

ROAD SALT WORKING GROUP REPORT: O.E.A.C. MEETING APRIL 4, 2023

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Report

Correspondence

The Road Salt Working Group has met regarding report CO-23-09, which was referred back to the working group at the O.E.A.C. March 7 2023 meeting. The working group asked Branden Morris the following questions, to which we have received responses:

1. It's clear to us that the private sector (and corporate entities in particular) needs targeting if we are to significantly reduce levels of road salt contamination in Oshawa. What role can OEAC/the City play in this? Some things that the RSWG discussed were introduction of bylaws, inspection of salt depots for adequate containment protocols, and enforcement of monitoring and reporting.

Response: Regulating the use of road salt on private property would require additional resources (staff time and training) to administer and enforce such by-laws. Municipalities that have done so are typically subject to Source Water Protection Plans where SVAs have been identified in accordance with Provincial Clean Water Act (see info below). We would look to the Region of Durham as there are SVA's within other municipalities or CLOCA with respect to watershed health for educational programs to allow for broader awareness campaigns as well as Provincial legislation related to the Environmental Protection Act associated with salt storage, monitoring and reporting. That being said it is conceivable that if someone was intentionally placing extreme quantities of salt (for example, placing salt a few inches thick on a walkway, driveway, or sidewalk), it could be considered in terms of the Nuisance By-law as "disorderly, annoying, unpleasant or obnoxious". The likely course of action would be to educate and Order the activity to discontinue, and follow-up with any applicable penalties if the behaviour persisted. This would be on a complaint basis if received through MLE.

2. What role can OEAC play in educating the public about this issue? Can we publish new materials or should we focus on disseminating existing ones, which were mentioned in the report?

Response: The Committee can educate the public on these matters at our upcoming events, the City also has various digital display boards at every City facility that we can utilize in a similar approach that we used last year for advertising the fall film night. If the Committee wants we can also create brochures or postcards as well but there will be

a higher cost associated with this approach.

3. How can OEAC (or a working group) collaborate with other local environmental advisory committees? For example, can we make presentations to other committees as reps of OEAC or would this be something we would have to do as private citizens?

