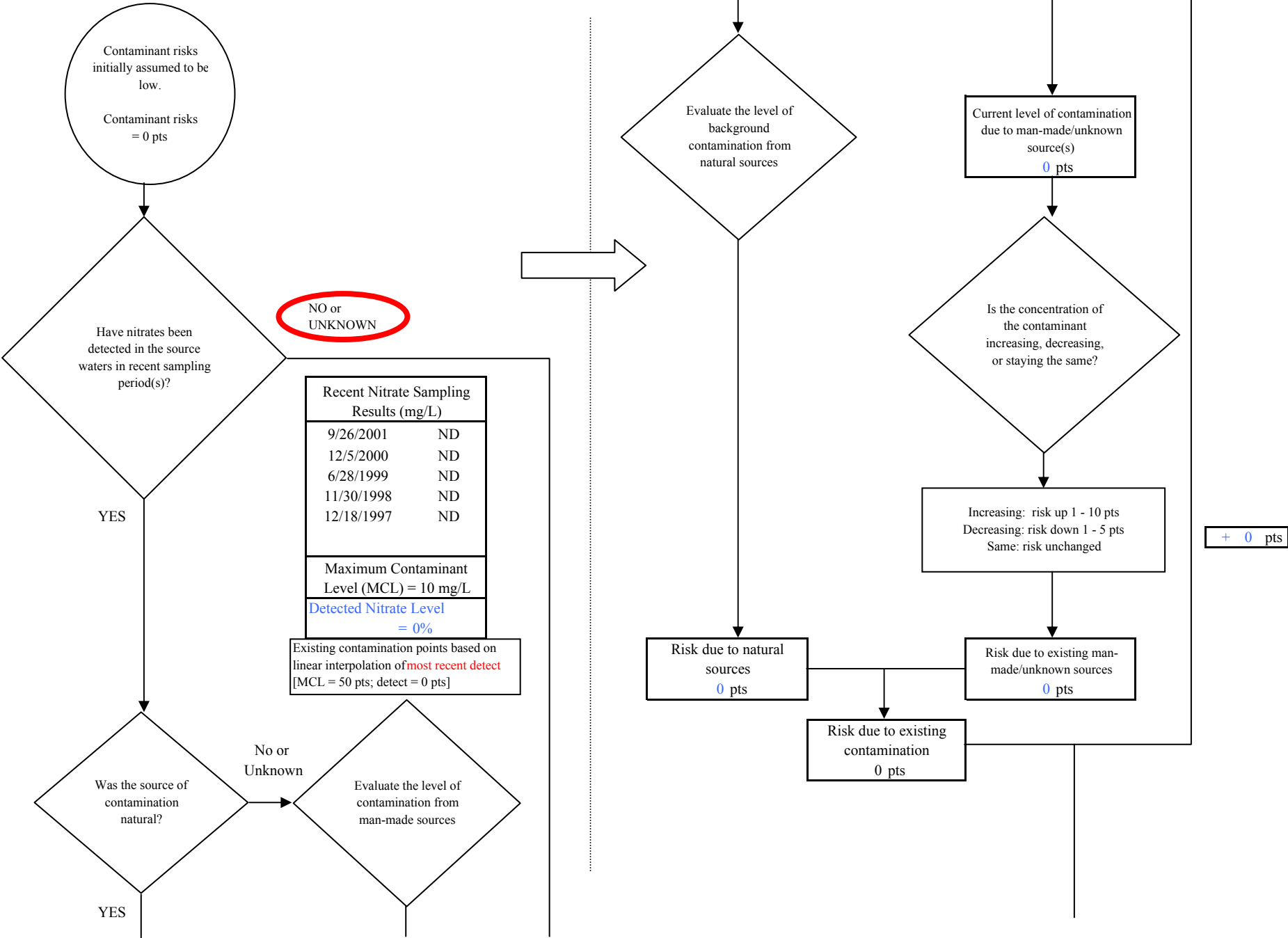


Chart 4. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Nitrates and Nitrites

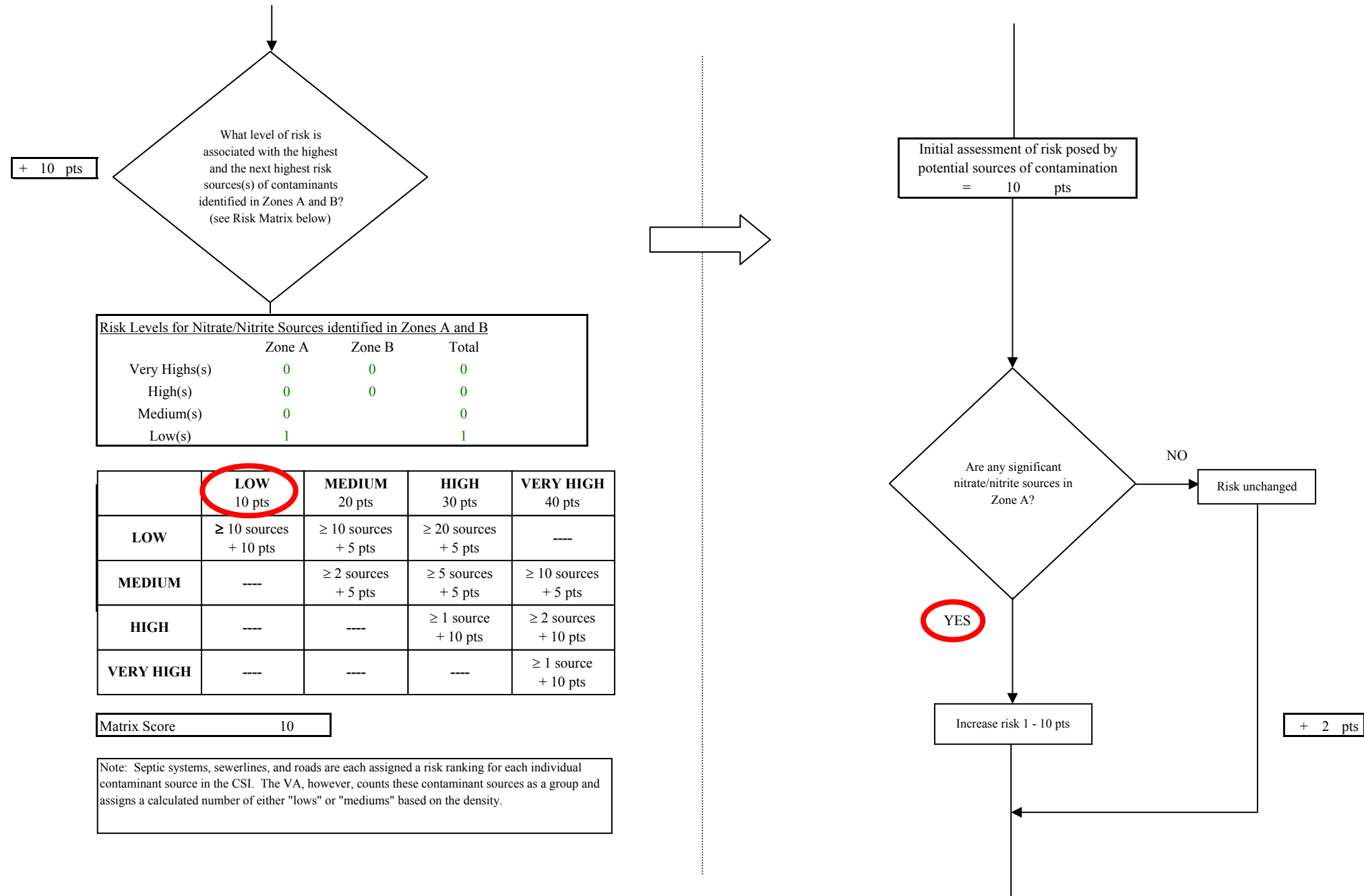


Chart 4. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Nitrates and Nitrites

