

Source Water Assessment Program Report
for
BEACON HILLS S/D
Community Water System

Introduction: What is a Source Water Assessment?

The North Carolina Division of Environmental Health, Public Water Supply (PWS) Section is responsible for implementing the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) and completing assessments for all public drinking water supplies in the state. The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act provided federal support and required states to conduct assessments of all public water systems. A source water assessment is a qualitative evaluation of the potential of a drinking water source to become contaminated by the identified potential contaminant sources (PCS) within the delineated area. In North Carolina there are more than 10,000 public water supply sources that were assessed by the state. The PWS Section has gathered information for each water supply and developed a process for completing the assessments. This process is summarized in the next few pages and detailed in Section 6 of this report.

This report provides a summary of the results for the **Source Water Assessment** for your drinking water source(s).

What is the Source of Your Drinking Water?

Everyone wants clean, safe drinking water and we assume this natural resource will always be available to us. However, drinking water wells can be threatened by many potential contaminant sources, including underground storage tanks for gasoline, permitted waste disposal sites, storm water runoff or improper handling of hazardous materials. Your drinking water source(s) is listed in Table 1. Protecting your water from becoming contaminated is a wise investment in public health and your community's future.

Table 1. Public Water Supply System Information

System Name	BEACON HILLS S\D
City	CARY
PWS ID	01-36-389
Source Name	WELL #1

Assessment Report Contents

This assessment report includes the following sections:

Section 1: Assessment Area Delineation

Section 2: Potential Contaminant Source Inventory and Map

Section 3: What is a Susceptibility Rating?

Section 4: Reviewing Your SWAP Results

Section 5: List of Maps, Tables and Figures for Your Well(s)

Section 6: North Carolina's SWAP Approach

Section 1: Assessment Area Delineation

The area delineated for your well(s) for the purpose of this assessment is the contributing area for the well(s). When a well is pumped, it begins to influence groundwater that is flowing through the subsurface and towards the well. The pumping of the well creates a contributing area around the well that supplies water to the well. This is the area through which contaminants, if released to the environment, can be reasonably expected to move through the ground and reach the well.

Section 2: Potential Contaminant Source Inventory and Map

The potential contaminant source inventory map shows the delineated area for your well(s). This is the area where potential contaminant sources, if released to the environment, could reasonably be expected to be a risk or a potential for contamination of your drinking water supply. A PCS in this assessment report is a facility or site regulated under a state or federal regulatory program. These facilities are identified in electronic databases that contain location information for each facility. Only databases that include information statewide were used for this source water assessment. Included in this report are:

- 1) A table of any PCS identified within the delineated assessment area; and
- 2) A map of the delineated assessment area showing PCSs, roads, jurisdictional boundaries and other pertinent information.

It is important to note that the PCSs identified in this report are only potential sources of contamination to your drinking water source. Environmental contamination is not likely to occur if harmful contaminants are managed properly.

Section 3: What is a Susceptibility Rating?

In North Carolina the susceptibility of any drinking water source is based on two components, a contaminant rating and an inherent vulnerability rating. Your well(s) was assigned a qualitative susceptibility rating of higher, moderate or lower based on the results of the contaminant rating and inherent vulnerability rating process as described in the following paragraphs.

Susceptibility Rating

The final susceptibility rating for your well(s) is determined by combining the contaminant rating and the inherent vulnerability rating. More detailed information on the susceptibility rating process can be found in Section 6 of this report

Contaminant Rating

The contaminant rating for your well(s) was determined based on the number and location of PCSs within the delineated area. Each PCS identified within the delineated area was assigned a risk rating of higher, moderate or lower. If a PCS is a facility regulated in an existing environmental program, it will receive a risk rating of higher. The number of PCSs that occur within the delineated area was determined and a contaminant rating of higher, moderate, or lower was assigned to your well(s).

Inherent Vulnerability Rating

The inherent vulnerability rating of your well(s) refers to the geologic characteristics or existing conditions of the well and its delineated assessment area. These characteristics include aquifer rating, unsaturated zone rating and well integrity/well construction rating. The aquifer rating is an assessment of the water transmitting characteristics of the aquifer. The unsaturated zone rating is an assessment of the likelihood that contaminants from surface and shallow sources will follow the path of aquifer recharge and reach the water table. The well integrity/construction rating is an assessment of the quality of the construction of the well. An inherent vulnerability rating of higher, moderate or lower was assigned to your well(s).

Table 2. SWAP Results Summary

Source Name	Inherent Vulnerability Rating	Contaminant Rating	Susceptibility Rating
WELL #1	Higher	Lower	Moderate

It is important to understand that a susceptibility rating of higher does not imply poor water quality. Susceptibility is an indication of a water supply's potential to become contaminated by the identified PCSs within the assessment area.

Table 3. Well Information

Source Name	Well Yield (Gallons/Min)	Well Depth (Feet)
WELL #1	100	305

Section 4: Reviewing Your SWAP Results

Please review the information on your well(s) provided in this report. If you believe any of this information is incorrect please contact the Public Water Supply Section by e-mail at the following address: SWAP@ncmail.net. Or you may submit comments to us at:

SWAP
Public Water Supply Section
1634 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1634

Or you may contact the Source Water Assessment staff by phone at 919-715-2633.

Section 5: Maps, Tables and Figures for Your Well(s)

Maps, tables and figures specific to your well(s) are included in this report in the following pages and are listed below.