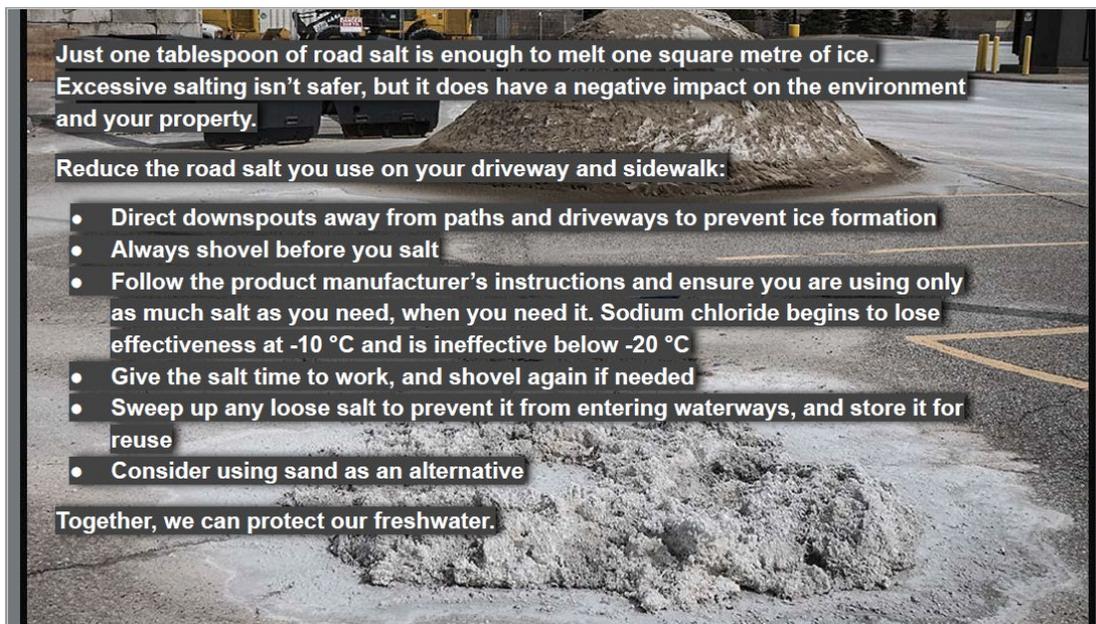
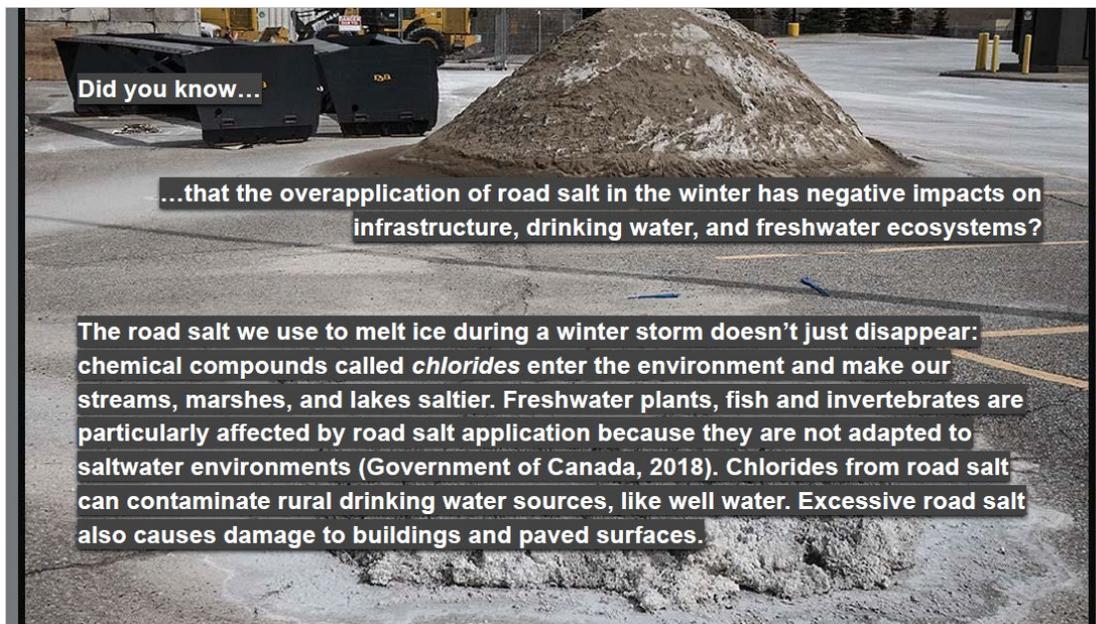
Response: In short no the committee cannot make presentations to other environmental groups. As private Citizens though you are certainly welcome to.

4. We would like a little more information on why Oshawa doesn't have designated Salt Vulnerable Areas, especially given that the City clearly operates in accordance with the fact that road salt is an environmental contaminant and application should be minimized where possible. Does CLOCA use SVAs, or are there comparable municipalities that do? Could the provincial standard be adopted?

Response: There are no salt vulnerable areas identified in Oshawa as defined under the Provincial Clean Water Act which is specific to Wellhead Protection Areas, Intake Protection Zones, Highly Vulnerable Aquifers and Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas. This was confirmed by staff at the Region of Durham, who are responsible for drinking water systems. The majority of municipalities that have implemented measures do so within those areas that have been identified in accordance with the CWA. As we detailed in our report, although Oshawa does not have SVA's the City has implemented several measures of the ECCC's Code of Practice aimed at mitigating environmental impact across the City. We continue to monitor best management practices and implementation of new approaches when practical and feasible as part of operational continuous improvement process. It is our understanding that CLOCA has not identified SVAs within their Watershed outside of the CWA.

Next Steps

The Road Salt Working group agrees with the City that we should take an active role in educating the public on this issue, as part of O.E.A.C.'s mandate to educate. We intend on looking into distributing literature to raise awareness of this issue at our events this year, and we would like to see the educational materials that Durham Region has at their disposal. We are also interested in putting forth a mock-up of a double-sided "postcard" for the City's consideration. If approved, it would be our intention to motion to allocate part of the budget to printing copies of these postcards at a future meeting. These postcards could be distributed at O.E.A.C. booths and events and potentially stocked at public institutions, like City Hall, libraries and recreation centres. See postcard mock-up below:



We will also look into the designation of Salt Vulnerable Areas in other municipalities in Durham and the GTA more broadly.

Recommendations

1. The Road Salt Working Group recommends that the report be received for information.
2. The Road Salt Working Group recommends that the road salt awareness postcard mock-up be submitted to the City for consideration (i.e. approval of wording).