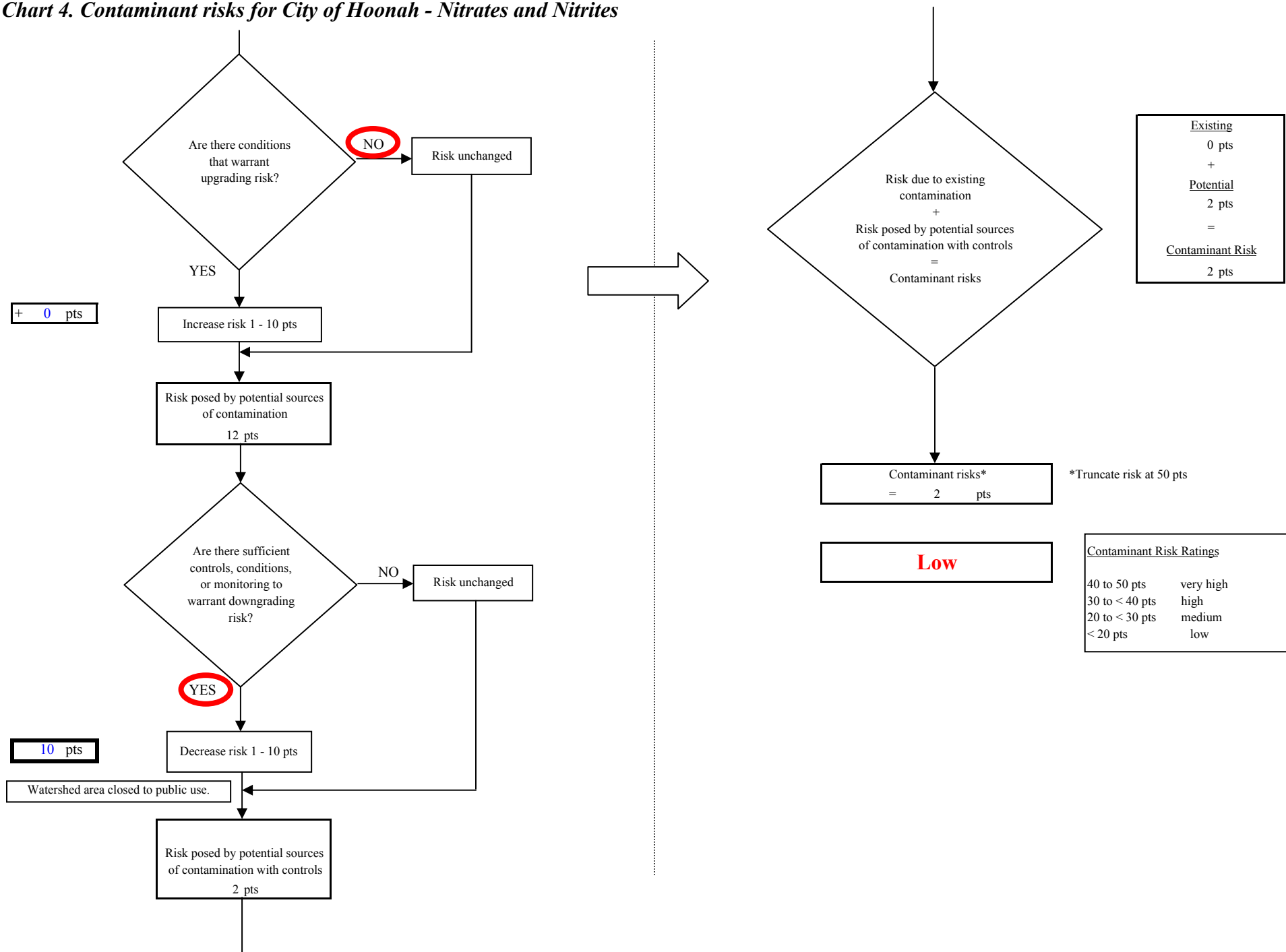


Chart 5. Vulnerability analysis for City of Hoonah - Nitrates and Nitrites

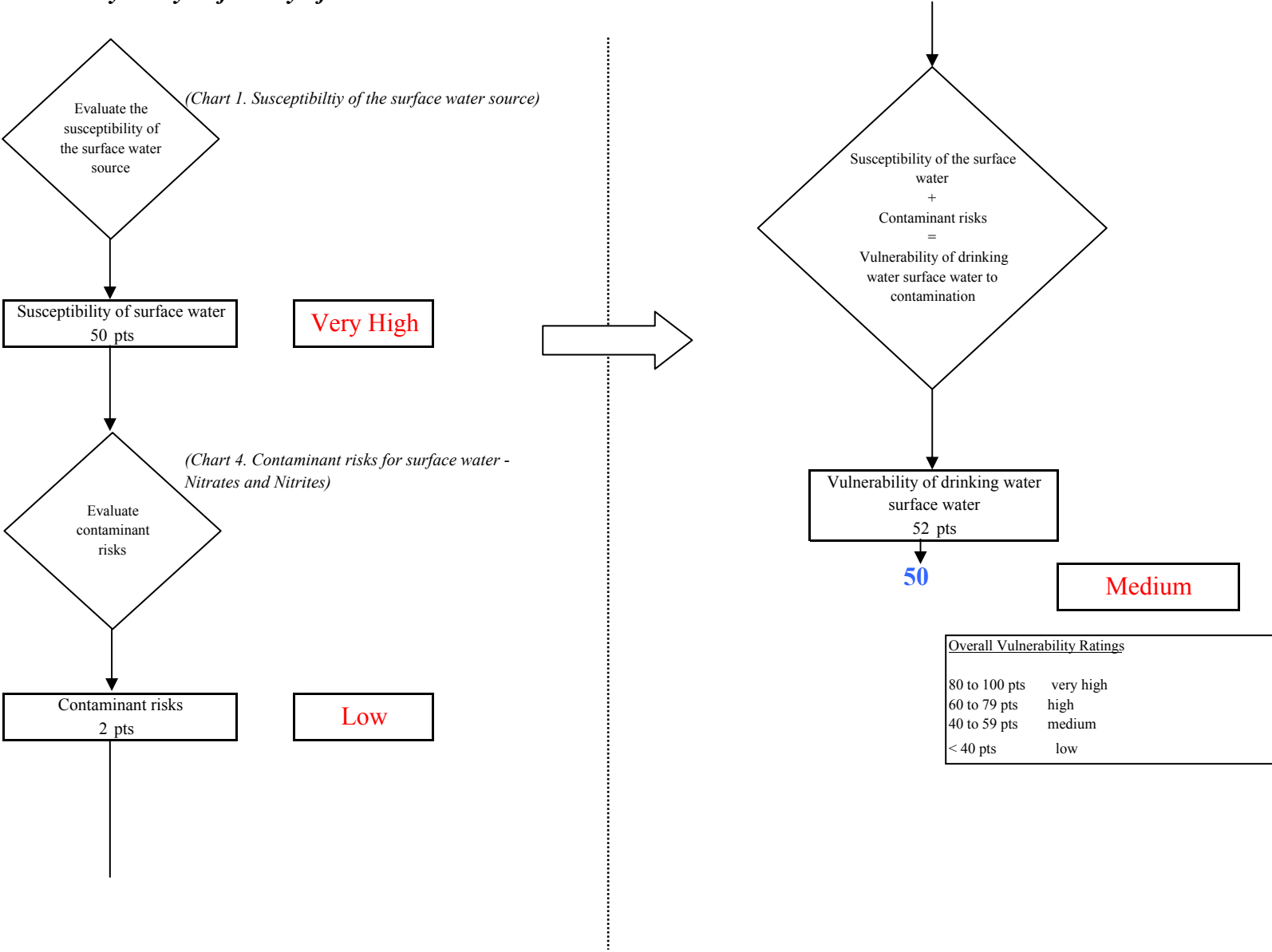


Chart 6. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Volatile Organic Chemicals

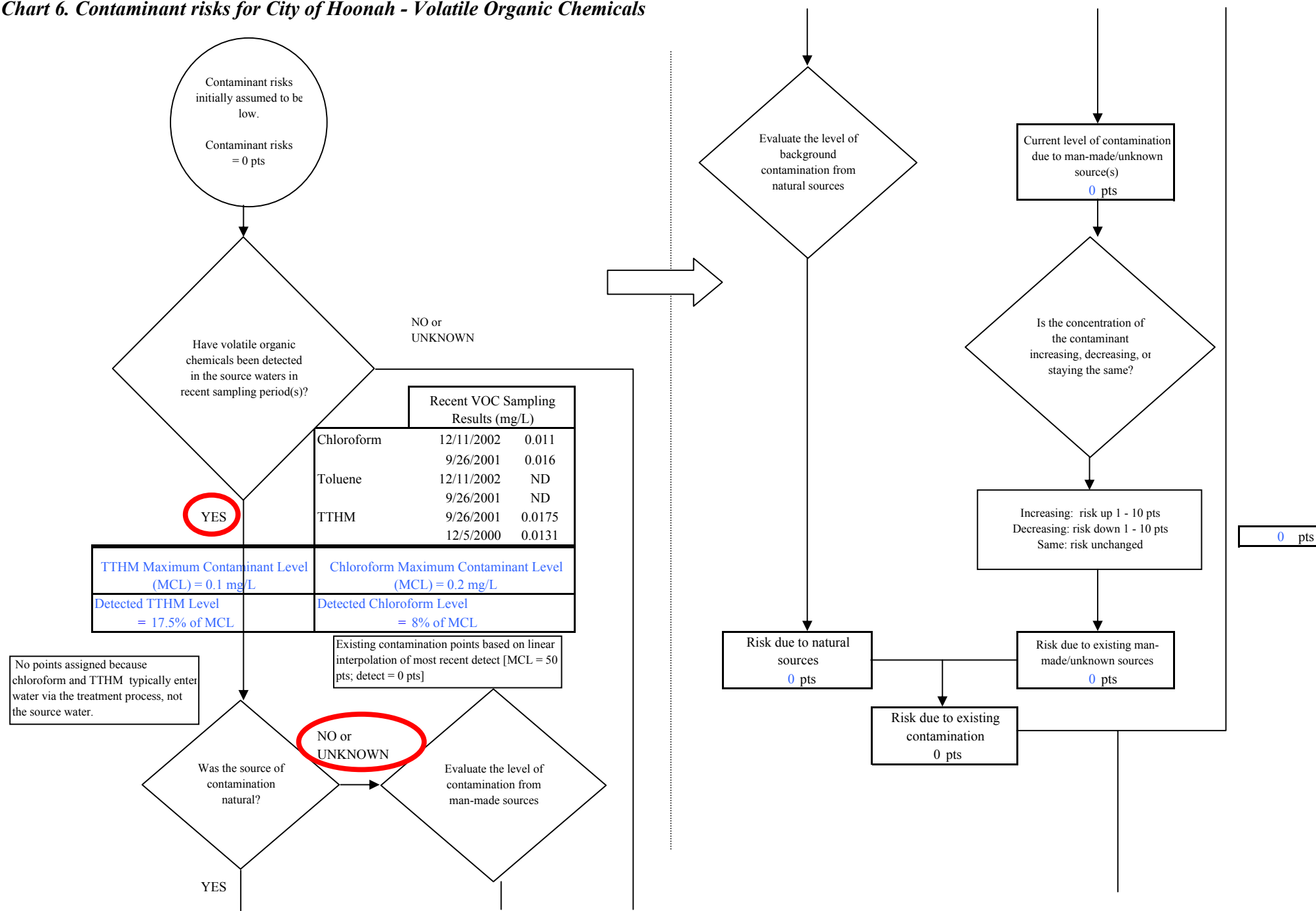


Chart 6. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Volatile Organic Chemicals