Map 1. Location Map

Map 2. Delineated Area and PCS Map

Table 4. Potential Contaminant Source Attributes

Table 5. Inherent Vulnerability Rating

Table 6. Unsaturated Zone Rating Calculation

Figure 1. Land Use / Land Cover Categories

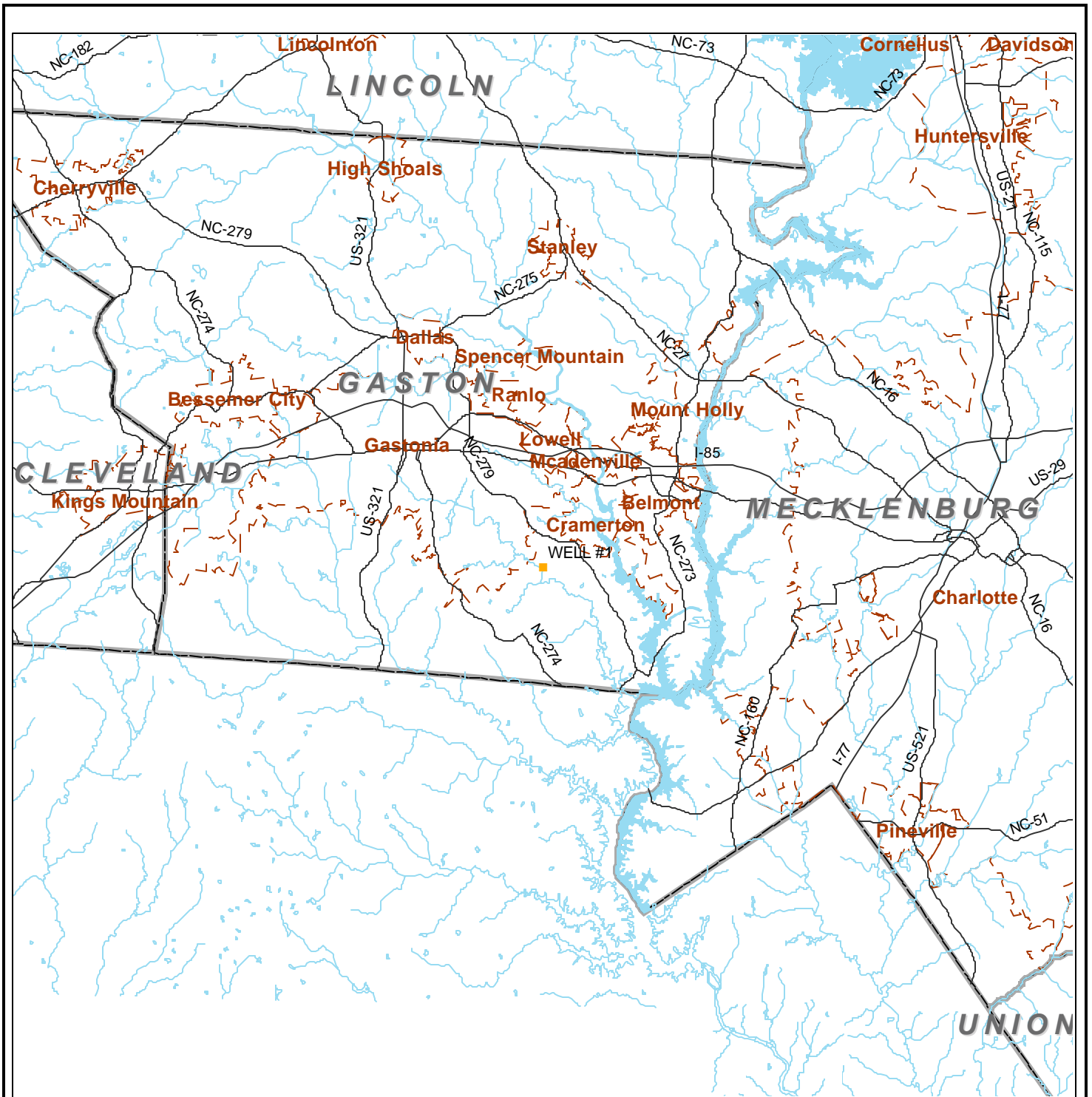
Figure 2. Unsaturated Zone Rating

Figure 3. Vertical Hydraulic Conductance Rating

Figure 4. Land Surface Slope Rating

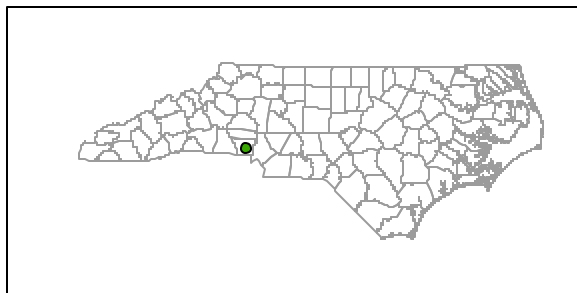
Figure 5. Land Use Rating

Figure 6. Land Cover Rating

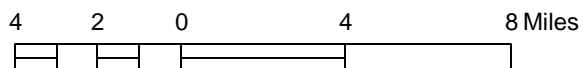
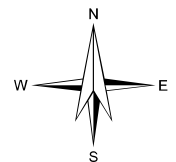


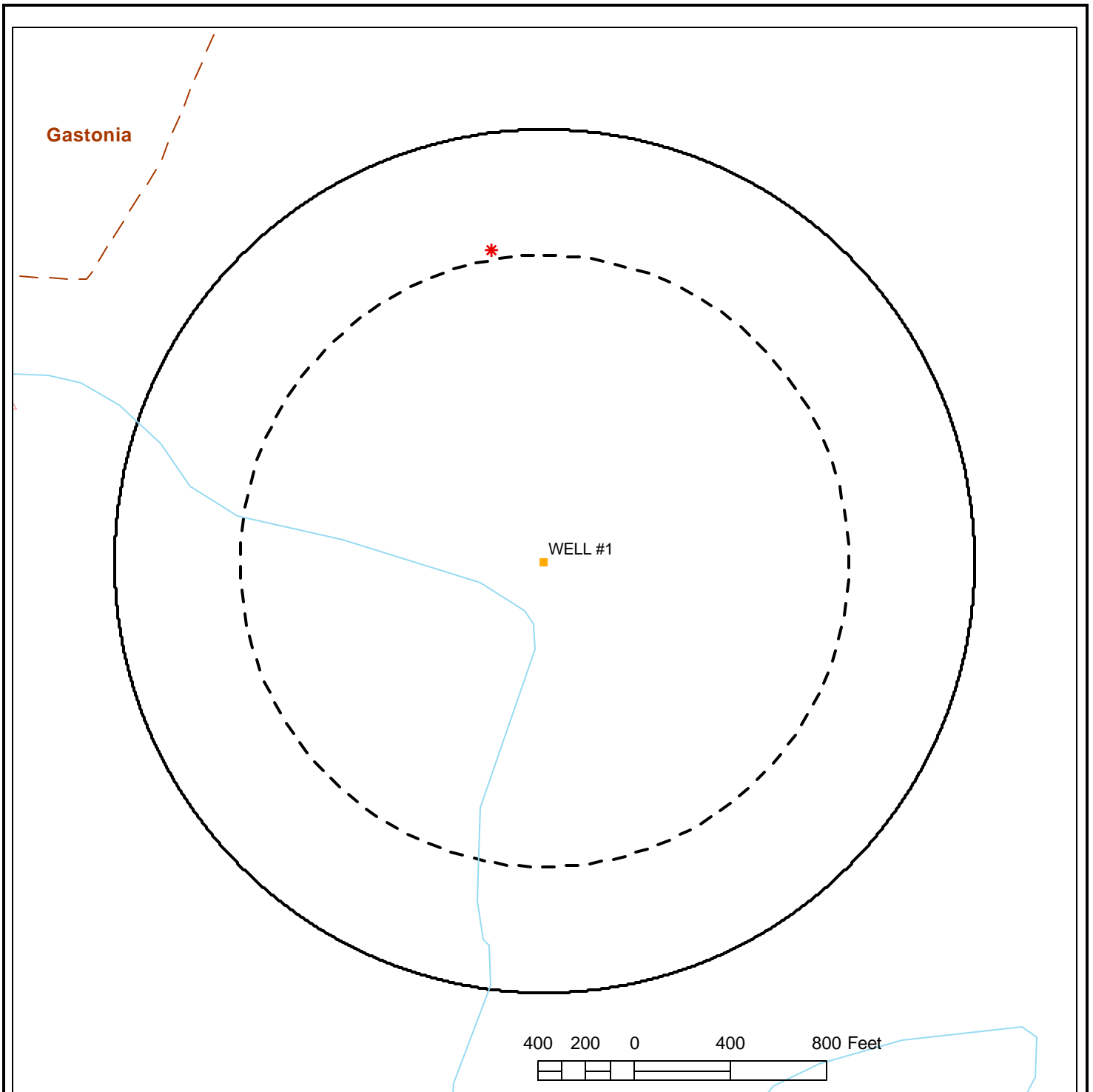
MAP 1. LOCATION MAP

BEACON HILLS S/D, PWS ID: 0136389, WELL #1



- Roads
- Rivers and Streams
- Major Hydrology
- Municipal Boundaries
- County Boundaries





MAP 2. DELINEATED AREA AND PCS MAP

BEACON HILLS S/D, PWS ID: 0136389, WELL #1

PCS Types

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Animal Operations △ CERCLIS Sites □ RCRA Gen. / Trans. Facilities ● Non Discharge Permits △ NPDES Permits ★ National Priority List Sites ⊕ PCB Sites ○ Pollution Incidents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⬡ Septage Disposal Sites ⬢ Soil Remediation Sites ✱ Solid Waste Facilities ✱ Tier II Sites ⬢ RCRA TSD Facilities ⬢ Old Landfill Sites ☆ UIC Permits ⊕ UST Permits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Roads — Rivers and Streams ■ Major Hydrology - - - Municipal Boundaries ⬢ Ground Water Assessment Area - Delineated Area - - - Ground Water Assessment Area - Zone A |
|---|--|---|



**Table 4. Potential Contaminant Source Attributes
 BEACON HILLS S\D
 PWS ID: 01-36-389, WELL #1**

Common Attributes

PCS Name	PCS ID	PCS Type	PCS Risk Rating	Street Address	City	Zip	County
DUKE ENERGY - NEW HOPE RETAIL	E2ED57A73 3D90D5985 2571060054 CF35	Tier II Sites	H	200 BEATY RD	GASTONIA	28056	GASTON

**Table 4. (Cont.) Potential Contaminant Source Attributes
BEACON HILLS S\D
PWS ID: 01-36-389, WELL #1**

Unique Attributes

PCS Name	PCS ID	Attribute	Value

**Table 5. Inherent Vulnerability Rating
 BEACON HILLS S\D
 PWS ID: 01-36-389, WELL #1**

Ground Water Source Characteristics	Higher Vulnerability	Moderate Vulnerability	Lower Vulnerability
Aquifer Rating	Higher		
Unsaturated Zone Rating		Moderate	
Well Integrity/Construction Rating		Moderate	

Inherent Vulnerability Rating: Higher

**Table 6. Unsaturated Zone Rating Calculation
BEACON HILLS SD
PWS ID: 01-36-389 , WELL #1**

Unsaturated Zone Rating	58.5
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Notes:

1. Unsaturated Zone Rating for each cell (CR):

$$\text{CR} = [3 \times (\text{vertical hydraulic conductance rating})] + [2 \times (\text{land surface slope rating})] \\ + [3 \times (\text{land use rating})] + [2 \times (\text{land cover rating})]$$

2. Unsaturated Zone Rating (R) for the entire Assessment Area is the mean of the cell ratings (CR) calculated as:

The sum of all cell unsaturated zone ratings (CR) divided by the number of cells (N) within the assessment area: $R = (\sum \text{CR}) / N$

3. The USGS publication “Methods of ranking unsaturated zone and watershed characteristics of public water supplies in North Carolina,” by J. L. Eimers, J. C. Weaver, S. Terziotti, and R. W. Midgette, 1999, provides a detailed discussion of the methods used to determine unsaturated zone ratings.

