



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

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Ted Strickland, Governor
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Chris Korleski, Director

February 4, 2009

Claire Posius
Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District
6100 West Canal Road
Valley View, OH 44125

Dear Ms. Posius:

I have reviewed the "Sensible Salting Practices" legislation being passed by Euclid Creek watershed communities.

As you are aware, road deicing practices can have negative environmental consequences ranging from shifting terrestrial plant community structure, to localized groundwater contamination, to increased conductivity and total dissolved solids in streams. Stream communities, especially those in small headwater areas, can see negative impacts associated with increased salinity. These organisms are at a greater risk in the winter due to lower metabolic rates associated with decreased stream temperatures. One researcher has coined the term "winter stress syndrome" to reflect the accumulated impacts associated with the season.

Passage of this legislation is a solid step forward toward improving water quality and helping to restore biological community health in Euclid Creek.

Sincerely,

William J. Zawiski
Environmental Scientist
Division of Surface Water
Ohio EPA