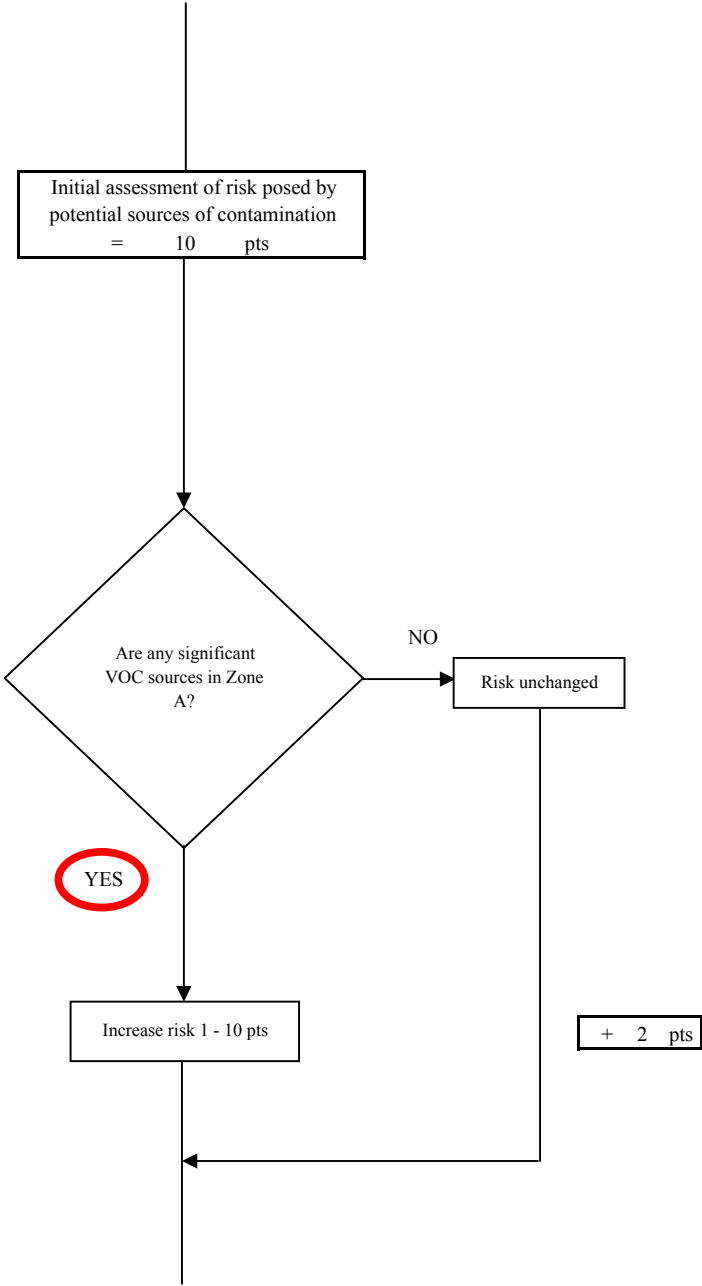
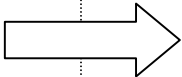
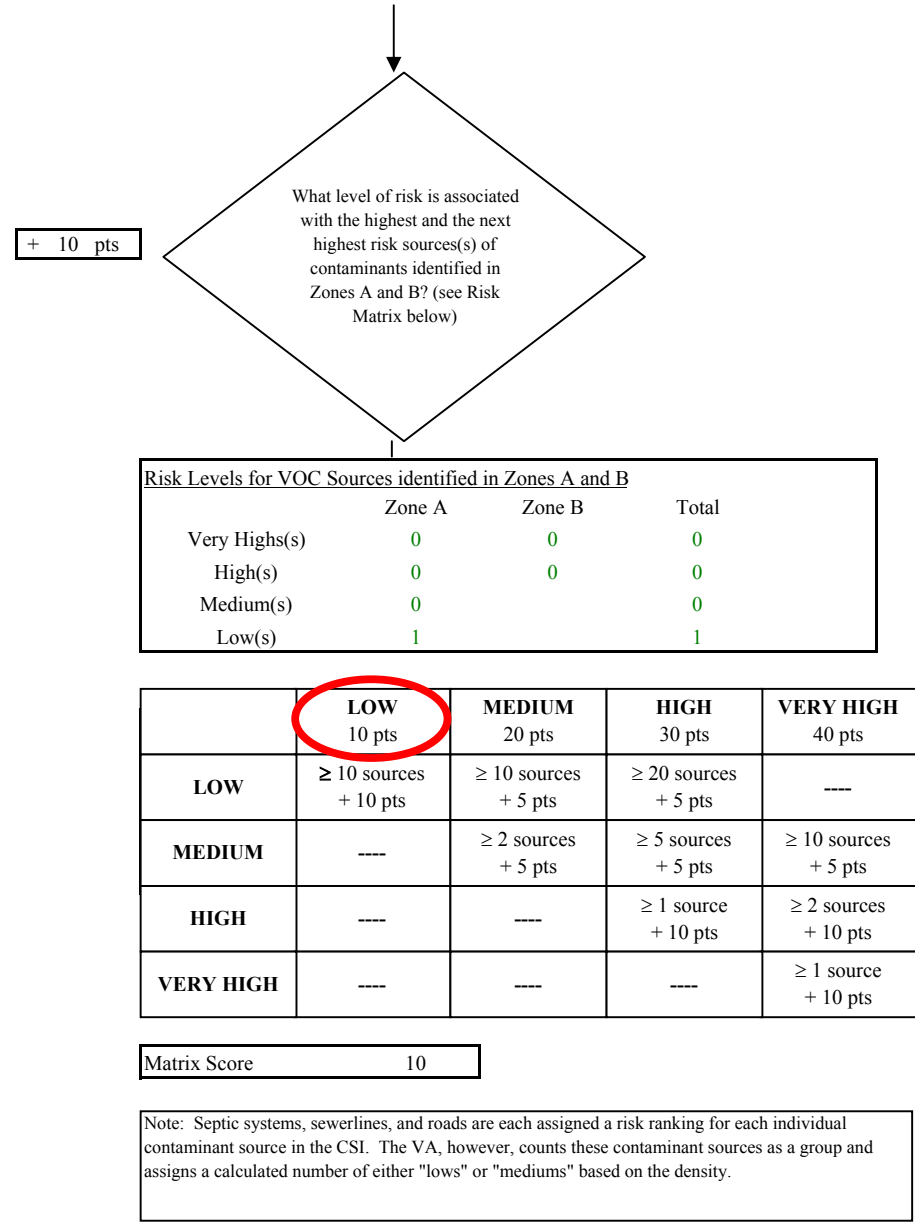


Chart 6. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Volatile Organic Chemicals

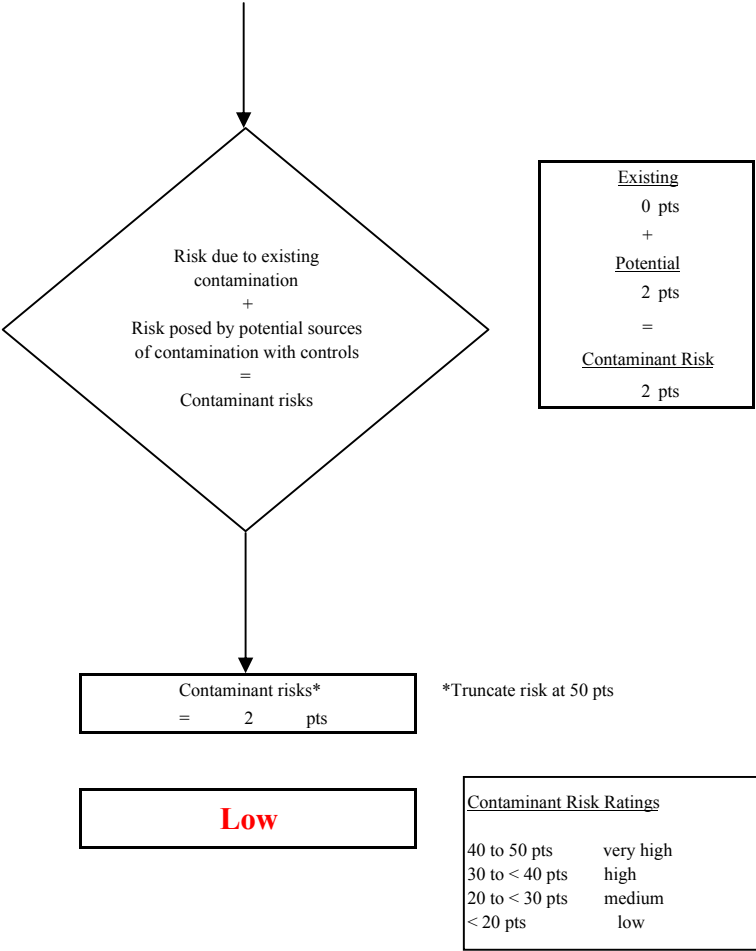
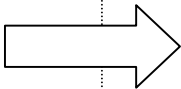
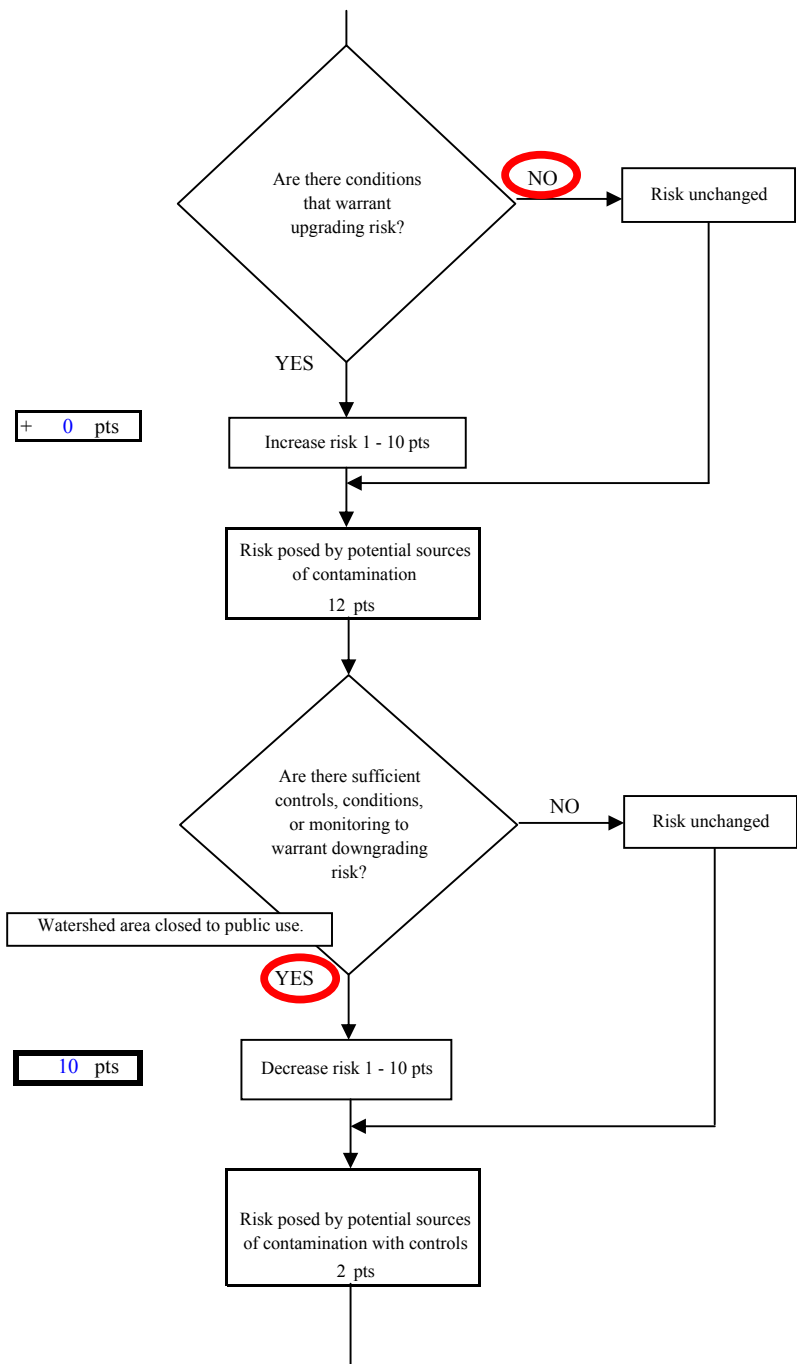