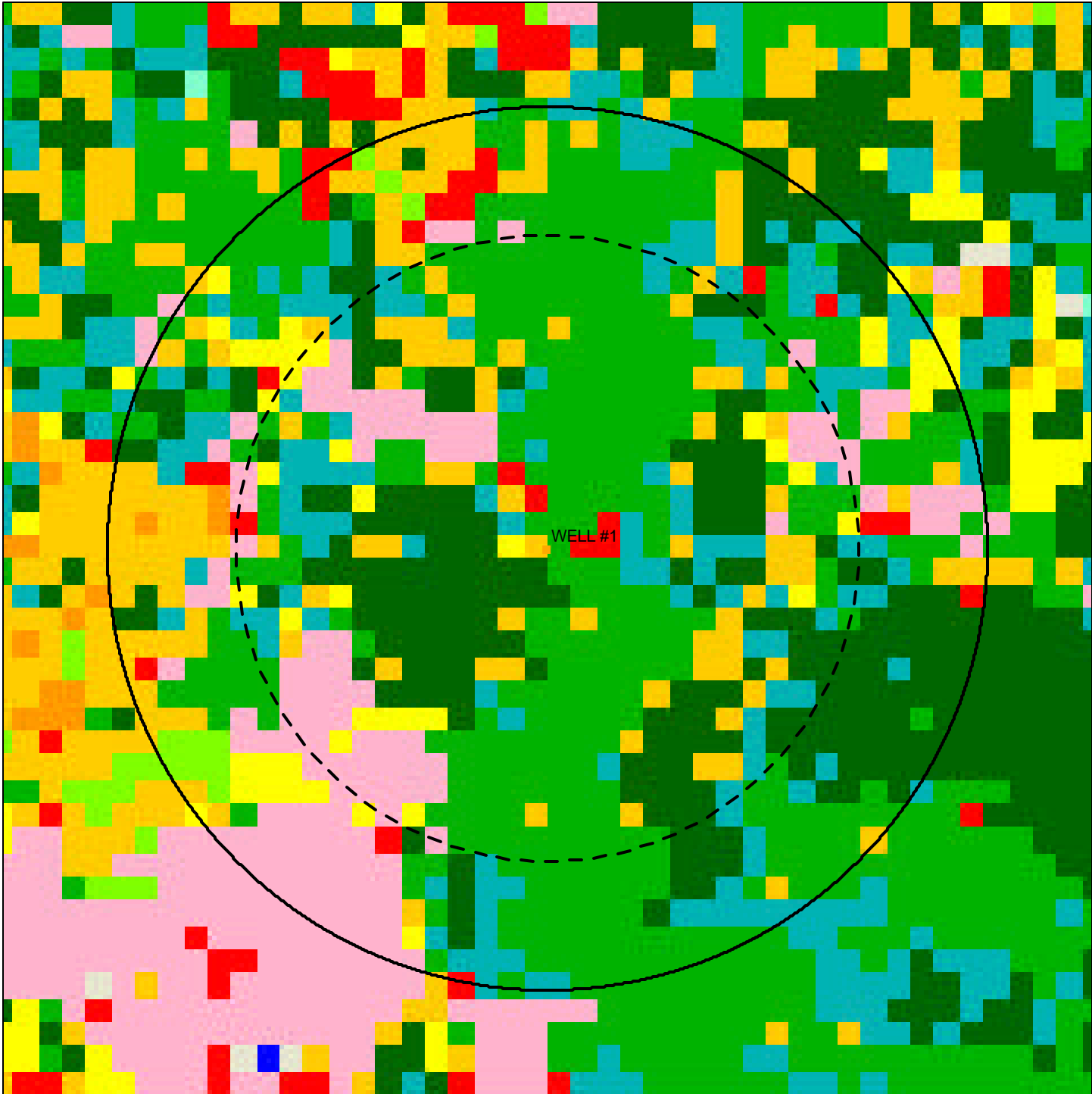
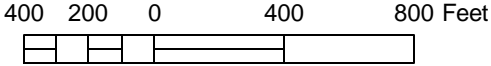


FIGURE 1. LAND USE/LAND COVER CATEGORIES

BEACON HILLS S/D, PWS ID: 0136389, WELL #1



- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Water | Quarries, Strip Mines, Gravel Pits | Pasture, Hay |
| Low Intensity Residential | Transitional | Row Crops |
| High Intensity Residential | Deciduous Forest | Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands |
| Commercial, Industrial, Transportation | Evergreen Forest | Urban, Recreational Grasses |
| Bare Rock, Sand, Clay | Mixed Forest | Woody Wetlands |
| Ground Water Assessment Area - Delineated Area | | |
| Ground Water Assessment Area - Zone A | | |



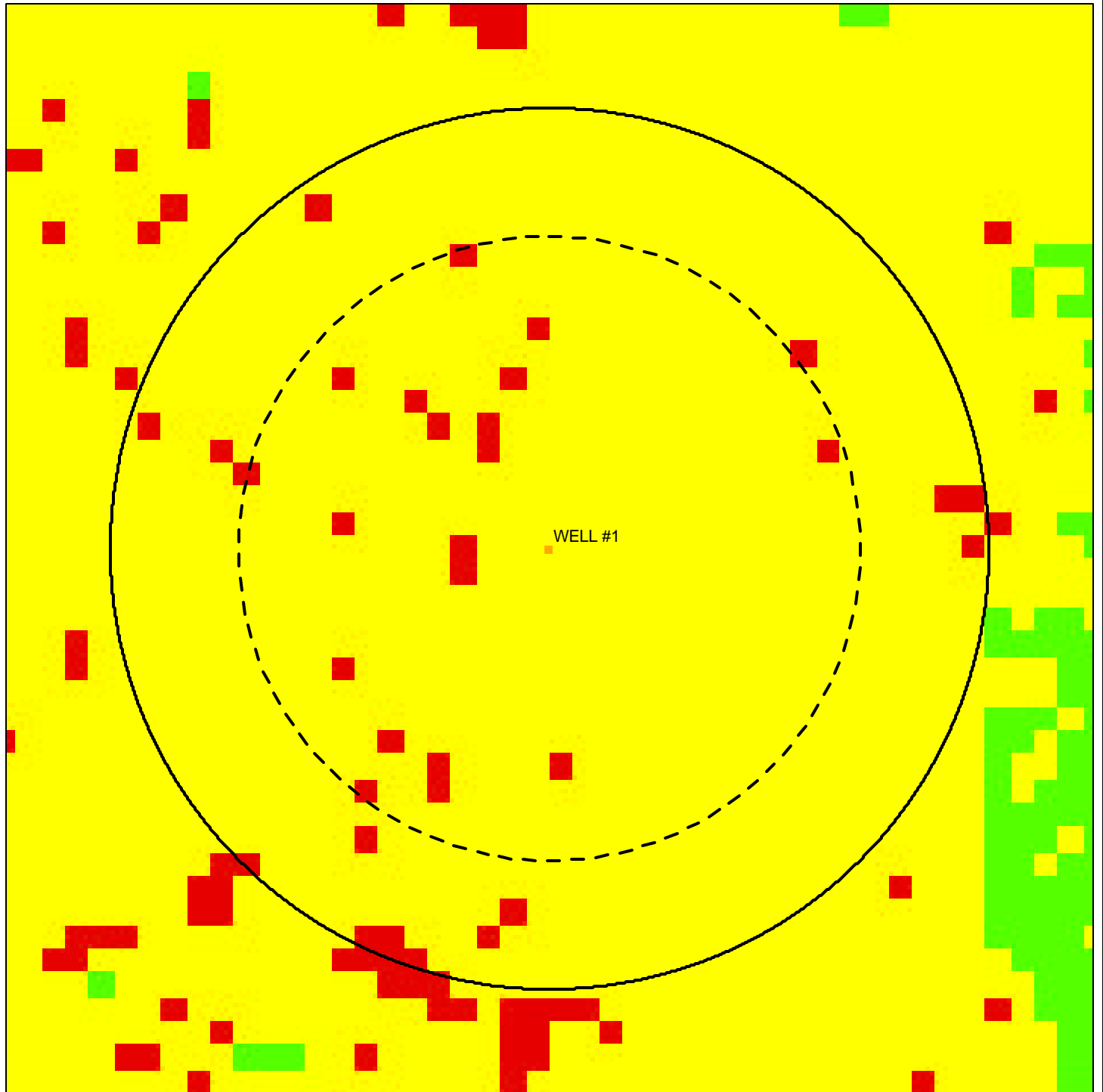


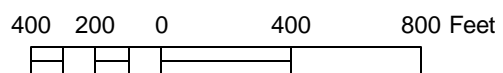
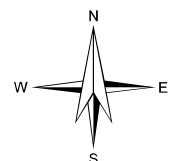
FIGURE 2. UNSATURATED ZONE RATING

