DOWNATA HOT SPRINGS (PWS 6030011)
SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT

March 30, 2001

State of Idaho
Department of Environmental Quality

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Under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative sensitivity to contaminants regulated by the Act. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is completing the assessments for all Idaho public drinking water systems. The assessment for the Downata Hot Springs drinking water source is based on a land use inventory within a 1,000 foot radius of the well source, sensitivity factors associated with the source, and characteristics associated with either your aquifer or watershed in which you live.

This report, *Source Water Assessment for the Downata Hot Springs (PWS # 6030011)* describes the public drinking water system, the associated potential contaminant sources located within a 1,000 foot boundary around the drinking water source, and the susceptibility (risk) that may be associated with any associated potential contaminants. This assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this system. **The results should <u>not be</u> used as an absolute measure of risk and they should <u>not be</u> used to undermine public confidence in the Downata Hot Springs water system.**

The Downata Hot Springs drinking water system consists of one well located in a wellhouse on top of the hill east of the complex (Figure 1). At this time, there appears to be no primary water quality associated with the well source. No potential contaminant sources exist within the delineation capture zone (Figure 2).

The susceptibility of the well to contamination was ranked as high, moderate, or low risk according to the following considerations: hydrologic characteristics, physical integrity of the well, land use characteristics, and potentially significant contaminant sources. The susceptibility rankings are specific to a particular potential contaminant or category of contaminants. Therefore, a high susceptibility rating relative to one potential contaminant does not mean that the water system is at the same risk for all other potential contaminants. The relative ranking that is derived for each well is a qualitative, screening-level step that, in many cases, uses generalized assumptions and best professional judgement.

Hydrologic sensitivity was rated high for the well. This is based upon moderate to well drained soil classes defined by the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Soils that have poor to moderate drainage characteristics have better filtration capabilities than faster draining soils. There was insufficient well log information to determine the make up of the vadose zone (zone from land surface to the water table) and whether 50 feet of low permeability units are present between the surface and the water producing zone of the aquifer, which would reduce the downward flow of contaminants. Well construction was rated high for the well. The well construction directly affects the ability to protect the aquifer from contaminants. No well log data was available to determine whether the well casing and annular seal extend into a low permeable geologic formation, two important aspects of proper well construction. The well is located outside the 100-year floodplain and is protected from surface runoff. The final susceptibility ranking for the well is moderate for volatile organic, synthetic organic, inorganic contaminants, and microbial contaminants (Table 1). A copy of the susceptibility analysis for the Downata Hot Springs water system along with a map showing any potential contaminant sources is included with this summary.

Figure 1 - Geographic Location of Downata Hot Springs Well, Bannock County PWS Number: 6030011

