



1.0 General Policy

In general, the department is attempting to construct various sodium chloride storage buildings across the state to increase storage capacity thereby obtaining better bids for salt purchases and preventing catastrophic shortages during difficult winters. Through proper locating and sizing of new buildings, the department can also minimize the need to “double truck” the salt to avoid adding costs.

This policy describes the needs to consider when constructing new sodium chloride (salt shed storage) facilities. It is the goal of the department to obtain permanent under cover storage for 125% of the five year average of the state salt needed in a year for each county.

2.0 Description of Need

A regional office should determine its needs for sodium chloride storage by using the examples below as guidance when analyzing needs:

Example #1: The main shop for the service area provider has inadequate storage. (The facility is located off state property and an agreement must be in place prior to bid LET, see HMM 02-15-50, Sodium Chloride Facility Agreements and Letter of Intent.)

Example #2: The inspection report rates the condition of an existing salt storage facility as “Bad” (needing immediate major improvement) or “Poor” (needing a major improvement within the next 5 years).

Example #3: An existing sodium chloride storage facility is now inadequate in size and double trucking costs are incurred or the dead-head time during winter operations is creating inefficiencies.

Example #4: A county’s overall storage functional capacity does not meet the desired 125% of the 5-year average state highway use within the county. This measurement shall be compared to the needs of “all” counties located within the host region (NWR, NCR, NER, SWR and SER) when establishing priorities.

The Bureau of Highway Maintenance shall compile the data from each region to create a statewide summary of needs and jointly the bureau and the regions shall prioritize sodium chloride facility construction on a state-wide basis.

3.0 Financing Options

There are two sources of funding for these facilities. Routine maintenance funds authorized under a discretionary maintenance agreement (DMA) is one option. A second option is the improvement program where a sodium chloride facility is included as part of a larger highway rehabilitation or construction project.

All sodium chloride storage facilities constructed off state properties must comply with HMM 02-15-50.