BEACON HILLS S/D, PWS ID: 0136389, WELL #1

Assigned Ratings

- Lower ≤ 50
- Moderate < 50 to 65
- Higher > 65

- Ground Water Assessment Area - Delineated Area
- Ground Water Assessment Area - Zone A



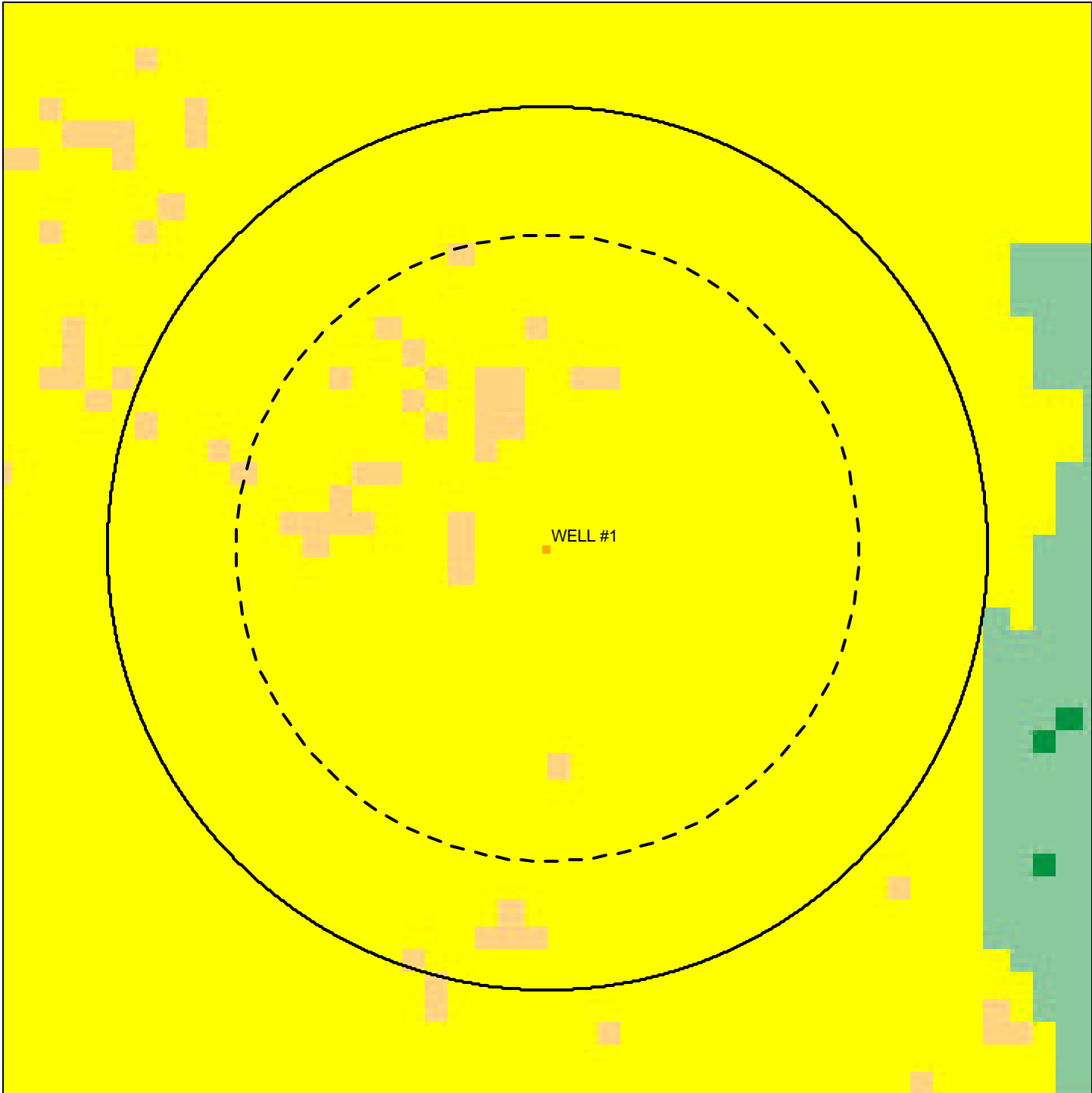


FIGURE 3. VERTICAL HYDRAULIC CONDUCTANCE RATING

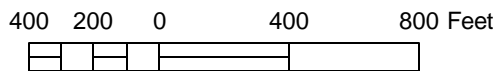
BEACON HILLS S/D, PWS ID: 0136389, WELL #1



Assigned Ratings

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 (≤ 5 sq. ft./day) | 6 (> 80 to 160 sq. ft./day) |
| 2 (>5 to 10 sq. ft./day) | 7 (> 160 to 320 sq. ft./day) |
| 3 (>10 to 20 sq. ft./day) | 8 (> 320 to 640 sq. ft./day) |
| 4 (> 20 to 40 sq. ft./day) | 9 (> 640 to $1,280$ sq. ft./day) |
| 5 (> 40 to 80 sq. ft./day) | 10 ($> 1,280$ sq. ft./day) |

- | |
|--|
| Ground Water Assessment Area - Delineated Area |
| Ground Water Assessment Area - Zone A |



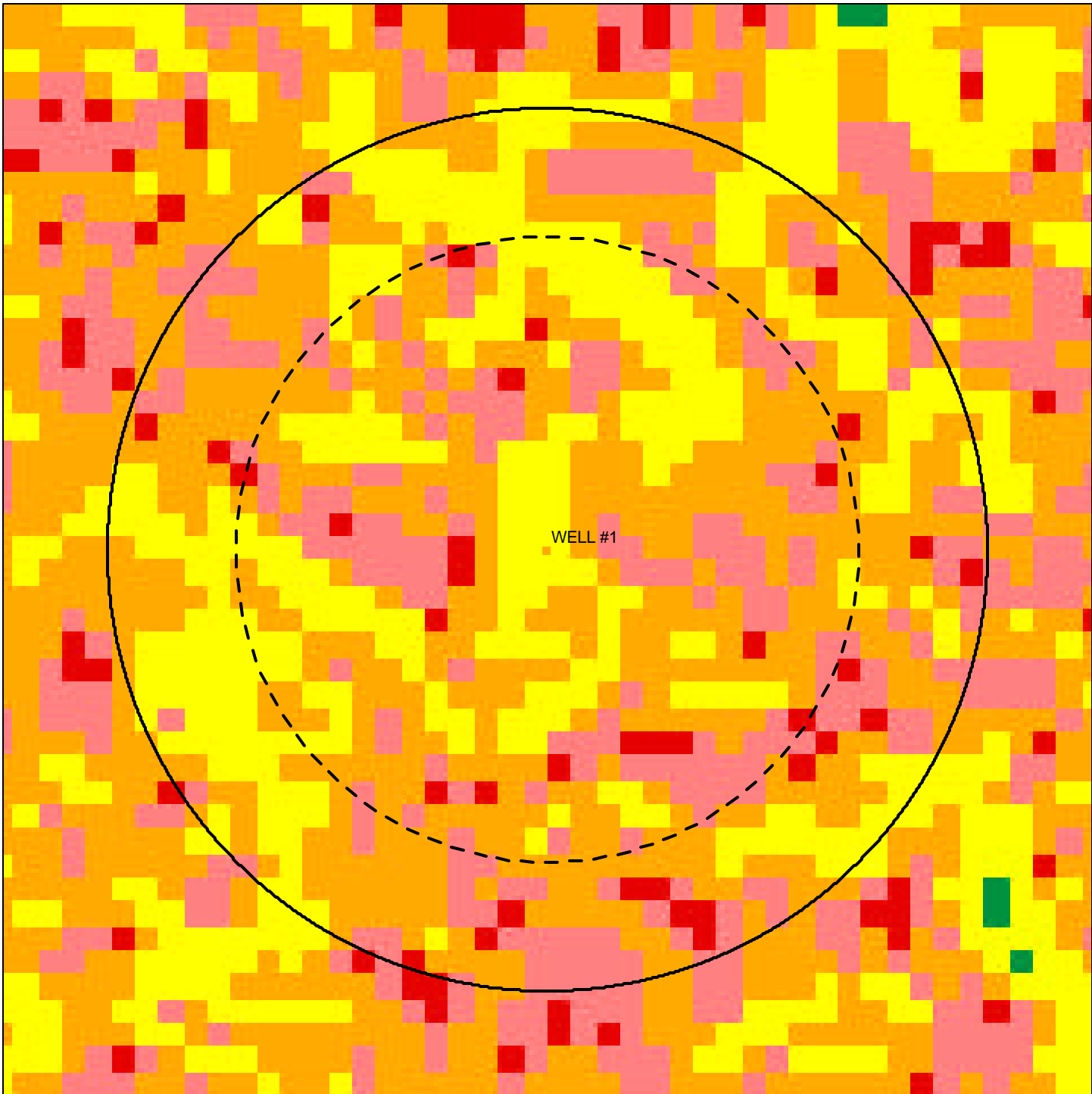
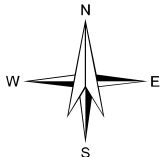


