

Beet Juice Information

The Engineer's Office will proceed with its inaugural use of Beet Juice for the 2012-2013 winter season. Road Solutions, Inc. out of Indianapolis will be supplying the additive. Use of the product will be limited to certain routes and applications while the amounts are being evaluated and adjusted.

The beet juice is de-sugared Sugar Beet Molasses that will not attract animals to the side of the roadway such as deer.

A defoamer mix is recommended and will be used by MCEO to eliminate the foam from building up in the brine truck tanks as the product is being transferred. For every 1,000 gallons of beet juice, one quart of defoamer will be mixed in.

MCEO has decided to begin the use of beet juice for the following reasons, as testified by Road Solutions, Inc.:

- Proven residual effect
- Starts deicing process immediately
- Mixes with any brine
- Improves melting efficiency
- Helps prevent black ice
- Reduces equipment corrosion
- Does not stain cars

Beet juice also has a very low melting temperature, which is at negative 25 degrees. Compared with other de-icing materials:

- Sodium Chloride: 15 degrees
- Magnesium Chloride: -10 degrees
- Calcium Chloride: -20 degrees
- Calcium Magnesium Acetate: 20 degrees

More beet juice facts:

- Lowers the overall lane mile costs of fighting winter storms
- Natural fit for government agencies or anyone working with a reduced budget
- Proven residual effects that will extend the life of your salt brine by as much as 3 days
- Helps prevent premature refreezing of straight brine water
- Residual strength prevents ice, snow and hard-pack from bonding to the pavement; eliminating the need for second and third applications of other materials
- Reduces rock salt application rates to as low as 200 lbs. per lane mile with just one application



News and Notes

- ⇒ Construction Season Wrap-up — Winter Preparation Meeting: December 14, 2012
- ⇒ If you need a copy of the snow routes, please let Gary or Jeff know and they can get a copy from the office.
- ⇒ Please make sure Request for Leave forms are completed for the upcoming holiday season in reasonable time.

Government News from Around the Country

Washington State—The state has officially instituted voter registration via Facebook. This process was developed by a partnership between Microsoft and Facebook to help increase voter participation. Since Washington laws require identification users will have to input their driver's license or state ID card number to complete the process.

Kansas—The state is wanting to boost the number of qualified applicants for in-demand skilled labor jobs. For jobs in plumbing, mechanics and construction, amongst others, the state of Kansas is offering to pay school districts \$1,000 for each student who graduates with an industry-recognized credential in high-need jobs.

Michigan—Fighting obesity with a 4x4 approach is currently underway in the state. The program looks to cut more than \$3 billion that it costs the state annually in obesity related health care (a cost that is expected to rise to \$12.5 billion by 2018). The Michigan Health and Wellness 4x4 Plan encourages people to abide by four behaviors: eat a nutritious diet, get regular exercise, have a yearly physical, and avoid all tobacco. The other four part is monitor the body mass index, blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol. An online dashboard and media blitz is helping relay the word. It is an effort to get people excited about their personal health well-being.

Georgia—In an effort to save time and money, the Georgia Department of Transportation has teams with the Georgia Tech Research Institute to develop a robot that automatically detects and then seals cracks in the road. When complete, the prototype will only require one operator, which improves worker safety on the roads. The current accuracy of the robot is at 83 percent.

Happy Birthday to...

Jason Mock 11-15

Katie Settles 11-11

Happy Anniversary to...

Brian Newton 8 years