

ACCUBRINE®
AUTOMATED BRINE MAKER



Sophisticated Brine Production Cuts Costs and Boosts Production

AccuBrine® Automated Brine Maker Positions Beloit, Wisconsin as National Leader in Snow and Ice Control

With a highly regarded reputation for model snow and ice control already established, the City of Beloit, Wisconsin outdid themselves by implementing a Cargill AccuBrine® automatic brine making system in 2008.

“The AccuBrine® [system technology] has taken us to a completely different level,” said Chris Walsh, director of operations for the southern Wisconsin city. “We’re at a premium spot in the country right now with our snow and ice control, and part of that is because of the AccuBrine® system.”

The City of Beloit recently received the 2009 APWA Snow and Ice Excellence Award, a highly competitive recognition by the American Public Works Association. Upon acceptance of the award, the City of Beloit received additional acclaim from APWA officials. “Mark DeVries, chair of the APWA winter maintenance committee, made a statement that the City of Beloit is a national role model for the implementation of snow and ice removal,” she said.

Walsh acknowledges the City of Beloit routinely operates ahead of the curve when it comes to public works, but credits the AccuBrine® system for transforming their winter road maintenance into a cutting edge process that includes custom production and smarter, more cost-effective application processes. “Before the AccuBrine® system, our operators were used to just distributing a pre-made liquid,” Walsh recalled. “Now they are responsible for manufacturing our specially formulated liquids through the use of the AccuBrine® system, and that transition provided our operators with a higher degree of expertise.”

“We have half a dozen operators and technicians who are trained to run the AccuBrine® system,” Walsh continued. “This responsibility has increased consistency with operators, and they have really stepped up to the plate.”

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Going to bat for the new AccuBrine® system caused a more pro-active approach to combating winter storms as well, which saves the city thousands in operating costs. “Our pre-wet system allows us to make the right blend of products, and then pre-spray to combat a storm before it happens,” Walsh said. “Without the AccuBrine® [system technology] we couldn’t do that. With this process we’ve cut off hours of overtime and truck usage if we spray pre-storm, and that’s a big cost savings. We don’t need to have our guys stationed out on interstates before a storm hits, because the product we’re using keeps our roads bare for that long after a pre-spray. That’s a huge savings if you look at conserving truck operation, additional product and employee overtime.”

Additional costs savings filter in through the production process as well, Walsh added. “We use well over 49,000 gallons in a year, and before purchasing the AccuBrine® system, we couldn’t make our own brine,” she said. “Brine is a lot less expensive to make when compared to buying blended products. We can make brine now for about 10 cents a gallon, and we were previously buying blended products for around \$2.50 a gallon, and that’s a huge savings.”

Right now, the City of Beloit operates one AccuBrine® system and a growing tank farm with 40,000 gallons of liquid storage capability. The farm houses eight 5,000-gallon storage tanks, and Walsh said they just purchased two additional tanks, and hopes to purchase two more next year. “Before we only had 10,000 gallon storage capacity, and we’ve just continued to grow,” she said.

“The supervisors have put bets that I’m going to buy another AccuBrine® system,” Walsh said with a laugh. “And right now we’re certainly not in need of another system, but we’re always out on a limb looking at anything we can do that might save some us money, and that process pays off in the end. That’s what we did with the AccuBrine® automated brine maker and it paid off big time.”

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