FIGURE 4. LAND SURFACE SLOPE RATING

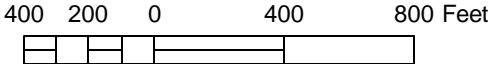
BEACON HILLS S/D, PWS ID: 0136389, WELL #1



Assigned Ratings

- 1 (> 50 percent)
- 3 (> 20 to 50 percent)
- 5 (> 10 to 20 percent)
- 7 (> 5 to 10 percent)
- 9 (> 2 to 5 percent)
- 10 (<= 2 percent)

- Ground Water Assessment Area - Delineated Area
- Ground Water Assessment Area - Zone A



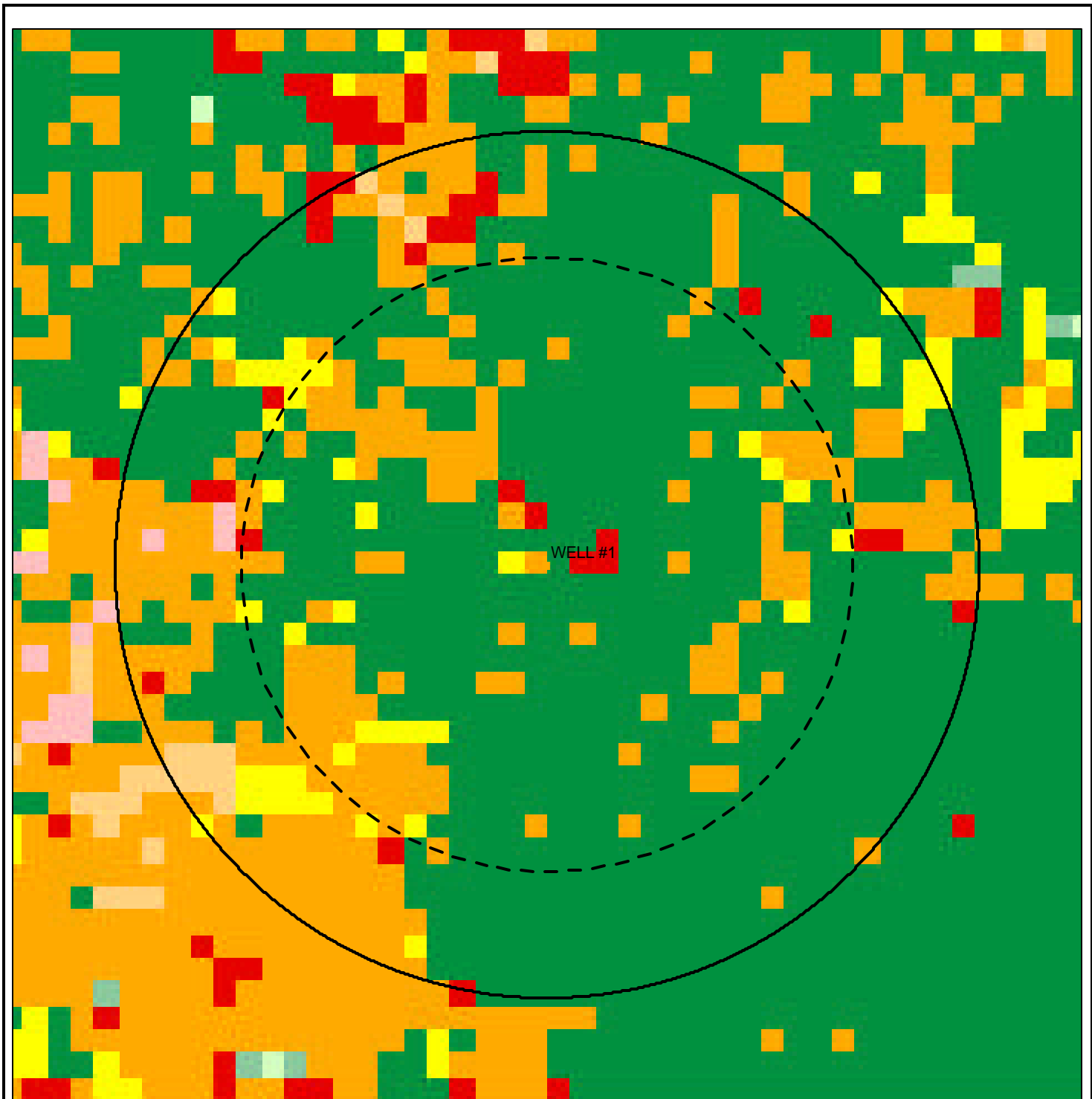
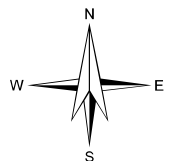











FIGURE 5. LAND USE RATING


BEACON HILLS S/D, PWS ID: 0136389, WELL #1



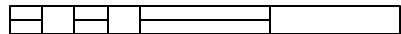
Assigned Ratings

- | | |
|---|--|
|  1 (Water, Woody wetlands, Emergent herbaceous wetlands) |  6 (Other grasses) |
|  2 (Bare rock/sand) |  7 (Low intensity residential, Transitional, Row crops) |
|  3 (Deciduous forest, Evergreen forest, Mixed forest) |  8 (High intensity residential) |
|  5 (Quarries/strip mines/gravel pits, Pasture/hay) |  10 (High intensity commercial/industrial/transportation) |

 Ground Water Assessment Area - Delineated Area

 Ground Water Assessment Area - Zone A

400 200 0 400 800 Feet



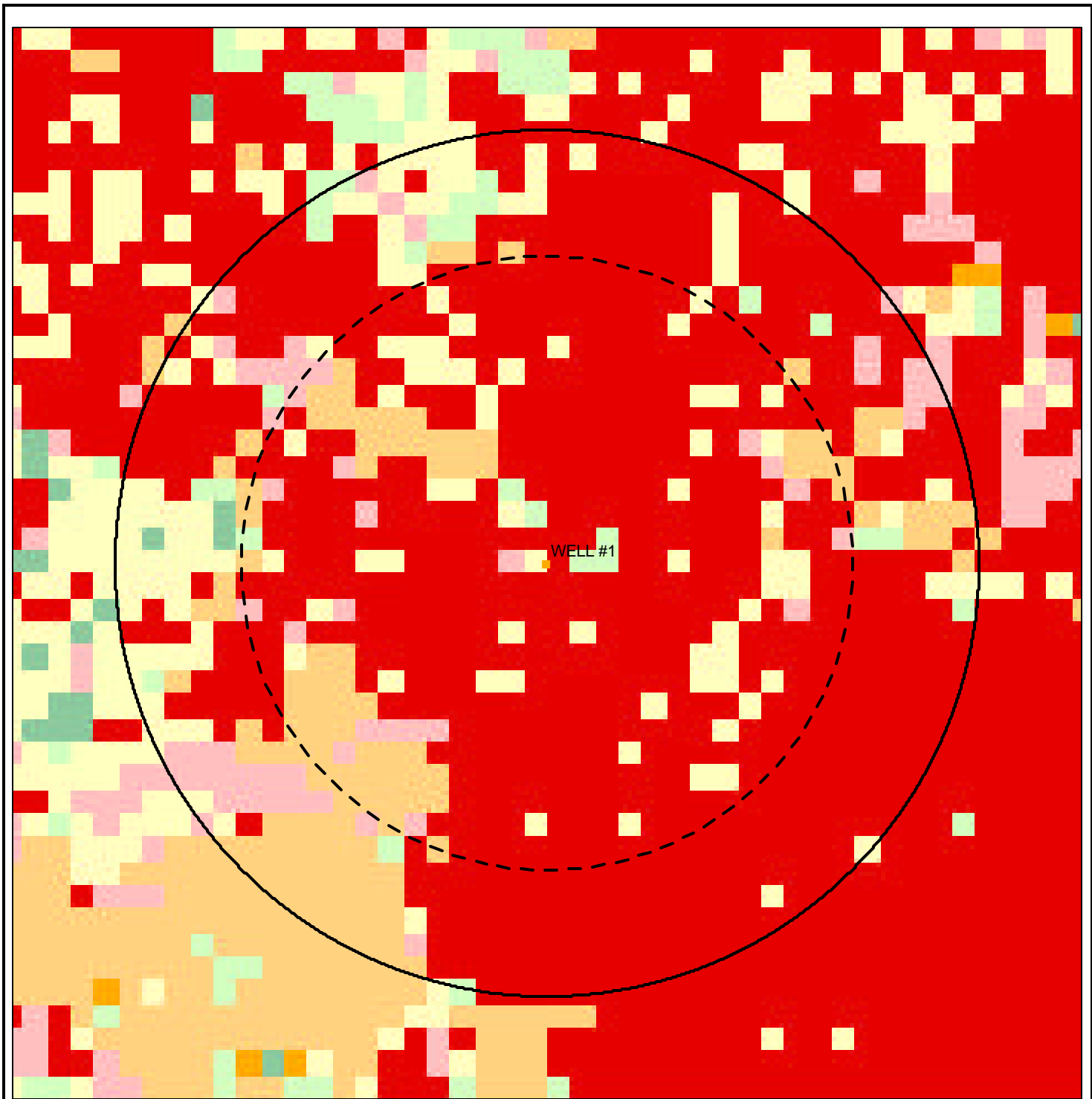
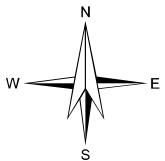


