Item	09
Manager's Report No.	21
Council Meeting	03/08/11

TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2003 08 01

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE:** 37500-15

SUBJECT: **CORRESPONDENCE FROM RIVERSIDES STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE ON ROAD SALT DESIGNATION**

PURPOSE: To respond to a letter received by Council on 2003 July 07 from Riversides Stewardship Alliance requesting Council support of CEPA road salt designation.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

At its Regular Meeting of 2003 July 07, Council received correspondence from the Riversides Stewardship Alliance requesting support for the designation of road salts under Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). Staff were requested to prepare a report on road salts and to include information on road salt use in Burnaby by the City, Ministry of Transportation and SFU.

According to information published by Environment Canada, over $1 Billion is spent on road salts each year in Canada. Road salt is the preferred de-icing and anti-icing agent used by many jurisdictions because of its cost benefit and operational effectiveness. The highest concentration of salt use in Canada is in Eastern Canada.

Due to the concern of potential adverse environmental impact as a result of road salt use during the winter months, Environment Canada initiated a risk assessment study in 1995 to evaluate the impact of road salts on the environment. The study was completed in 2001 and concluded that high releases of road salts may have a negative effect on the environment and drinking water supply sources. The study also recommended that road salts be added to Schedule 1 of CEPA which currently contains a list of 56 toxic substances including such substances as asbestos, lead, mercury, etc. The intent of the designation is not to ban the use of road salt, but rather to develop instruments for the management of its use.

2.0 SALT USE PRACTICES IN BURNABY

The City currently uses road salts for roadway de-icing purposes. Salt is also used by Mainroad Contracting Ltd. who performs maintenance services for the Ministry of Transportation on the Trans Canada Highway and the Regional Major Road Network. Similarly, Simon Fraser University who maintains the road network within the university campus also uses road salts for roadway de-icing programs. The benefits of de-icing roadways have been studied and documented in many traffic safety and accident rate studies. The studies generally concluded that de-iced roadways have reduced accident rates and traffic delays when compared with snow/ice covered roadways. While road salts are commonly used for roadway de-icing programs in Lower Mainland municipalities, the rate of use is significantly less than that in Eastern Canada. The drinking water supply sources in the Vancouver region are in protected watersheds located in the North Shore mountains and are not affected by road salt use in the region.

3.0 SUMMARY

Environment Canada has completed an assessment of road salt use and its potential negative impact on the environment. The conclusion of the assessment indicate that there are environmental concerns associated in areas of high salt use. The highest uses of salt are in Eastern Canada. Environment Canada has now formed a working group consisting of representatives from municipal/provincial/federal governments, environmental groups, salt producers and various associations to develop a management strategy for road salt use. It is expected that proposed management instruments on road salts will be developed by early 2005.

While road salts are still favoured as winter roadway de-icing agents due to cost effectiveness and efficiency, progress has been made by municipalities including Burnaby to optimize road salt application rates with new technology without compromising traffic safety. Staff will continue to monitor the Environment Canada road salt designation development and develop appropriate management tools accordingly.

This is provided for the information of Council.

W.C.Sinclair, P.Eng.
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

LSC:dh