

Commission to Study Unmanaged Storm Water Pollution
Resolve 2025, chapter 166
Wednesday, September 23, 2026 – start time 10 AM
Room 216 (Environment and Natural Resources Committee Room)
Cross State Office Building, Augusta, ME

Agenda Meeting #2
(times are approximate)

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 10:00 AM | Welcome
<i>Senator Denise Tepler and Representative Dan Ankeles</i> |
| | Commission member introductions |
| 10:15 AM | Stormwater and Chloride Pollution
<i>Peter Carney, Longcreek Watershed Management District</i>
<i>(private commercial and industrial)</i> |
| 10:45 AM | Winter Road Management on State Roads/AI Salt Pilot
<i>Cindy Dionne, MaineDOT</i>
<i>(state and state-aid roads)</i> |
| 11:15 AM | NH Voluntary Green SnowPro Program
<i>Aubrey Voelker, NH Department of Environmental Services</i> |
| 11:45 AM | Break |
| 12:30 PM | Managing Stormwater Pollution: Challenges, Successes and Concerns
<i>Lynn Leavitt, Westbrook Public Services</i>
<i>Brenda Zollitsch, Muskie School/Resilient Roots</i>
<i>Alison McKellar, Town of Camden</i> |
| 1:30 PM | Discussion of next steps |

Future meeting dates: Wednesday, October 7
Wednesday, October 21

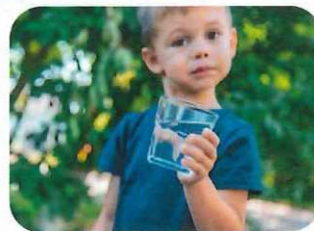
WHAT IS CHLORIDE POLLUTION?



Public road crews, private businesses, and homeowners apply road salt to melt ice and snow from driveways, roads, and sidewalks. Road salt contains chloride, which is not filtered out by soil, vegetation, or manmade filters. It flows with snowmelt into surface water and groundwater. [High levels of chloride](#) in surface water harm and kill aquatic life and make the water unsafe for nearby wildlife. Chloride in groundwater can exceed drinking water standards and seep into nearby streams where it can exceed surface water standards, posing a risk to human health. Excess road salt can be harmful to pets, and it can corrode important public infrastructure.

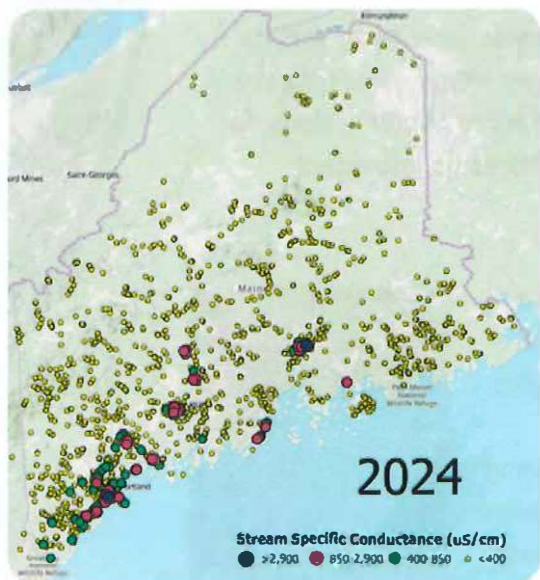
Chloride pollution impairs streams in developed areas and drinking wells.

Maine has over 5000 named rivers and streams. Those near developed areas or highway corridors can get [contaminated by chloride](#). High spikes can occur during winter and spring, when snow melts and carries chlorides to nearby waters. Other spikes occur in summer, when chloride-contaminated groundwater seeps into streams



High levels of chloride in streams can kill aquatic life and contaminate drinking wells.

and rivers. More than half of Maine's people get their water from private wells. Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) has tested a fraction of those wells during construction or when requested by a concerned landowner. Of the 4,740 wells MDOT tested from 2001 to 2020, [182 wells \(3.8%\) had levels above the 250 mg/l drinking water standard](#).



What is Maine doing about chloride pollution?

Using RDA under the Clean Water Act: In 2009, EPA and the State of Maine used the [Residual Designation Authority](#) provision of the Clean Water Act to require a permit for discharges into Long Creek in South Portland due to its degraded water quality. Chloride was one of several pollutants in the creek that were in violation of Maine's water quality standards. To address this issue, the Long Creek Water Management District (LCWMD) partnered with public and private landowners surrounding Long Creek to undergo restoration projects and implement stormwater BMPs to reduce chloride levels in the creek.

(Continues on other side)

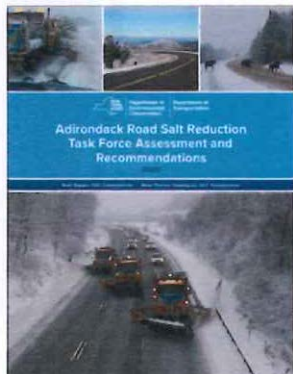
What is Maine doing about chloride pollution? *(Continued)*

Transportation Best Practices and AI Pilot: In 2015, several state agencies, including MDOT, collaborated to create a [manual of best management practices](#) for snow and ice control for municipal and private salt applicators. These guidelines include information on preventative anti-icing treatments, salt brine use, and plowing priorities by highway. The guidelines are intended to be used as a tool, rather than a list of requirements or prohibitions. MDOT has partnered with the Swedish climate-tech firm [Klimator](#) to launch a pilot program that uses AI to determine how much brine to apply while out clearing Maine's highways based on actual weather and conditions during operation. This contrasts with traditional methods that determine a rate of application in advance.

What lessons might Maine learn from other states?



New Hampshire launched the [Green SnowPro Certification Program](#) in 2013. Commercial and municipal staff can pay an annual fee to receive training on techniques that use less road salt to maintain safe streets and sidewalks. Participants receive [certification](#) as a Green SnowPro applicator and a liability waiver against claims for damages arising out of salt application and maintenance. As of 2023, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has issued over 700 certifications to nearly 200 companies, indicating a promising outlook for the program's reach across the state.



New York: Following a successful road salt reduction pilot project in and around Lake George, New York State established a [task force](#) to expand the pilot. The task force prioritized: transparency and public education on salt usage and its impacts; creating response mechanisms to surface and groundwater contamination; and developing frameworks for several categories of pilot studies in the Adirondack Park to continue studying the impacts of road salt as salt reduction practices go into effect.

Minnesota: Minnesota's Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) administers a [Smart Salting Program](#) that trains public and private salt applicators and offers specialized training for MnDOT plow drivers and property managers. Trained applicators receive a five-year certification. Data show that participating organizations cut salt usage by 30-70%, saving money, easing infrastructure corrosion, and reducing chloride pollution. The program's Smart Salting Assessment Tool allows communities to track and evaluate their salt usage, so they can develop local chloride reduction plans and maintain records for stormwater permit requirements. MPCA also created a [Statewide Chloride Management Plan](#) with chloride reduction strategies, BMP, and model ordinance language. Minnesota also uses its [Clean Water Fund](#) to provide grants for projects that reduce chloride pollution and address other stormwater issues.

