



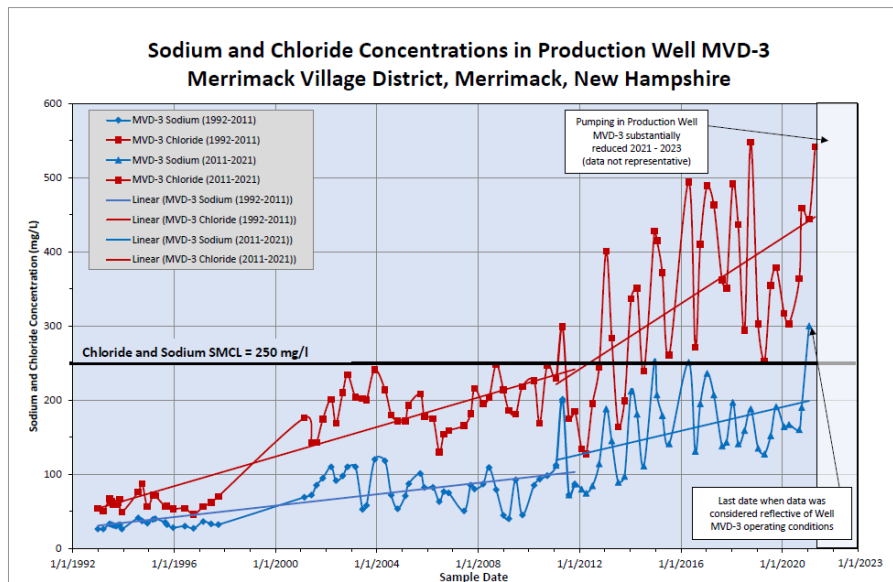
Road Salt and Groundwater Quality

To Property Owner,

I am writing you today to ask for your help regarding a most critical issue facing the Merrimack Village District (MVD) as it relates to the severe rise in Sodium and Chloride levels in our local environment and drinking water.

Deicing materials are often used on roads, parking lots, sidewalks, and other impervious surfaces to keep the public safe during the winter months. The most commonly used deicing agent is sodium chloride, more commonly known as road salt. When road salt is applied to ground surfaces, it dissolves into sodium and chloride ions, which travel with the melting snow and ice into wetlands, streams, and the aquifers which provide our drinking water.

The Merrimack Village District (MVD) has been forced to inactivate one of our highest producing Production Wells (Well MVD-3) as a result of contamination due to the continually rising levels of Sodium and Chloride in our aquifers. The cost to treat and remove sodium and chloride from our drinking water, if required, is prohibitive. Therefore, it is imperative that we, as an entire Town and local community, protect our drinking water, and protect our investments for our future. We need to stop these rising trends in sodium and chloride by using less salt (see graph below on the historical sodium and chloride levels in Production Well MVD-3 that we had to take offline).



Your receipt of this letter means that your property is located within the Well Head Protection Area (WHPA) where your salt application migrates directly to one or more of MVD's wells.

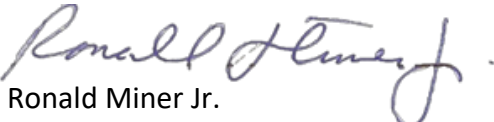
In an effort to avoid implementing a future mandatory salt restriction ordinance, MVD needs your support and is requesting that your property/organization change (if it has not already) your deicing practices from crystalized salt to liquid brine or sand; and to have your salt application personnel become "Green Snow Pro" certified. Please see www.des.nh.gov/land/road-salt-reduction/green-snowpro-certification for more information. This certification offers legal protection to property owners and de-icing applicators from slips and falls due to snow and ice.

MVD also requests your help in filling out a brief survey regarding salt applications on your property. This will provide valuable information regarding how much salt is applied on individual properties, so we can better predict what types of changes to salt application rates will make the biggest difference to groundwater quality in the WHPA. Please either complete the enclosed questionnaire or scan the QR code below to complete the survey on MVD's website.

You are also invited to be part of the solution by joining MVD's Salt Use Reduction Committee. Please contact Jill Lavoie at (603) 424-9241 x103 or by email at jill.lavoie@mvdwater.org. Information on crystalized salt-alternatives and de-icing practices is routinely discussed and shared via periodic zoom meetings. MVD thanks those landowners and businesses who are planning to or have already committed to implementing these initiatives.

In summary, MVD has already had to take one production well offline due to excessive salt being applied on our roadways, driveways, and parking lots. This is our last voluntary opportunity to prevent more of our wells from being abandoned in the future, so we need your cooperation! For more information, please visit us at www.mvdwater.org to view the Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations report, links to NHDES Fact Sheets, power point presentations, and other useful information. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support in this important matter.

Sincerely,


Ronald Miner Jr.
Superintendent

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SALT AND GROUNDWATER QUESTIONNAIRE





MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT

ROAD SALT & GROUNDWATER QUESTIONNAIRE

Street Name: _____

What is the property type?

- Residential
- Commercial/Business
- Industrial

Where does the drinking water come from?

- Connected to MVD
- From a Well
- Unsure
- Other _____

Where does the waste water go?

- Connected to Public/Town Sewer
- Septic System
- Unsure
- Other _____

Who removes snow and handles de-icing?

- Property Owner
- Tenant
- Maintenance Department
- Another company: _____

Amount of Salt Usage - Please choose the *approximate* amount of salt used PER YEAR for de-icing



_____ 0 to 10 pounds



_____ 11 to 50 pounds



_____ 51 to 100 pounds



_____ Greater than 100 pounds



_____ No Salt Used - Please list the product used instead of salt: _____

Location with a Private Well

If known, please provide the level of the sodium and chloride level in your drinking water: _____