Chart 7. Vulnerability analysis for City of Hoonah - Volatile Organic Chemicals

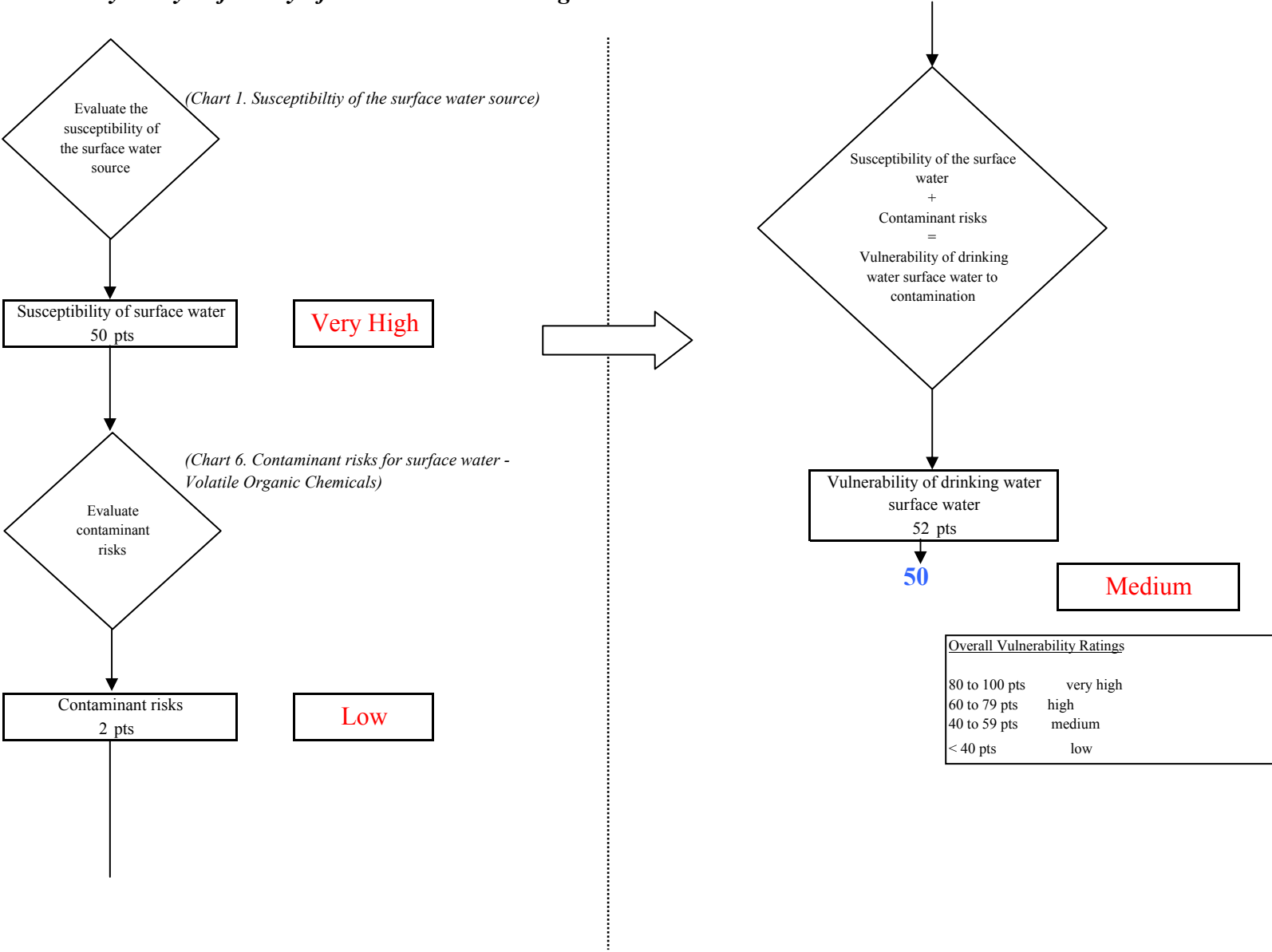


Chart 8. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals

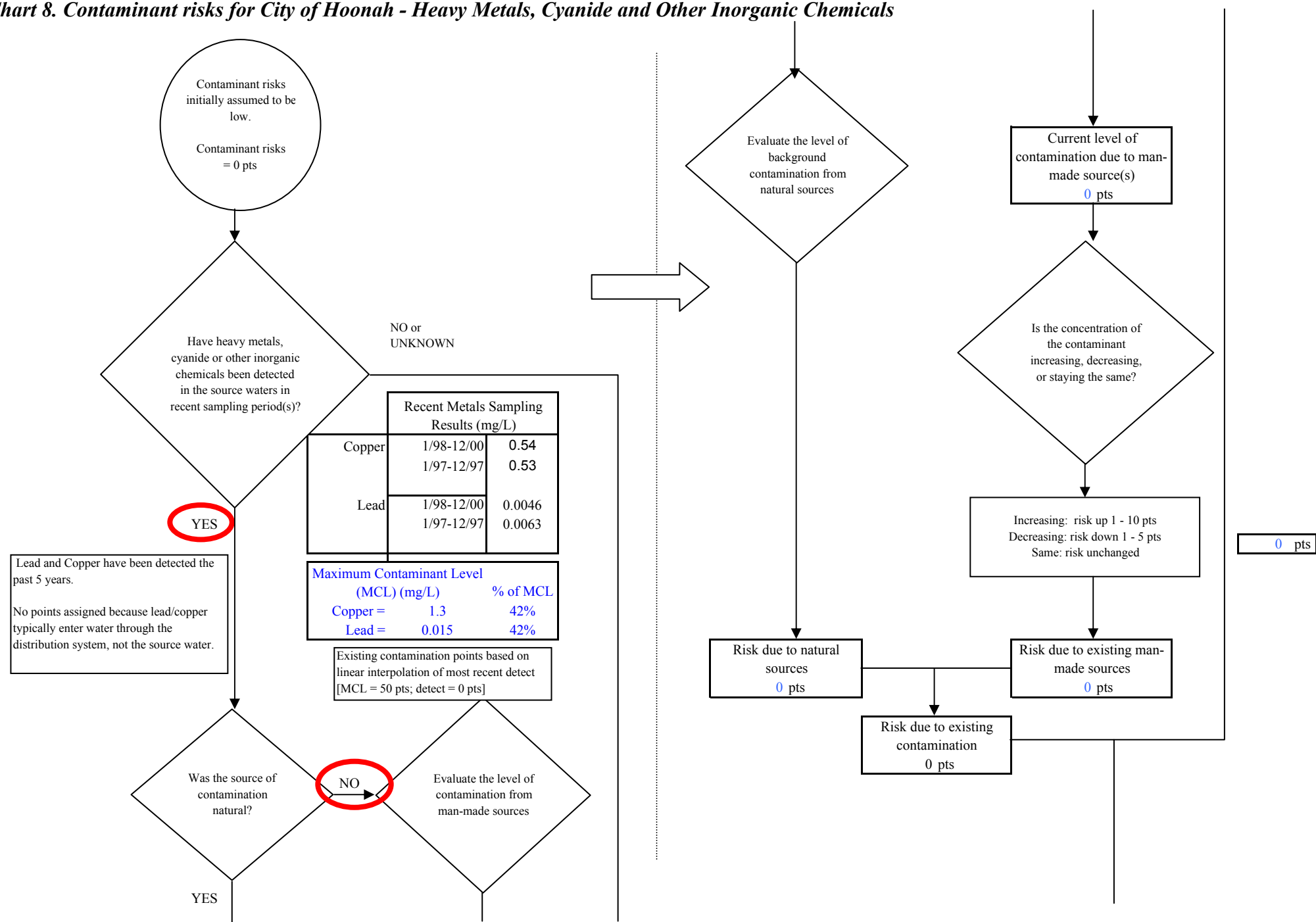


Chart 8. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals

