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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager
From: Jeffrey Nutting, Public Works Coordinator
Date: March 18, 1991
Subject: Non-Consent Council Order #40, 3/4/91
Re: Review of salting policy

[Signature]
3/20/91

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge
Massachusetts 02139
617-349-4800

William P. Ryan
Commissioner

The proper level of salt used during a winter storm is determined by several factors including the type of storm, inches of accumulation, temperature before, during, and after the storm, and type of road (main or secondary.)

It is the department's policy to keep the use of salt to a minimum in order to protect the environment and control expenses.

The current policy on salting operation under Section II Parts - (1, and 8,) clearly indicate that excessive use of salt is to be avoided.

The use of salt in any one storm has been reduced by over 30% in the last two years; and with the newly installed calcium chloride tanks we will continue to reduce the use of salt.

The current policy of using straight salt on the main streets and salt and sand combined (pickle) on secondary streets is based on the following:

A.) Straight salt provides a greater level of melting thereby providing the safest road surface. Using pickle on the main roads would decrease melting and increase the possibility of accidents and unacceptable road conditions (ruts, ice patches, etc.)

B.) The use of pickle on the main roads would create a great accumulation of sand on the roadsides and in the catch basins, storm sewers, and ultimately the river.



C.) The roadside sand will create a considerable amount of dust making it unpleasant for the pedestrians and merchants on the main roads.

D.) The increase in sand will increase the cost of sweeping the streets; cleaning the catch basins and storm sewers; and produce a negative affect on the environment by depositing sand into the river.

E.) The use of pickle on heavily travelled roads can give the public a false sense of security. They believe that if the road has sand on it, the road will have increased traction. This is not always the case depending on temperature and condition of the road surface.

F.) The temperature during and after a storm plays a key role in determining the proper mixture of salt and sand. The elimination of straight salt during low temperature will cause unacceptable road conditions.

I propose that the City continue the use of straight salt mixed with calcium chloride on the main roads for at least the first application. If weather conditions dictate, we will use pickle on subsequent applications.

We will also reduce the salt content on the pickle by 25%.

If I can be of further assistance please feel free to contact me.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

March 25, 1991

To The Honorable, The City Council:

With reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 27, regarding a review of the salting policy, please find attached a response from Jeff Nutting, Public Works Coordinator, relative to this issue.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

CONSENT AGENDA # 3 5-435

Awaiting Report Item Number 27
regarding review of salting policy.

In City Council,

March 25, 1991

Placed on file