FIGURE 6. LAND COVER RATING

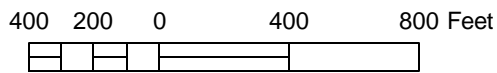
BEACON HILLS S/D, PWS ID: 0136389, WELL #1



Assigned Ratings

- 1 (High intensity commercial/industrial/transportation)
- 2 (Water, Woody wetlands, Emergent herbaceous wetlands, High intensity residential)
- 4 (Low intensity residential)
- 5 (Transitional)
- 6 (Quarries/strip mines/gravel pits, Row crops)
- 7 (Bare rock/sand)
- 8 (Pasture/hay, Other grasses)
- 10 (Deciduous forest, Evergreen forest, Mixed Forest)

- Ground Water Assessment Area - Delineated Area
- Ground Water Assessment Area - Zone A



Section 6: North Carolina's SWAP Approach

This section of the report is a more detailed description of North Carolina's SWAP approach. This is a summary of Chapter 2 of [North Carolina's Source Water Assessment Program Plan](#).

Description of North Carolina's SWAP Approach

To meet the requirements of the 1996 SDWA Amendments, a Source Water Assessment was completed for approximately 10,000 drinking water sources in North Carolina. A delineated area for assessment was established for each drinking water source. An inventory of potential contaminant sources was conducted in each assessment area and finally, a susceptibility rating was assigned to each drinking water source. Because of the scope of this task and the limited time and resources available for completing the work, North Carolina's SWAP program efforts relies on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to effectively use information. GIS allows databases to be linked to points on a map (e.g., public water supply sources, streams, geology, land use, roads, permitted waste disposal sites, Superfund sites, etc.) and overlaid on top of one another.

Delineation of Assessment Areas for Surface Water Sources

For the purpose of performing source water assessments, "delineation" means defining what land area constitutes the area contributing water to a public water supply source. During the development of the Water Supply Watershed Protection (WSWP) program (final state rules adopted in 1992), the state worked with local governments to determine the location of all surface water sources and existing land uses within the water supply watersheds. This information, in conjunction with information on the types and location of wastewater discharges, was used to determine the appropriate Water Supply Watershed Classification for more than 200 surface water sources in the state. The watershed classifications, WS-I, WS-II, WS-III, WS-IV, and WS-V are based on the size of the watershed, development activities, and allowable waste treatment and disposal practices.

All surface water sources were located on US Geological Survey 1:24,000 scale topographic maps. The water supply watershed boundaries were delineated (except WS-V waters, which were delineated for the SWAP assessments by the PWS Section), and the boundaries of the Critical Area, and in the case of most WS-IV water supply watersheds Protected Areas (described below) were delineated.

For protection of the surface water sources in North Carolina, a segmentation of the water supply watersheds was implemented through the WSWP rules. The entire drainage areas of WS-I water supply watersheds were delineated. These watersheds are all publicly owned and no new development is allowed in these watersheds. These watersheds are very small. Some are located within National Forests. Others are owned by a local government.

All WS-II, WS-III and WS-IV water supplies require delineation of a Critical Area which is defined as the area within ½ mile and draining to the normal pool elevation of a water supply reservoir, or ½ mile and draining to a water supply intake in a river. For WS-II and WS-III water supplies, the remainder of the drainage area is subject to the development standards of the WSWP rules and are implemented through local land use ordinances. WS-IV water supplies,

which are typically portions of major river systems, are segmented in a Critical Area (previously defined) and a Protected Area. The Protected Area is defined as the area within 5 miles and draining to the normal pool elevation of a reservoir or 10 miles upstream and draining to a river intake. In very few instances the WS-IV Protected Area encompasses the entire drainage area due to the size of the watershed. In 1995, the state allowed local governments to request that the 10 mile Protected Area boundary of a WS-IV water supply be measured “run of river” rather than using a 10-mile arc linear measurement. Surface waters that are used by industry to supply their employees with drinking water or waters formerly used as water supply are generally classified as WS-V. The WS-V waters are protected as water supplies and are typically located upstream of and draining to Class WS-IV waters. Land use restrictions do not apply to WS-V waters under the WSWP rules.

Please note that for the purpose of the PWS Section’s Source Water Assessments, delineation of WS-IV boundaries may be different from the Division of Water Quality’s (DWQ) delineation. The PWS Section watershed assessment areas include all land draining to a drinking water source. However, the watersheds defined in accordance with the WSWP Rules often exclude land area draining to a source based on municipal or county jurisdictional boundaries. Please refer to DWQ’s WSWP program website (<http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/wswp>) for information on the regulations associated with their program and the land area affected by their regulations.

Delineation of Assessment Areas for Public Water Supply Wells

The delineation of source water assessment areas for wells was in accordance with North Carolina’s EPA approved Wellhead Protection Program. The calculated fixed radius method was used to delineate assessment areas around each well in the following areas: piedmont and mountains; the unconfined surficial aquifer of the coastal plain; and in the semi-confined portions of the Castle Hayne aquifer with an estimated recharge rate of 250,000 gallons per day per square mile. The aquifer-source-volume method was used for confined aquifers of the coastal plain. These methods are described below. Well depth is the determining factor for a well to be considered confined. Well depths greater than 70 feet are considered confined.

Other assessment area delineation methods may be of interest to a PWS system in an effort to more accurately define the area contributing water to the well. The state will review delineations provided by any PWS system that employs acceptable alternative delineation methods. Resulting alternative delineation areas will be incorporated into the SWAP if the state concludes that the use of the more sophisticated method is appropriate.

Calculation of the Contributing Area

The first step in delineating the assessment areas is to determine the size of the contributing area to the well. When a well is pumped, it causes groundwater that is flowing through the subsurface to flow toward the well. The surface area surrounding a well that delineates the area in which water entering the groundwater system at the water table eventually flows to the well and discharges is known as the contributing area for the well. In this area, any contaminants released to the environment that reach the water table, can reasonably be expected to move toward and possibly reach the well. The calculated fixed radius method requires the pumping rate (Q) and the recharge rate (W) for the pumping well in order to calculate the size of the contributing area. The contributing area is calculated as follows:

$$A_c = \frac{Q}{W}$$

where:

- A_c = contributing area in square miles,
- Q = maximum daily pumping rate in gallons per day, and
- W = average recharge rate in gallons per day per square mile.

The maximum daily pumping rate in gallons per day was determined from information on wells obtained from PWS Section sanitary survey inspection forms, Division of Water Resources Local Water Supply plans, and information supplied by system owners/operators. Where no information was available, an estimate of maximum daily pumping rate was assigned based on hydrogeologic characteristics of the aquifer supplying water to the well.

Size of the Assessment Area for Wells Using Calculated Fixed Radius Method

Estimates of the size of the contributing area can be obtained using the equation given above. However, because of the complex nature of groundwater flow and contaminant transport, it is not possible to define exact contributing area boundaries around each well. Two factors that affect the shape of the contributing area and its position and orientation with respect to a pumping well are the hydraulic gradient and aquifer transmissivity. The variation in aquifer transmissivity is important in determining the shape of the contributing area for a supply well. In areas where the hydraulic gradient and the aquifer transmissivity are essentially the same in all directions, the shape of the contributing area depends primarily on the hydraulic gradient. Where the water table is nearly flat, as near the water-table divide in broad interstream areas of low relief, the contributing area is approximately circular. Where the hydraulic gradient is moderate to steep, the contributing area is approximately elliptical, being oriented in the direction of groundwater movement.

Due to limited availability of information on both hydraulic gradient and aquifer transmissivity, the assessment area for each well was doubled. Therefore, the assessment area for each well is twice the size of the calculated contributing area or:

$$A_{SWAP} = 2 A_c = \frac{2Q}{W}$$

Delineation of Assessment Areas for Wells in Confined Aquifers

Recharge to confined aquifers is much less than that to the surficial unconfined aquifer where the calculated fixed radius method was used. If the calculated fixed radius method were applied to wells withdrawing water from confined aquifers, the resulting assessment areas would be very large. With the exception of a portion of the Castle Hayne aquifer, the aquifer-source-volume method was used for delineating assessment areas for wells determined to be withdrawing water from highly confined and semi-confined aquifers. "Aquifer source volume" refers to the volume of the source aquifer that supplies the withdrawals from a well for a specified period of time. This factor has been adopted in many states for defining assessment areas for confined aquifers.

