

Report from Dea Larsen Converse regarding opportunities for COE to reduce chloride levels in water softeners, September 17, 2018, City of Madison Committee on the Environment

#### Facts

- Freshwater organisms cannot tolerate high levels – 395 mg/L is danger level (half a tablespoon of salt in five gallons of water)
- Wastewater that reaches MMSD is higher in concentration
- \$0.20 to add pound of salt to water
- \$300 million to \$2.3 billion to remove it
- Reduction of inputs is key
- 100,000 water softeners deliver half chloride to MMSD
- Options: increase efficiency, replace older units, move to dual tank system
- Compared to nearby states, Wisconsin salt use is much higher

#### MMSD Suggestions for Civic Leaders

- Get educated
- Take a stance against oversalting
- Support the right amount of salt at the right time
- Support liability protection clauses for certified operators
- Require training for municipal members and private applicators
- Require proper calibration for all salting applicators
- Educate the public

#### Outreach Materials

MMSD Information Page on Water softener salt

<http://www.madsewer.org/Programs-Initiatives/Chloride-Reduction>

Best Practices

<http://www.madsewer.org/Portals/0/ProgramInitiatives/ChlorideReduction/2015SofteningBestPractices.pdf>

Brochure

[http://www.madsewer.org/Portals/0/ProgramInitiatives/ChlorideReduction/ChlorideBrochure\\_final\\_web.pdf](http://www.madsewer.org/Portals/0/ProgramInitiatives/ChlorideReduction/ChlorideBrochure_final_web.pdf)

Effective winter maintenance methods

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/water/insidemwu/saving-madison-from-salt>

Press Kit

<http://www.madsewer.org/Portals/0/ProgramInitiatives/ChlorideReduction/Salt%20Reduction%20Resources/2017%20WI%20Saltwise%20Press%20Kit.pdf>

Radio Ad

<http://www.madsewer.org/Portals/0/ProgramInitiatives/ChlorideReduction/Madison%20Metro%20Sewerage%20District%20-%20Salt.mp3>

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