

S.29 (of 2025) Suggested Edits and 2/5/2025 Testimony Follow-up
Regarding Status of Cover Over VTrans Salt and Sand Piles
Submitted to Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Energy
by Vermont Agency of Transportation

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The following is a summary of proposed edits to S.29:

Page 2 – Line 6 Under Definitions “Apply Salt” is defined to exclude application of salt to transportation infrastructure construction projects. Add a definition for “Transportation Infrastructure Construction Project” to include “construction of roadways, parking lots, sidewalks, or other construction activities at transportation facilities or within transportation rights-of-way”. This will exclude us from having to provide salt used for summer dust suppression on our projects.

Page 5 – Lines 4-5 clarify if this proposal is seeking data on “State roadways” or on all roads across the state including State, Municipal, Commercial and Private. Seems this should be “all roads” not just “State roadways”.

Page 5 – Lines 8-9 requires data be submitted including salt used for summer dust suppression. Edit language to include the same exclusion noted in the definition of “Apply Salt” that excludes application of salt for transportation infrastructure construction projects.

Page 5 – Line 11 clarify if the proposal is just for “road salt” or “salt”. Seems this should capture all salt including that used on roads, sidewalks, and parking lots.

Page 7 – Lines 19-20 provide clarification that mapping data will be provided to ANR for ANR to manage the mapping of salt storage facilities across the state.

Page 8 – Lines 6-9 clarify if the reference to “sand” is intended to mean sand treated with salt and/or sand not treated with salt. Some sand piles are treated with a minimal amount of salt to keep the piles from freezing.

Remove the “after consultation with the Secretary of Transportation” language in three places it shows up in the Bill: Page 3 lines 2-3; Page 5 lines 1-2; and Page 7 lines 17-18. Replace with “after consultation with salt applicators across the state or region who can offer expertise specific to roads and commercial parking lots and sidewalks, which may not be the same entity”

Provide increased funding to AOT Municipal Assistance Program to support municipalities in building cover for exposed sand and salt piles.

Provide increased funding to AOT to build cover for exposed sand piles under AOT control. This is dependent on if the bill will seek to cover all sand piles or just sand piles treated with salt per comment above on page 8 Lines 6-9.

Follow-up to 2/5/2025 Testimony regarding status of VTrans Salt and Sand piles:

- 100% of VTrans salt piles are under cover.
- Nine (9) VTrans sand piles are not under cover; one of these sand piles is treated with salt to prevent it from freezing. Current language in the bill would require VTrans to build cover over these 9 piles and depending on the size of each pile it could take multiple sheds at each site to accommodate storage and access.

Salt Applicators are not required to get certified nor implement the BMPs proposed under the new Chloride Reduction Program. This part of the Bill is voluntary. But it is required if Salt Applicators want to get the proposed Limited Liability protections proposed in the Bill. There should be more consideration of regulatory means for accomplishing the goals of this bill and outreach to Salt Applicators statewide to determine how successful this Program could be before investing in its creation.