For the purpose of these assessments, the volume of aquifer that supplies ten years of withdrawals (i.e. the area surrounding a well in which the time of travel to the well is ten years) was used. A ten-year period should be sufficient to provide time to assess the potential impact of any groundwater contamination discovered within an assessment area and for developing appropriate remediation and source water protection strategies for the water supply. For any well in the coastal plain determined to be withdrawing water from a confined aquifer, the table below will be used to determine the size of the assessment area.

Table 1. Radii of Assessment Areas for Wells Withdrawing from Confined Aquifers in the Coastal Plain

Pumping Rate of Well (Gal. / min.)	Radius of Assessment Area (Feet Rounded)
50	1000
100	1000
200	1500
500	2000
1000	3000
2000	3500

Delineation of Assessment Areas for Water Supply Sources Classified as GWUDIs

Drinking water supplied by a well may include a surface water component. This is defined as Ground Water Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water (GWUDIs). This term is used to indicate that water withdrawn from a well contains a specific indicator or indicators (e.g., giardia) of the presence of a surface water component. The delineated area for a PWS well classified as a GWUDI well will be the combined area of a circle based on the calculated fixed radius method and the resulting upgradient watershed of the intersected surface water. Segmentation of the resulting watersheds was in accordance with the most appropriate water supply watershed classification scheme.

Delineation for Water Supply Sources Classified as Springs

Springs can be defined as areas where the water table intersects the ground surface. Ground water may have flowed many miles before appearing on the surface to form a particular spring. The delineated area for a drinking water source classified as a spring was defined as the entire watershed area upgradient of the spring. Segmentation of the resulting watersheds was in accordance with the most appropriate water supply watershed classification scheme.

Susceptibility Rating Methodology

The state determined that the overall susceptibility rating for each drinking water source should be based on two key components, a contaminant rating and an inherent vulnerability rating. Inherent vulnerability refers to the physical characteristics and existing conditions of the watershed or aquifer. A contaminant rating refers to an evaluation of the number and location of potential sources of contamination. The contaminant rating and inherent vulnerability methodologies are explained below.

Contaminant Rating Methodology

The contaminant rating for each water supply source was determined based on the number and location of potential contaminant sources (PCSs) within the delineated area. The delineated area for the drinking water source encompasses the area where PCSs, if released to the environment, could reasonably be expected to be a risk or a potential for contamination of the drinking water supply. A PCS in this assessment report is a facility or site regulated under a state or federal regulatory program. These facilities are identified in electronic databases that contain location information for each facility. Only databases that include information statewide were used for this source water assessment. Each PCS identified within the delineated area was assigned a risk rating of higher, moderate or lower. The number of PCSs that occur within the delineated area was determined and a Contaminant Rating of higher, moderate or lower was assigned to each drinking water source.

Contaminant Rating for Ground Water Sources

For each ground water source, define an inner Zone A with an area equal to half the area of the delineated assessment area. Using Table 2, determine the number of PCSs that occur within each risk category according to their location, either in Zone A or in the remaining delineated area. Determine the Contaminant Rating of higher, moderate or lower for each well by adding the totals for each risk category.

Table 2. Determination of Contaminant Rating for Ground Water Sources

Potential Contaminant Sources in :	Number of Higher Risk PCSs	Cumulative Number of Higher and Moderate Risk PCSs	Cumulative Number of Higher, Moderate and Lower Risk PCSs
Zone A (the inner 1/2 of the delineated area)	(Number of sources _____) ≥ 1 Score: (1 or 0)	(Number of sources _____) > 2 Score: (1 or 0)	(Number of sources _____) > 4 Score: (1 or 0)
Delineated Area (Zone A plus the remaining delineated area)	(Number of sources _____) > 2 Score: (1 or 0)	(Number of sources _____) > 4 Score: (1 or 0)	(Number of sources _____) > 8 Score: (1 or 0)

For each category, score “1” if the number of contaminants exceeds the indicated threshold, or score “0” if the number of contaminants is less than the threshold. Total all the scores (1 or 0) for each category. Therefore, the highest possible score is 6.

Determine the **Contaminant Rating** for each well as follows:

Higher (6 - 4)

Moderate (3 - 2)

Lower (≤ 1)

Contaminant Rating for Surface Water Sources

Because the WSWP rules prohibit development in these watersheds, the existence of one PCS in the delineated area of a drinking water source located in a WS-I watershed will result in a contaminant rating of higher.

Using Table 3 for WS-II and WS-III watersheds, or Table 4 for WS-IV and V watersheds, determine the number of PCSs that occur within each risk category (i.e., lower, moderate or higher risk) and within each delineated assessment area (e.g., critical area, protected area, etc). Determine the Contaminant Rating for each surface water PWS source by summing the totals for each risk category.

**Table 3. Determination of Contaminant Rating
for Surface Water Sources in WS - II or III Watersheds**

Potential Contaminant Sources in :	Number of Higher Risk PCSs	Cumulative Number of Higher and Moderate Risk PCSs	Cumulative Number of Higher, Moderate and Lower Risk PCSs
Critical Area	(Number of sources____) ≥ 1 Score: <i>(1 or 0)</i>	(Number of sources____) > 5 Score: <i>(1 or 0)</i>	(Number of sources____) > 10 Score: <i>(1 or 0)</i>
Watershed Area Within 1000 Foot Stream Zone	(Number of sources____) > 5 Score: <i>(1 or 0)</i>	(Number of sources____) > 10 Score: <i>(1 or 0)</i>	(Number of sources____) > 20 Score: <i>(1 or 0)</i>
Watershed Area Outside Stream Zone	(Number of sources____) > 20 Score: <i>(1 or 0)</i>	(Number of sources____) > 40 Score: <i>(1 or 0)</i>	(Number of sources____) > 80 Score: <i>(1 or 0)</i>

For each category, score “1” if the number of contaminants exceeds the indicated threshold, or score “0” if the number of contaminants is less than the threshold. Total the scores (1 or 0 for each category). Therefore, the highest possible score is a 9.

Determine the **Contaminant Rating** for each surface water source in a Water Supply Watershed II or III as follows:

- Higher** (9 - 6)
- Moderate** (5 - 3)
- Lower** (≤ 2)

**Table 4. Determination of Contaminant Rating
for Surface Water Sources in WS - IV and V Watersheds**

Potential Contaminant Sources in :	Number of Higher Risk PCSs	Cumulative Number of Higher and Moderate Risk PCSs	Cumulative Number of Higher, Moderate and Lower Risk PCSs
Critical Area	(Number of sources____) ≥ 1 Score: (1 or 0)	(Number of sources____) > 5 Score: (1 or 0)	(Number of sources____) > 10 Score: (1 or 0)
Protected Area Within 1000 Foot Stream Zone	(Number of sources____) > 5 Score: (1 or 0)	(Number of sources____) > 10 Score: (1 or 0)	(Number of sources____) > 20 Score: (1 or 0)
Protected Area Outside Stream Zone	(Number of sources____) > 20 Score: (1 or 0)	(Number of sources____) > 40 Score: (1 or 0)	(Number of sources____) > 80 Score: (1 or 0)
Stream Zone from Protected Area to 25 Mile or Watershed Boundary	(Number of sources____) > 20 Score: (1 or 0)	(Number of sources____) > 40 Score: (1 or 0)	(Number of sources____) > 80 Score: (1 or 0)

For each category, score “1” if the number of contaminants exceeds indicated threshold. If the number of contaminants is less than the threshold score “0.” Total all the scores (1 or 0 for each category). Therefore, the highest possible score is a 12.

Determine the **Contaminant Rating** for each surface water source in a Water Supply Watershed IV or V as follows:

- Higher** (12 - 9)
- Moderate** (8 - 4)
- Lower** (≤ 3)

Inherent Vulnerability Rating Methodology

The inherent vulnerability of a well or surface water source refers to the characteristics or existing conditions of the well or surface water source and its delineated assessment area. Several factors were evaluated for both groundwater and surface water sources and included in the inherent vulnerability rating of each public water supply source. Each drinking water source was assigned an inherent vulnerability rating of higher, moderate or lower.

Inherent Vulnerability Rating for Wells

The characteristics included for assigning an inherent vulnerability rating for wells are aquifer rating, unsaturated zone rating and well integrity/well construction rating. The aquifer rating is an assessment of the water transmitting characteristics of the aquifer. The unsaturated zone rating is an assessment of the likelihood that contaminants from surface and shallow sources will follow the path of aquifer recharge and reach the water table. The well integrity/construction rating is an assessment of the quality of the construction of the well. A brief description of each factor follows:

Aquifer Rating

The aquifer rating is a qualitative assessment of the water transmitting characteristics of the aquifer. Relative differences in aquifer vulnerability were based on a review of relevant literature, expert opinions, and confirmed with historical data. Factors considered in rating aquifer vulnerability include hydraulic conductivity, degree of confinement, dilution, and sorption potential. The attenuative capacity of the unsaturated zone is not considered in the determination of aquifer ratings. Table 5 summarizes the aquifer-rating scheme used for these assessments.