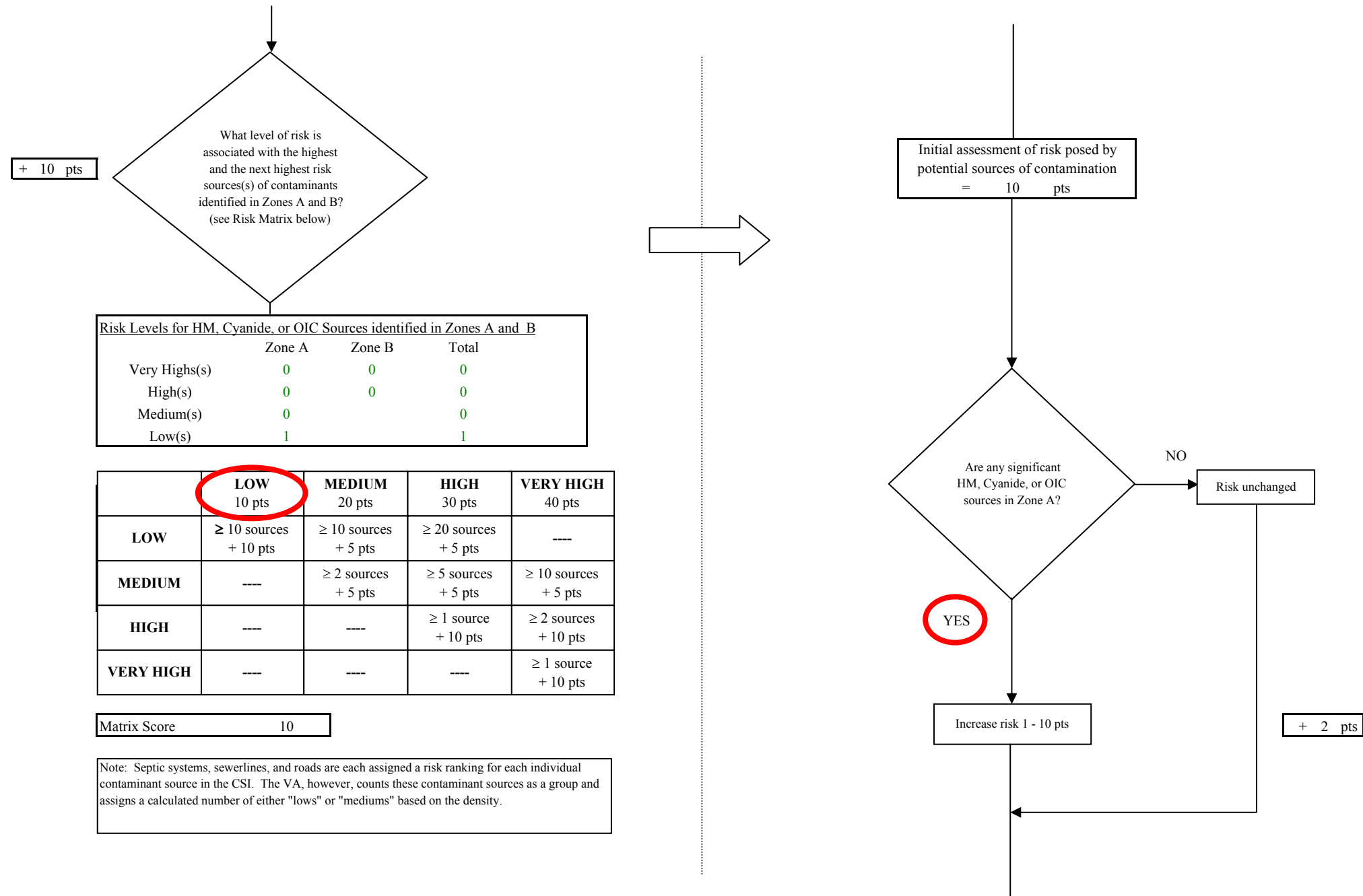


Chart 8. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals

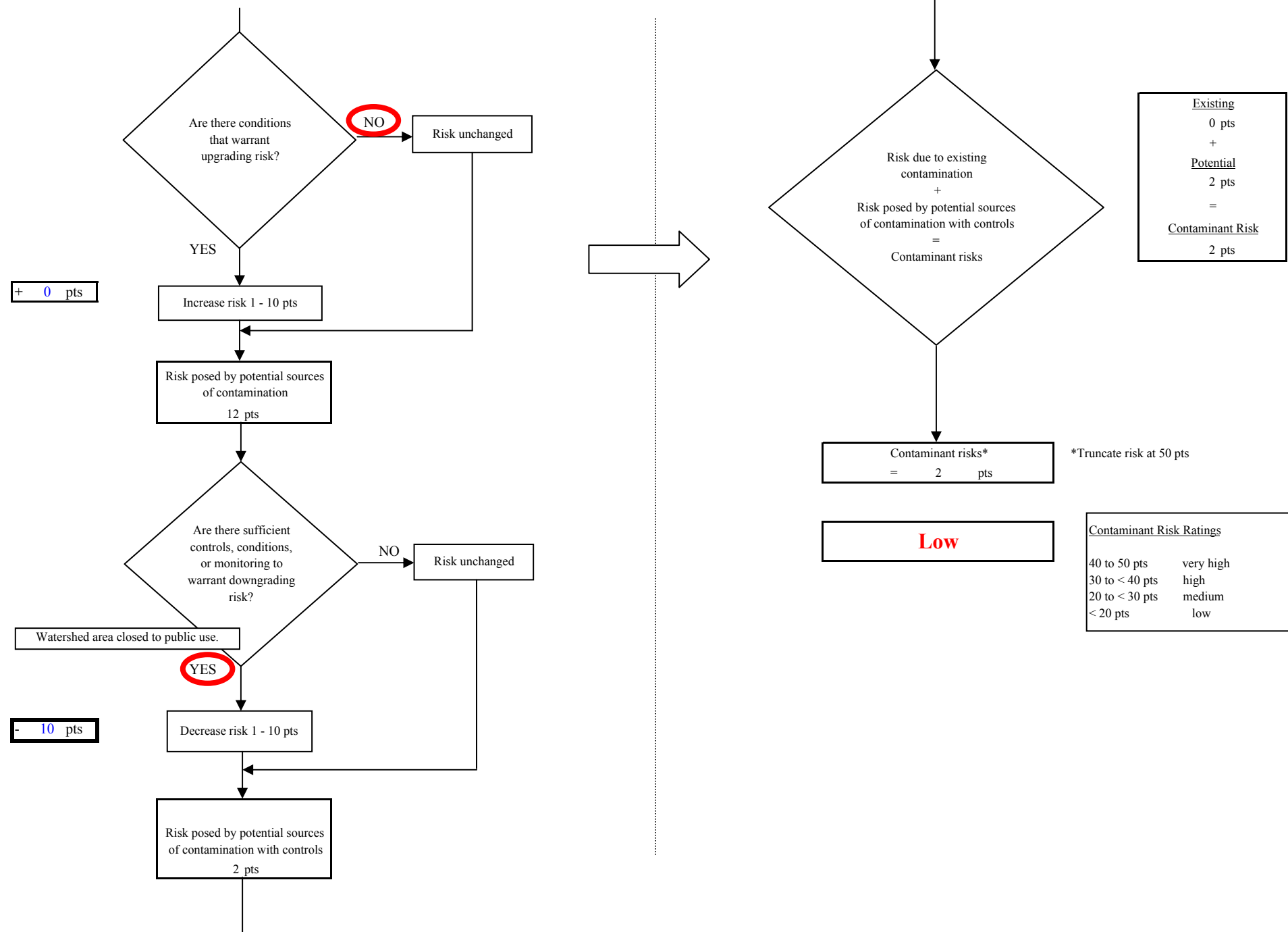


Chart 9. Vulnerability analysis for City of Hoonah - Heavy Metals, Cyanide and Other Inorganic Chemicals

