Policy Strategies for Chloride Management

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ABSTRACT
Greater environmental protections and increased public safety are often believed to be synonymous, or at least to go hand-in-hand. This project aims to create and evaluate a menu of options for policymakers when those two goals are arguably in tension; here, where the excess application of salt for winter deicing, in combination with other sources, causes high chloride concentrations in area waterways. These concerns are not purely academic; the City of Omaha, Nebraska was recently sued in federal court over excess salt applications. This specific problem will serve as a lens to examine several potential responsive policy options, including legislation or regulation to impose mandatory compliance measures or a “salt tax,” green infrastructure, integrated watershed management, and self-governance at the community or individual levels incentivized by regulators or demanded by customers and the public. The results of this work have the potential to serve as a policy template for responding to similar issues in the future.

BIOSKETCH
Professor Strifling is Director of Marquette Law School's Water Law and Policy Initiative. Prior to joining Marquette, Strifling was Of Counsel at Quarles & Brady LLP, served as a Teaching Fellow at Temple University and was a clerk to Justice David T. Prosser, Wisconsin Supreme Court. Before practicing law, Strifling worked as an environmental engineer. He earned his LL.M. from Harvard Law School, his J.D., magna cum laude, from Marquette Law School, and his B.S., magna cum laude, from Marquette University in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Professional development hours (PDHs). PDHs will be recorded and an email documenting attendance will be sent to attendees to use towards their Wisconsin Professional Engineer's license. It is the responsibility of the PE to retain all records.