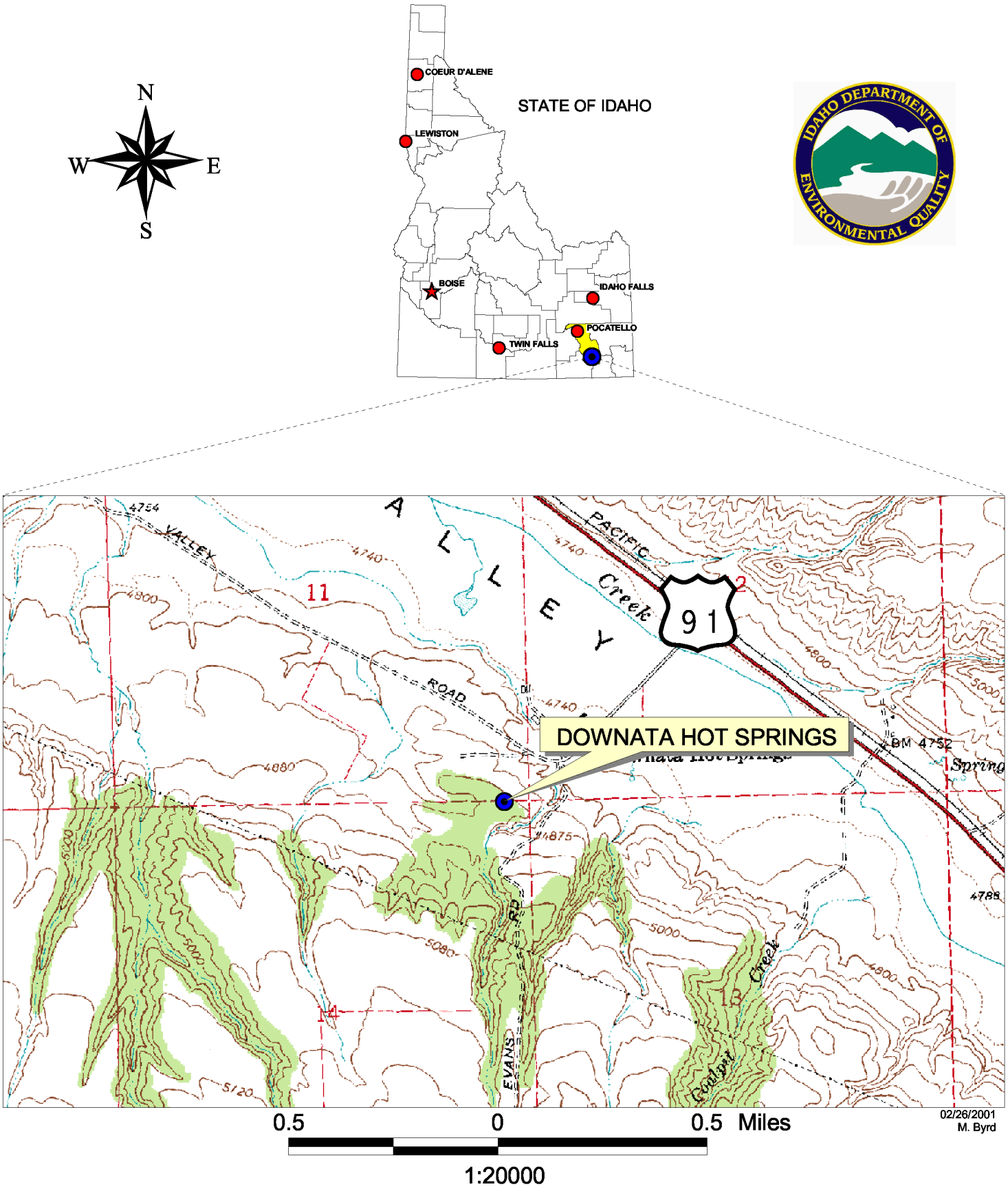
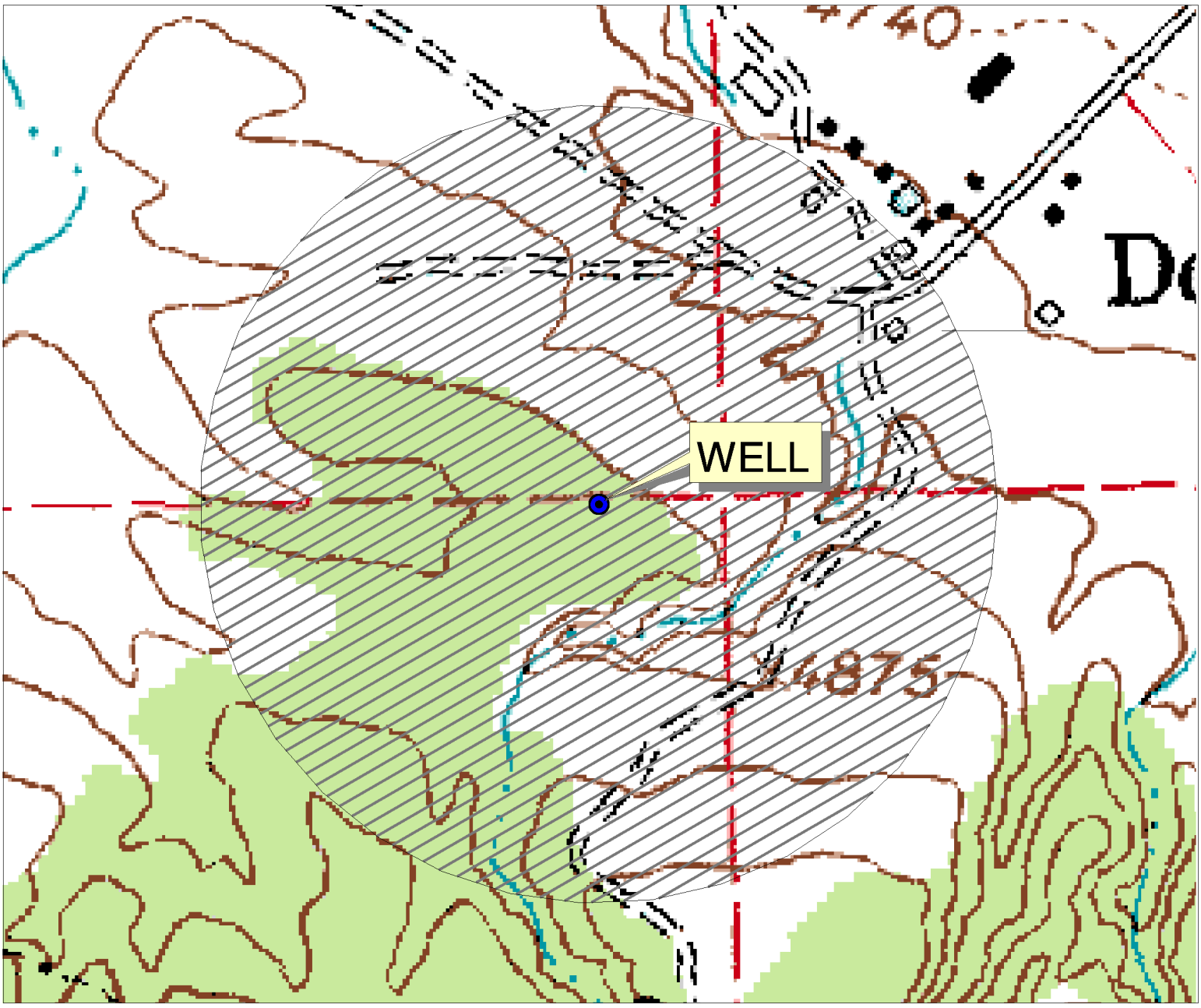