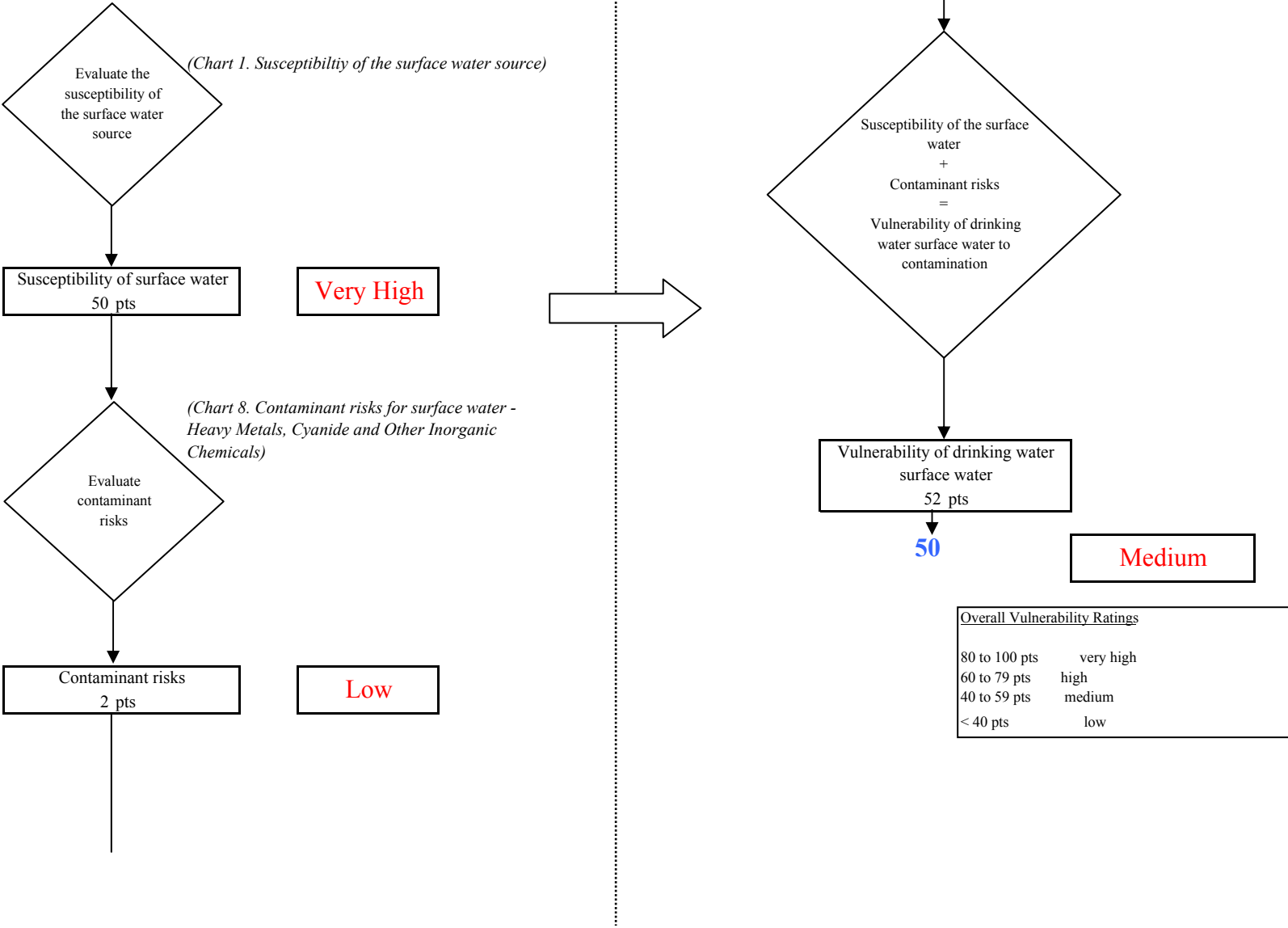


Chart 10. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Synthetic Organic Chemicals

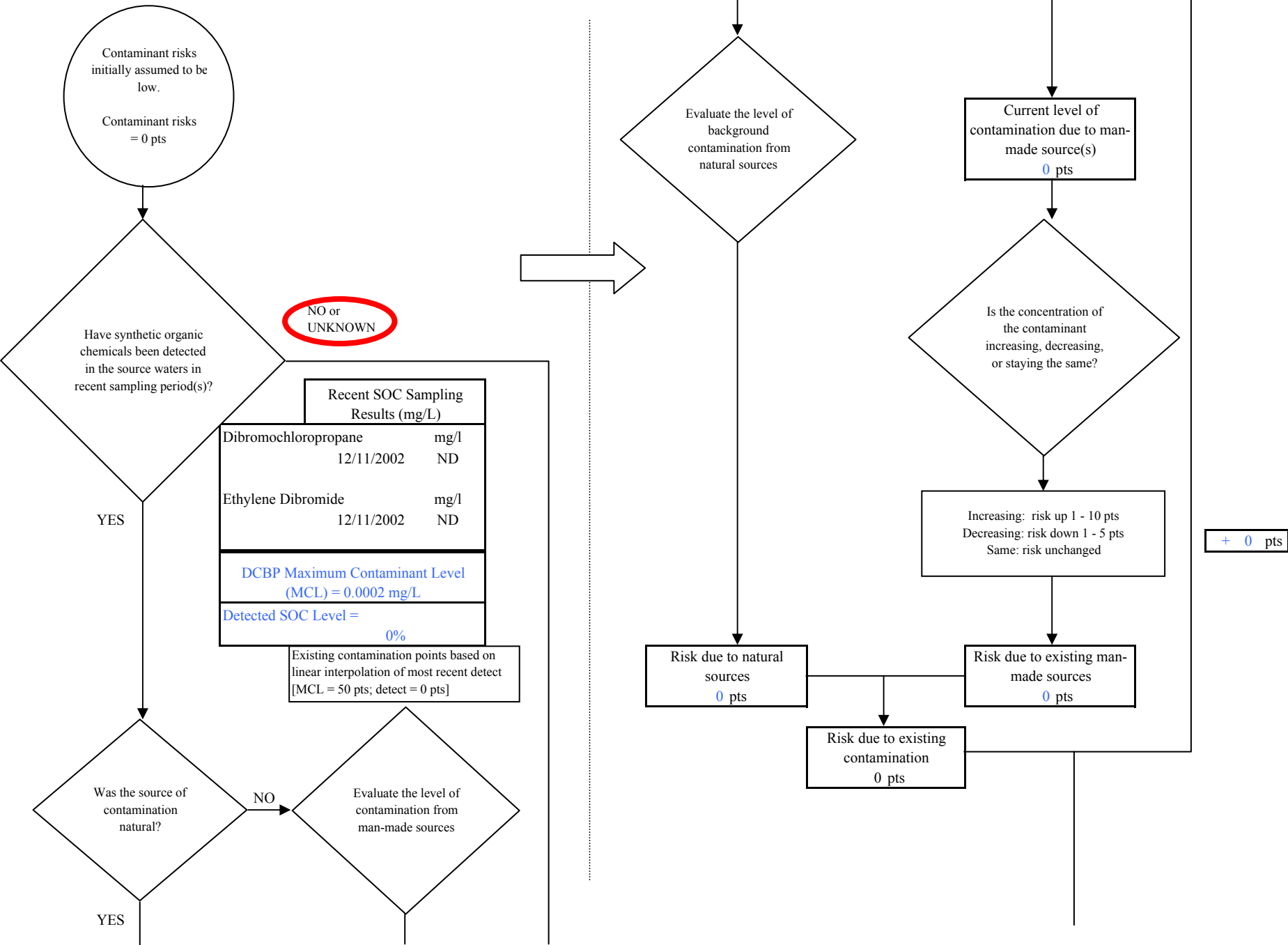


Chart 10. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Synthetic Organic Chemicals

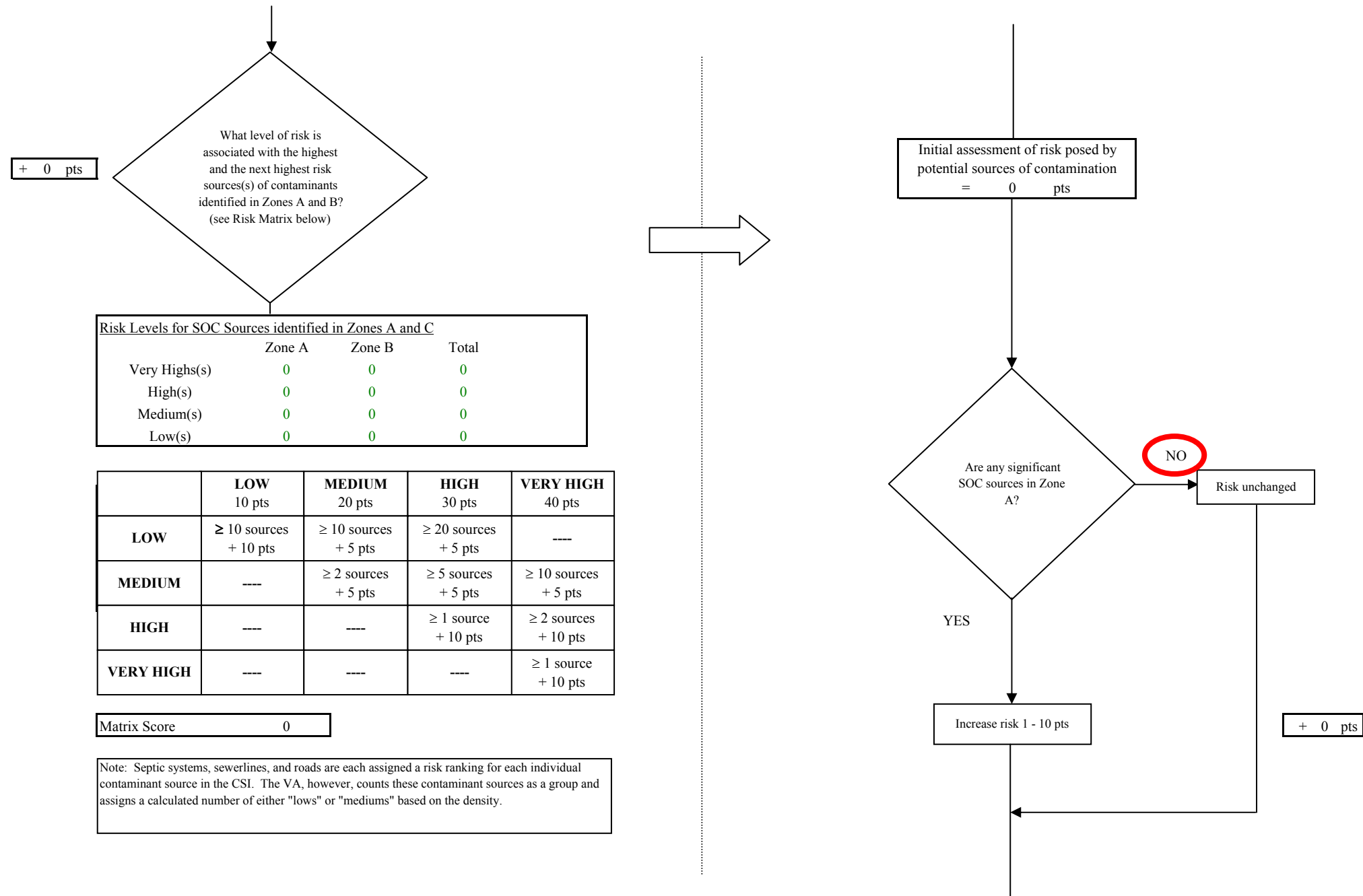


Chart 10. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Synthetic Organic Chemicals

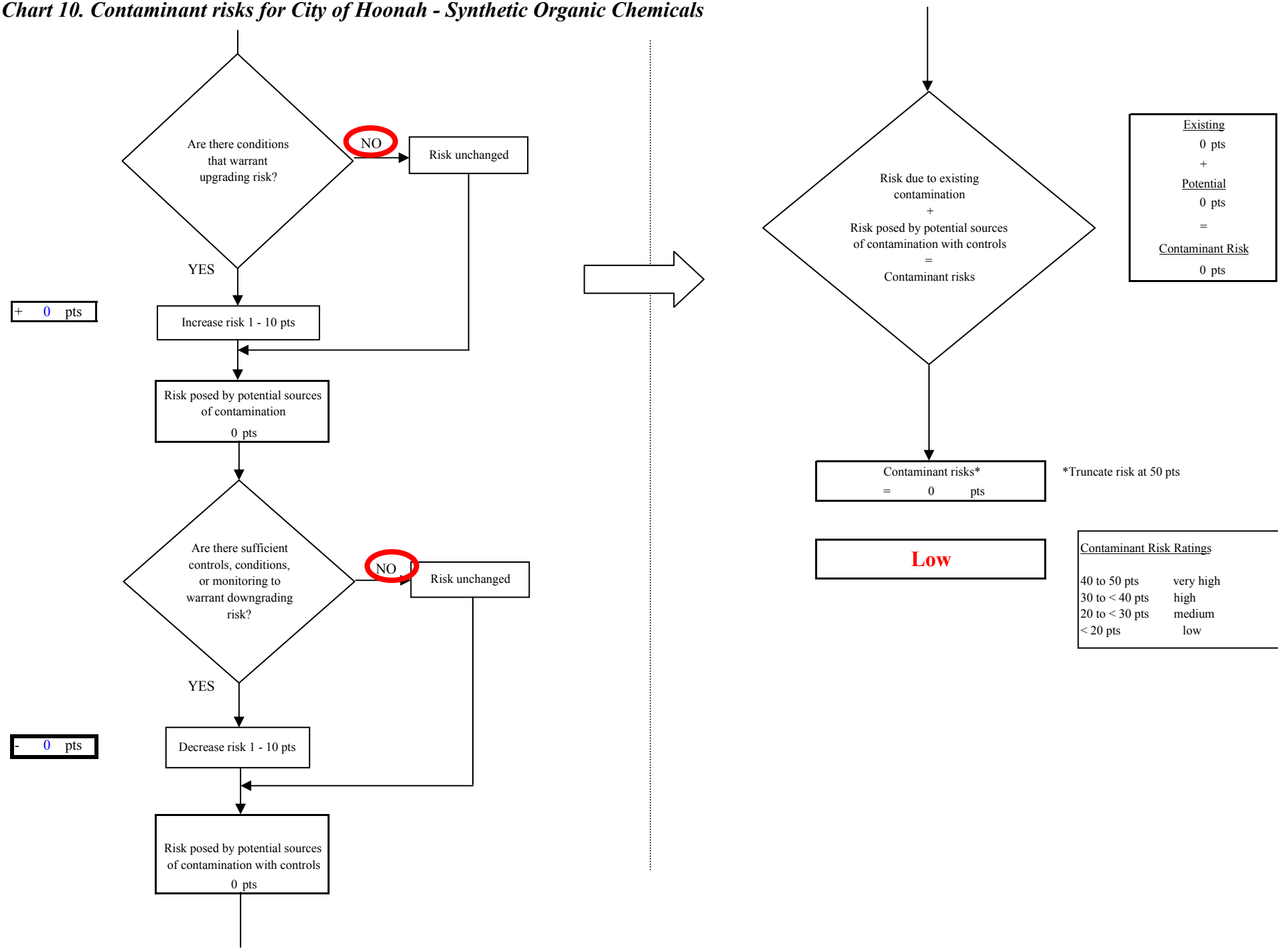


Chart 11. Vulnerability analysis for City of Hoonah - Synthetic Organic Chemicals

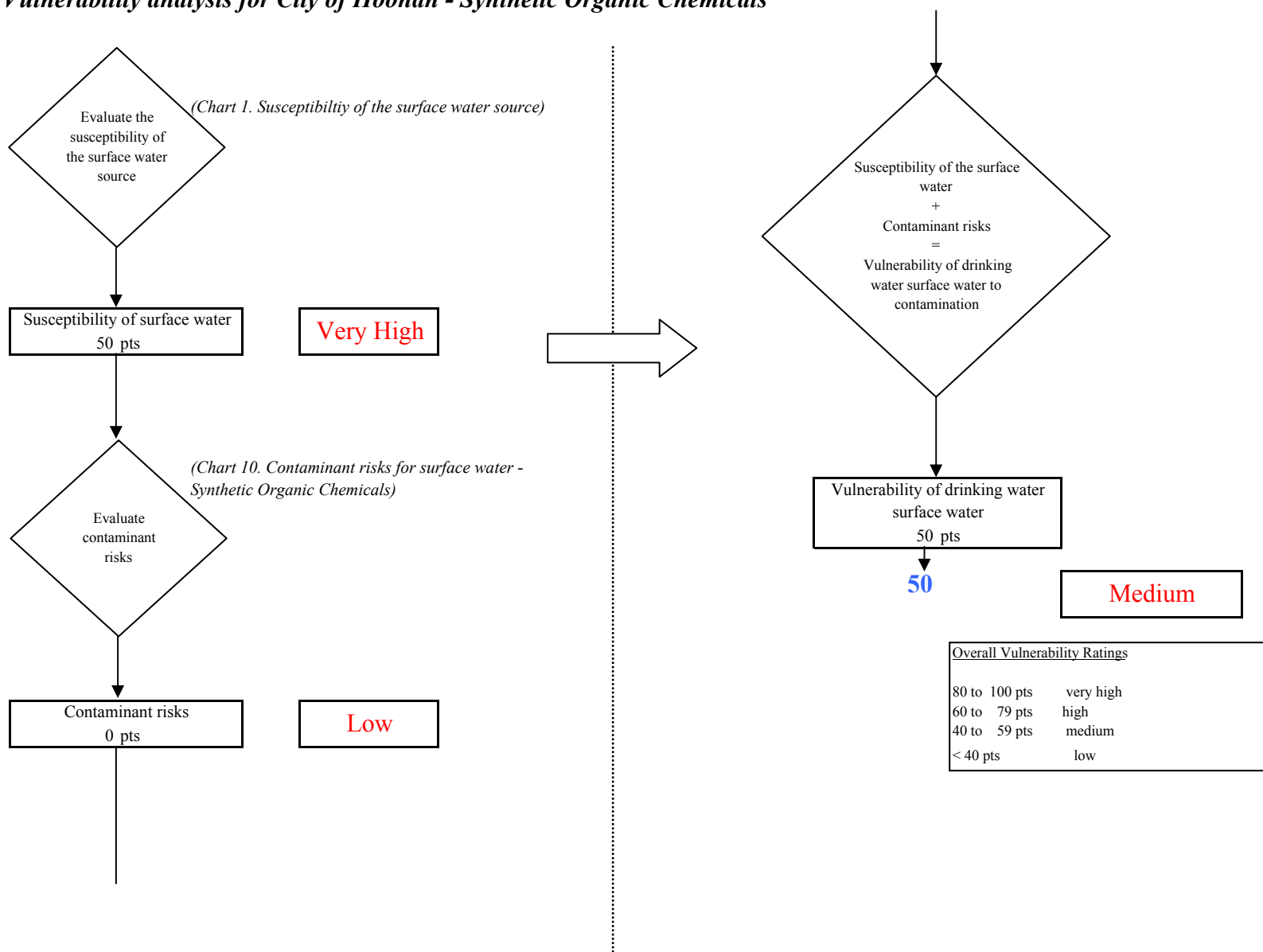


Chart 12. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Other Organic Chemicals

