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From: "Homich, Larry L LRP" <Larry.L.Homich@lrp02.usace.army.mil>  
To: PABIODIV@webmail.upb.pitt.edu  
Subject: PABIODIV: Canada's Road Salt Study

One thorough study on the effects of road salt on the environment was conducted by Environment Canada. Their web page, that contains a summary and links to the assessment and discussions, is <http://www.ec.gc.ca/nopp/roadsalt/en/index.htm>

"Road salts are used in Canada as de-icing and anti-icing chemicals for winter road maintenance, with some use as summer dust suppressants.

A comprehensive five-year scientific assessment by Environment Canada determined that in sufficient concentrations, road salts pose a risk to plants, animals and the aquatic environment (Assessment Report - Road Salts).

Under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, the Government of Canada has until December 1, 2003 to develop and propose measures to manage the risks associated with road salts. The Risk Management Strategy for Road Salts outlines how Environment Canada plans to do this.

To help Environment Canada develop the management measures, a Multistakeholder Working Group for Road Salts was formed in Spring 2002.

The Government of Canada is not banning the use of road salts or proposing any measures that would compromise or reduce road safety.

Explore the links on this page for more information on how the Government of Canada plans to reduce the risk of road salts to the environment, while keeping Canadian roads safe."

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