

A CARGILL CASE HISTORY: SPEARFISH, SD

ClearLane[®] enhanced deicer



ClearLane® Enhanced Deicer Makes Roadways Safer and Equipment Last Longer in Spearfish, S.D.

Is it possible to make a roadway deicer that works fast, but doesn't corrode equipment? In a word, "yes" says George Martin, superintendent of streets for the City of Spearfish, South Dakota.

"We had deicing equipment that was extremely corroded from road salt. In fact, we were about to throw some of it away. Then we switched to ClearLane® enhanced deicer from Cargill Deicing Technology. Years later, that same equipment is still in use, and with no increased corrosion or damage. The ClearLane® product just isn't as corrosive," said Martin.

"We started using the ClearLane® product about five years ago. At the time, we experimented with three or four different products, but the ClearLane® product was the best of the bunch. There are a lot of benefits to that stuff. It works better, it's easier to get, and it had a better price," stated Martin.

Martin added, "I like that it's faster working at lower temperatures. It's also a bit coarser. I don't like finely screened material. Finely screened material can create a slime of sorts on the road when it first starts to melt. The ClearLane® product on the other hand is coarser, giving it a bit more abrasion as it starts to melt."

Martin also addressed the positive scatter resistant properties of the ClearLane® enhanced deicer. "Not long ago a local student conducted leaching tests on the local river. After a heavy snowstorm we applied about 150 tons of the ClearLane® product to a six-mile stretch of road that ran next to the river. After application, the student couldn't find any measurable amount of chlorides in the river water."

"Yet another positive that I've found is what seems to be a residual effect. We've had times when we applied the ClearLane® product, plowed the roads, and then had another snowfall occur shortly after plowing. That's when we've noticed that the ice and snow begins melting before we've even re-applied the ClearLane® product," said Martin.

With approximately 150 paved lane miles to tend to, Spearfish typically applies between 300 to 400 tons of the ClearLane® product each year. However, this year, the city upped its usage to 500 tons and expects to continue ordering that quantity in the future.

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