Well depths determined whether a well was considered unconfined, deep confined or shallow confined for these assessments. Wells less than or equal to 70 feet deep were considered to be withdrawing water from an unconfined or surficial aquifer. Wells greater than 70 feet but less than 180 feet deep were considered to be withdrawing water from a shallow confined aquifer. Wells greater than 180 feet deep were considered to be withdrawing water from a deep confined aquifer.

Table 5. Aquifer Rating Based on Water Transmitting Characteristics

Aquifer/Ground Water Source	Rating
Coastal Plain Aquifers:	
Deep Confined (e.g., Kinston area)	Lower
Shallow Confined (e.g., Pamlico Co.)	Moderate
Unconfined (e.g., Castle Hayne Outcrop area)	Higher
Piedmont and Mountain Aquifers:	
Triassic Basins (e.g., Sanford-Durham)	Moderate
Fractured Rock Aquifers	Higher
Other:	
Metamudstones and Meta-argillites of the Carolina Slate Belt	Higher
Areas with Wells Cased to Less Than 20 Feet	Higher
Groundwater under the Direct Influence of Surface Water	Higher
Sand Hills Area	Higher

Unsaturated Zone Rating

The state, in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), developed the unsaturated zone rating methodology. The USGS Water-Resources Investigations Report 99-4283, "Methods of Rating Unsaturated Zone and Watershed Characteristics of Public Water Supplies in North Carolina" describes the methodology. The unsaturated zone rating is the combination of selected factors that contribute to the likelihood that contaminants from surface and shallow sources will follow the path of aquifer recharge and reach the water table. Contributing factors, in the form of GIS spatial data layers, include land use/land cover, vertical hydraulic conductance of the unsaturated zone, and land-surface slope. Vertical hydraulic conductance measures the capacity of the unsaturated zone to transmit water from land surface to water table. Land-surface slope and land cover influences the amount of precipitation that infiltrates into the subsurface. Land use describes the activities that take place on the surface or in the shallow subsurface and the type of contaminants that may be present as a result of those activities (i.e., "non-point source" potential contaminant sources).

Well Integrity/Construction Rating

Well construction details such as casing depth, grouting depth and screened interval were not available for assigning SWAP assessment ratings. For the SWAP assessments, the state initially assigned a higher vulnerability well integrity / construction factor for all wells since proper well construction / integrity could not be verified. After the initial SWAP reports were released for review, the PWS Section requested each PWS system owner to voluntarily provide documentation on well integrity/construction for possible refinement of this rating. If adequate information to document well construction/integrity was submitted by the system, the state revised the well construction/integrity rating accordingly.

Table 6 summarizes the characteristics evaluated and rated for the inherent vulnerability for each PWS well. Each well was assigned an inherent vulnerability rating of higher, moderate or lower:

Table 6. Inherent Vulnerability Rating of Wells

Inherent Vulnerability Factors	Higher Vulnerability	Moderate Vulnerability	Lower Vulnerability
Aquifer Rating	10	5	- 1
Unsaturated Zone Rating	10	5	1
Well Integrity/Construction Rating	5	3	1
Totals	25-18	17-15	14-1

Inherent Vulnerability Rating for Surface Water Sources

The inherent vulnerability of a surface water source refers to the characteristics and existing conditions of the source and the delineated assessment area (watershed). The characteristics included for assigning an inherent vulnerability rating are water supply watershed classification, surface water source location, raw water quality, and the watershed characteristics rating. The watershed classification is based on the size of the watershed, development activities, and allowable waste treatment and disposal practices. The surface water sources were characterized based on whether they are located in streams, large multi-purpose reservoirs, or small water supply reservoirs. The raw water quality rating is based on recorded turbidity and total coliform values over a twelve month period. The watershed characteristics rating is an assessment of the likelihood that contaminants will follow the path of overland flow or shallow subsurface flow to a surface water source. A description of each factor follows:

Watershed Classification

In North Carolina, all surface water sources are located in water supply watersheds that are classified as either WS-I, II, III, IV, or V. The Water Supply Watershed Protection Rules required that all local governments having land use jurisdiction within water supply watersheds adopt and implement water supply watershed protection ordinances, maps and a management plan. All of these ordinances are in place and have been deemed to be in compliance with the statutory requirements. The inherent vulnerability ratings for watershed classification are based on differences between watershed classes, including size of the watershed, development activities, and allowable waste treatment and disposal practices.

Surface Water Source Location

All surface water sources are located in streams, large multi-purpose reservoirs (Class 3), or small water supply reservoirs (Class 1 or 2). The inherent vulnerability ratings for surface water source location are based on differences between the reaction time for a water plant in the case of a contamination event or spill in a stream versus a reservoir and includes the allowable activities on surface water reservoirs (i.e., single use versus multiple uses allowed).

Raw Water Quality

The likelihood of the presence of *Cryptosporidium* and other water-borne microorganisms increases when turbidity is high. Therefore, turbidity and total coliform bacteria are good indicators of raw water quality. The Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP) within the PWS Section has developed a ranking system for surface water treatment plants based primarily on these two parameters. This ranking system, with some minor modifications, has been adopted by SWAP in order to assign a raw water quality rating to each surface water source.

The AWOP ranking system is based on the treatment plant's raw, settled and finished water turbidity and coliform levels along with violations of MCLs and treatment techniques. Raw, settled and finished water samples are collected daily and compiled in a monthly report, commonly referred to as a MOR (monthly operating report). The AWOP ranking system first totals the number of months in a year that specific levels of turbidity and coliform are exceeded and/or the number of months certain violations occur. The monthly totals are then multiplied by a weighting factor to balance the relative importance of these parameters. These numbers are then totaled for the year and are considered the water treatment plant's total score.

Because the purpose of SWAP is to assess sources of drinking water supply and not how well water plants treat their water, SWAP only uses the raw water scores for turbidity and coliform from the AWOP ranking system. The total raw water quality scores were divided into three categories of vulnerability: Higher, Moderate and Lower. The AWOP ranking system is for surface water treatment plants and not individual surface water sources. Therefore, in the case where more than one source is used by a treatment plant, the plant's raw water quality rating was initially assigned to all of the plant's sources. Upon review by the regional office staff some of the ratings were then adjusted based on their extensive knowledge of the surface water sources in their area.

Watershed Characteristics Rating

The state determined the watershed characteristics ratings of each surface water source in cooperation with the USGS. The USGS Water-Resources Investigations Report 99-4283, "Methods of Rating Unsaturated Zone and Watershed Characteristics of Public Water Supplies in North Carolina" describes this methodology. The watershed characteristics ratings were based on the combination of selected factors that may contribute to the likelihood that contaminants follow the path of overland flow and reach the surface water source. Contributing factors, in the form of GIS spatial data layers, include average annual precipitation, land cover, land use, land-surface slope and groundwater contribution. Precipitation is the source of water transported overland to a stream or lake. Land-surface slope and land cover influence the amount of precipitation that infiltrates into the subsurface. Land use describes the activities that take place on the surface or in the shallow subsurface and the type of contaminants that may be present as a result of those activities (i.e., non-point source potential contaminant sources). Ground-water contribution is the effect of ground water on surface-water quantity and quality. For these assessments the ground-water contribution is derived from the unsaturated zone rating described in the ground water inherent vulnerability section of this report. Table 7 includes the characteristics that were evaluated and rated for the inherent vulnerability for each surface water source:

Table 7. Inherent Vulnerability of Surface Water Sources

Surface Water Source Characteristics	Higher Vulnerability	Moderate Vulnerability	Lower Vulnerability
Watershed Classification	WS-IV, WS-V 10	WS-III, WS-II 5	WS-I 1
Intake Location	Direct Stream 8	Class 3 Reservoirs 4	Class 1 and 2 Reservoirs 2
Raw Water Quality (water plant data)	5	3	1
Watershed Characteristics Rating	10	5	1
Totals	33 - 21	20 - 13	12 - 5

Susceptibility Rating Methodology

The state assigned a susceptibility rating for each drinking water source that was based on two components, a contaminant rating and an inherent vulnerability rating. Using the results of the evaluations of contaminant rating and inherent vulnerability rating for each public drinking water source, a susceptibility rating of higher, moderate or lower was assigned to each source according to the table below:

**Table 8. Susceptibility Rating for Public Water Supply Sources
by Combining the Inherent Vulnerability and Contaminant Ratings.**

Contaminant Rating	Inherent Vulnerability Rating		
	Higher	Moderate	Lower
Higher	H	H	M
Moderate	H	M	M
Lower	M	M	L