Figure 2 - Downata Hot Springs Well Delineation Map
PWS Number: 6030011



02/26/2001
M. Byrd

500 0 500 1000 Feet

1:4500

N

LEGEND

- Wellhead
- Zone 1B - 1000' Fixed Radius

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Table 1. Summary of Downata Hot Springs Susceptibility Evaluation

	Susceptibility Scores[1]									
	Hydrologic Sensitivity	Contaminant Inventory				System Construction	**Final Susceptibility Ranking**			
Well		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials
1	H	L	L	L	L	H	M	M	M	M

[1]H = High Susceptibility, M = Moderate Susceptibility, L = Low Susceptibility
IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a "pristine" area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

For the Downata Hot Springs, source water protection activities should focus first on improving the wellhead protection strategy. A 2000 Sanitary Survey disapproved the well because of no well vent. Fixing this problem will improve the system construction score and lower the potential for contamination. The water system should also consider developing a wellhead protection plan. Source water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term. For assistance in developing protection strategies please contact the Pocatello Regional Office of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality at (208) 236-6160.

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT INVENTORY LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

AST (Aboveground Storage Tanks) – Sites with aboveground storage tanks.

Business Mailing List – This list contains potential contaminant sites identified through a yellow pages database search of standard industry codes (SIC).

CERCLIS – This includes sites considered for listing under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, more commonly known as ASuperfund≅ is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites that are on the national priority list (NPL).

Cyanide Site – DEQ permitted and known historical sites/facilities using cyanide.

Dairy – Sites included in the primary contaminant source inventory represent those facilities regulated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and may range from a few head to several thousand head of milking cows.

