

Guidance for Discharges to Chloride Impaired Waters

Permittees discharging to a surface water listed as impaired due to chloride in the Vermont 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, Part A, shall develop a Salt Reduction Plan that includes specific actions designed to achieve salt reduction on municipal roads and facilities.

1. Track the types and amount of chloride applied and report annually
 - Total usage or total purchased per winter season
 - If available:
 - total chloride used in the impaired watershed
 - Estimate of how much was spread per storm per road
 - Post-storm evaluation (e.g. how much salt was applied and resultant condition of the roads)

2. Consider the following in developing the Salt Reduction Plan
 - Operational changes such as pre-wetting, pre-treating the salt stockpile, increasing plowing prior to de-icing, monitoring of road surface temperature, etc.; see VTrans Snow and Ice Control Plan: http://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/operations/documents/AOT-OPS_SnowAndIceControlPlan.pdf);
 - Implementation of new or modified equipment providing prewetting capability, better calibration rates, or other capability for minimizing salt use;
 - Training for municipal staff and/or contractors engaged in winter maintenance activities; e.g. Green SnowPro, UNH Tech Transfer Center;
 - Adoption of guidelines for application rates for roads and parking lots (see VTrans Snow and Ice Control Plan, Appendix A: http://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/operations/documents/AOT-OPS_SnowAndIceControlPlan.pdf);
 - Regular calibration of spreading equipment;
 - Designation of no-salt and/or low salt zones;
 - Measures to prevent exposure of salt stockpiles (if any) to precipitation and runoff; and
 - An estimate of the total tonnage of salt reduction expected by each activity.