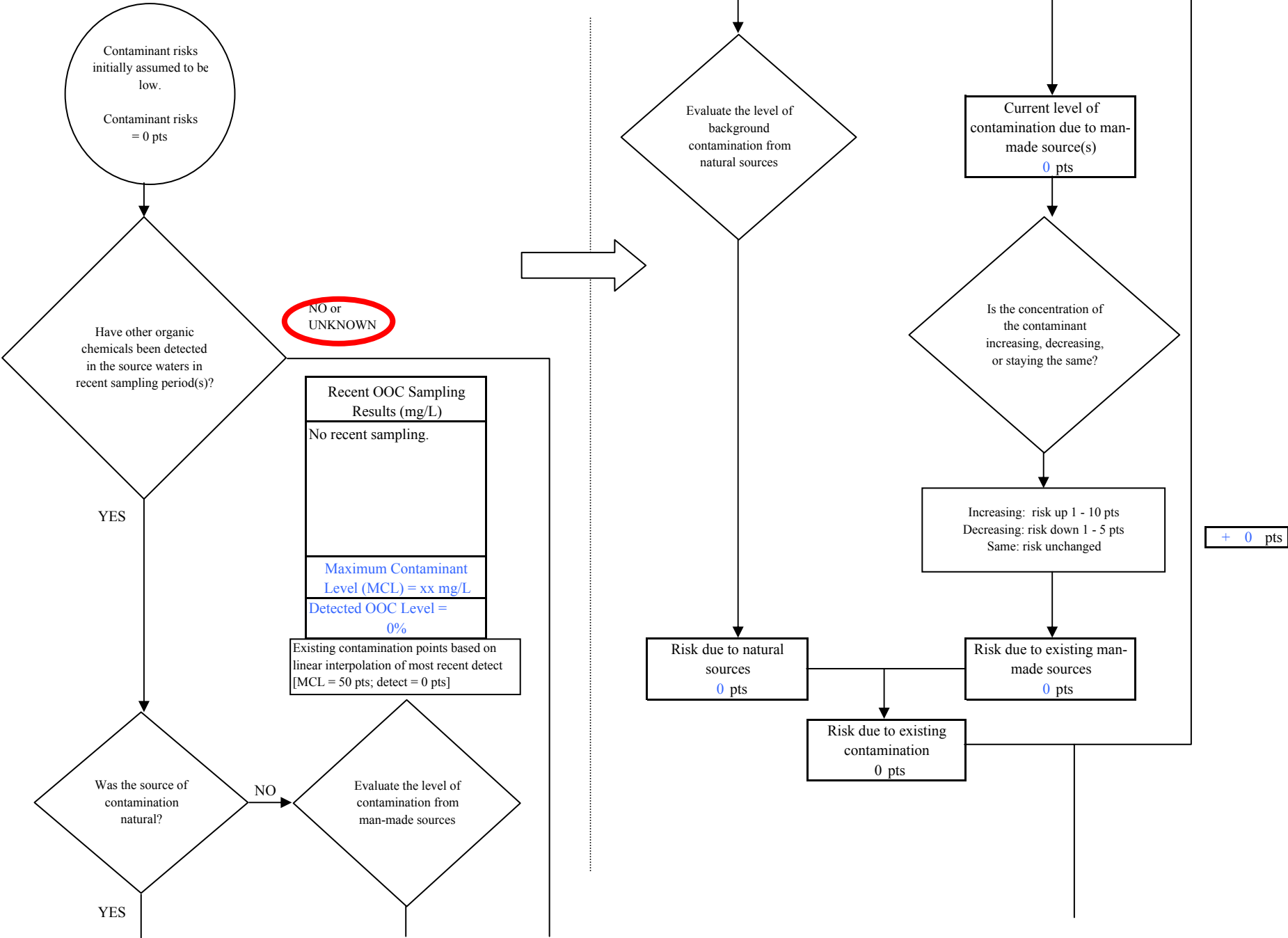


Chart 12. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Other Organic Chemicals

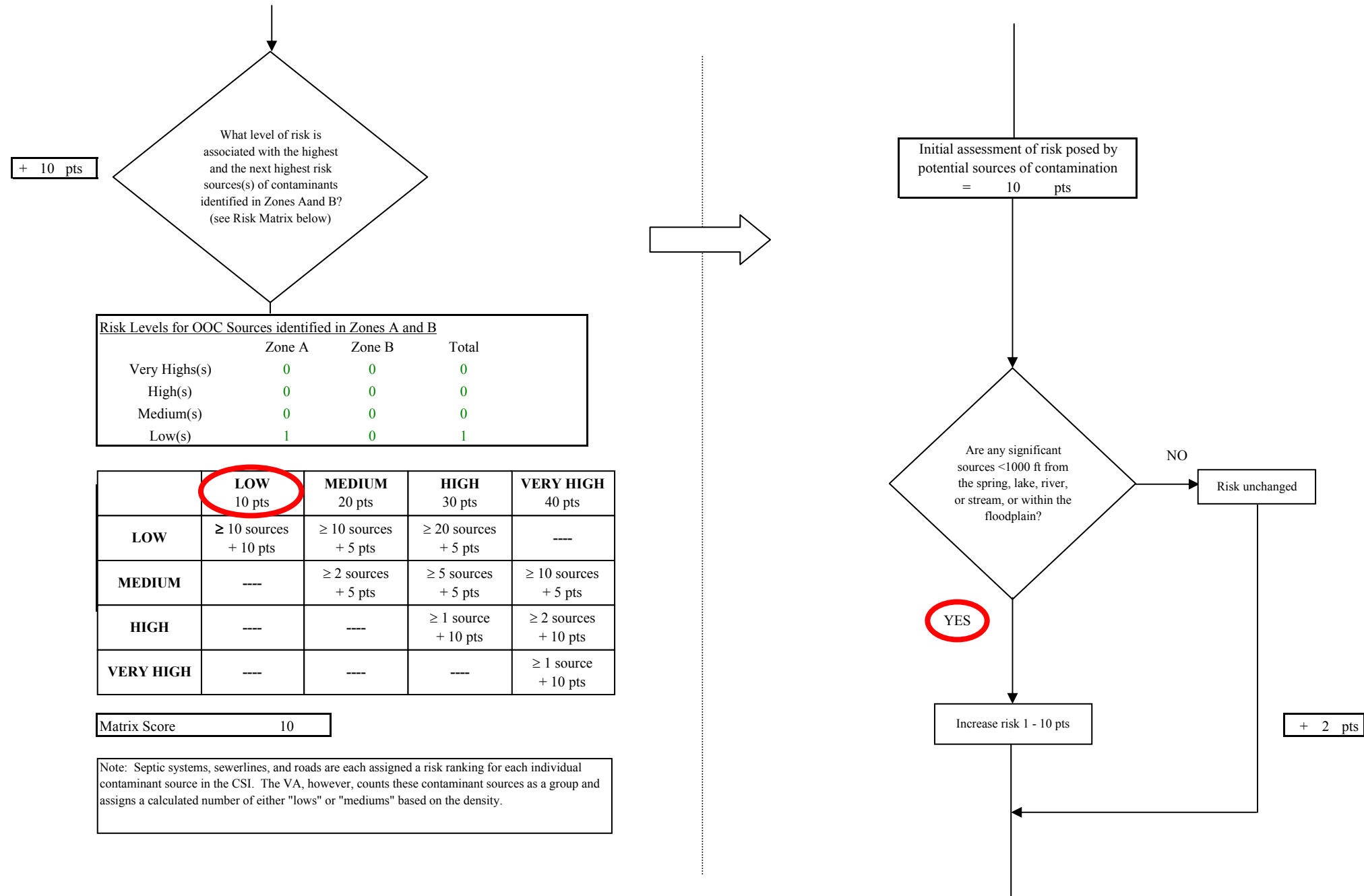


Chart 12. Contaminant risks for City of Hoonah - Other Organic Chemicals

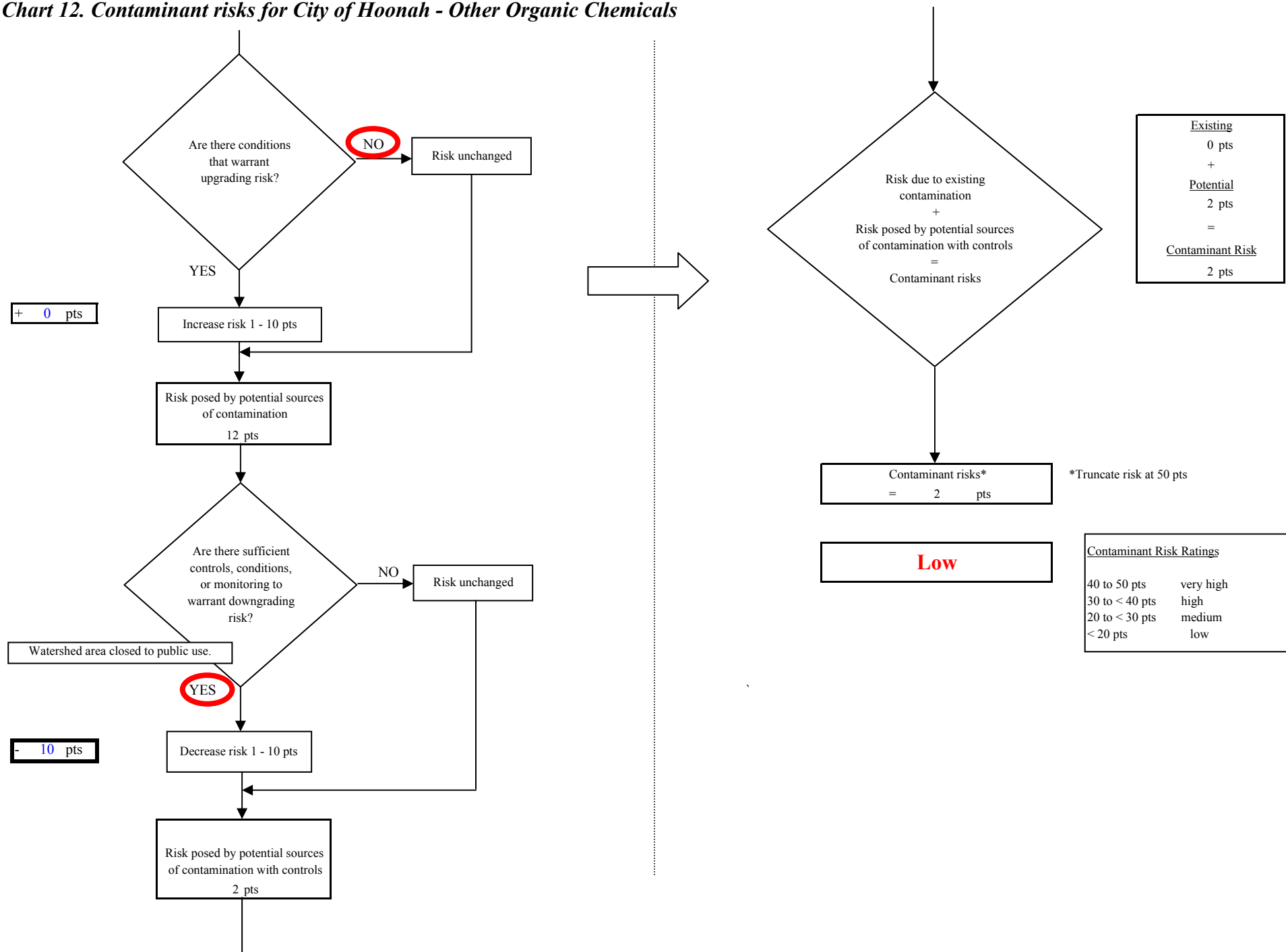


Chart 13. Vulnerability analysis for City of Hoonah - Other Organic Chemicals