Deep Injection Well – Injection wells regulated under the Idaho Department of Water Resources generally for the disposal of stormwater runoff or agricultural field drainage.

Enhanced Inventory – Enhanced inventory locations are potential contaminant source sites added by the water system. These can include new sites not captured during the primary contaminant inventory, or corrected locations for sites not properly located during the primary contaminant inventory. Enhanced inventory sites can also include miscellaneous sites added by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) during the primary contaminant inventory.

Floodplain – This is a coverage of the 100-year floodplains.

Group 1 Sites – These are sites that show elevated levels of contaminants and are not within the priority one areas.

Inorganic Priority Area – Priority one areas where greater than 25% of the wells/springs show constituents higher than primary standards or other health standards.

Landfill – Areas of open and closed municipal and non-municipal landfills.

LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with leaking underground storage tanks as regulated under RCRA.

Mines and Quarries – Mines and quarries permitted through the Idaho Department of Lands.)

Nitrate Priority Area – Area where greater than 25% of wells/springs show nitrate values above 5mg/l.

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) – Sites with NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires that any discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source must be authorized by an NPDES permit.

Organic Priority Areas – These are any areas where greater than 25 % of wells/springs show levels greater than 1% of the primary standard or other health standards.

Recharge Point – This includes active, proposed, and possible recharge sites on the Snake River Plain.

RICRIS – Site regulated under **Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)**. RCRA is commonly associated with the cradle to grave management approach for generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

SARA Tier II (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities) – These sites store certain types and amounts of hazardous materials and must be identified under the Community Right to Know Act.

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) – The toxic release inventory list was developed as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (Community Right to Know) Act passed in 1986. The Community Right to Know Act requires the reporting of any release of a chemical found on the TRI list.

UST (Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with underground storage tanks regulated as regulated under RCRA.

Wastewater Land Applications Sites – These are areas where the land application of municipal or industrial wastewater is permitted by IDEQ.

Wellheads – These are drinking water well locations regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are not treated as potential contaminant sources.

NOTE: Many of the potential contaminant sources were located using a geocoding program where mailing addresses are used to locate a facility. Field verification of potential contaminant sources is an important element of an enhanced inventory

The final scores for the Downata Hot Springs susceptibility analysis were determined using the following formulas:

1) VOC/SOC/IOC Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.27)

2) Microbial Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.375)

Final Susceptibility Scoring:

0 - 5 Low Susceptibility

6 - 12 Moderate Susceptibility

> 13 High Susceptibility

Ground Water Susceptibility Report Public Water System Name : DOWNATA HOT SPRINGS Well Source Public Water System Number 6030011

1. System Construction		SCORE			
Drill Date	unknown				
Driller Log Available	NO				
Sanitary Survey (if yes, indicate date of last survey)	YES	1999			
Well meets IDWR construction standards	NO	1			
Wellhead and surface seal maintained	NO	1			
Casing and annular seal extend to low permeability unit	NO	2			
Highest production 100 feet below static water level	NO	1			
Well located outside the 100 year flood plain	YES	0			
Total System Construction Score		5			
2. Hydrologic Sensitivity					
Soils are poorly to moderately drained	NO	2			
Vadose zone composed of gravel, fractured rock or unknown	YES	1			
Depth to first water > 300 feet	NO	1			
Aquitard present with > 50 feet cumulative thickness	NO	2			
Total Hydrologic Score		6			
3. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A		IOC Score	VOC Score	SOC Score	Microbial Score
Land Use Zone 1A	IRRIGATED PASTURE	1	1	1	1
Farm chemical use high	NO	0	0	0	
IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A		1	1	1	1
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B					
Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)	NO	0	0	0	0
(Score = # Sources X 2) 8 Points Maximum		0	0	0	0
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	2	0	0	
4 Points Maximum		2	0	0	
Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area	NO	0	0	0	0
Land use Zone 1B	25 to 50% Irrigated Agricultural Land	2	2	2	2
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B		4	2	2	2
Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score		5	3	3	3
4. Final Susceptibility Source Score		12	12	12	12
5. Final Well Ranking		Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate