

Introduced by: Mayor, Cox, Derevorkian, Elam
Date: 10/10/23
Action: Adopted
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2023-065**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND
PUBLIC FACILITIES CEASE USE OF SALT BRINE ON KENAI PENINSULA
ROADWAYS FOR PURPOSES OF ROAD SURFACE SNOW AND ICE CONTROL**

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) uses a salt brine solution to minimize the ice buildup on DOT&PF maintained roads within the Kenai Peninsula Borough (Borough); and

WHEREAS, extensive public testimony from automotive shop workers, mechanics, and other professionals have presented health and safety concerns caused by what is described as an inordinate and accelerated degree of rust and corrosion to a vehicle's body, metal under carriage, electrical sensors, hydraulic hose connectors, plugs, and wiring; and

WHEREAS, the public testimony from safety-concerned professionals in the field identified an accelerated degrading and corrosion over the past several years as a direct result of the use of the salt brine solution, in spite of the fact that they have benefited financially specifically due to the accelerated corrosion damage repairs, and

WHEREAS, the grassroots effort regarding the opposition to the use of salt brine includes concerned community leaders, individuals and business owners; a diverse group of individuals mostly rarely heard from before on other local issues, whose concerns range from accelerated corrosion, black ice formation, and concern for the effects on aquatic resources; and

WHEREAS, the usage of salt brine by the DOT&PF seems to be limited to a few areas in the State of Alaska and concentrated here on the Kenai; and

WHEREAS, Kenai Peninsula constituents who have voiced their opinion support traditional sand and salt methods of ice control without the use of liquid brine; and

WHEREAS, DOT&PF indicated it is willing to study this issue and work with the Borough on a collaborative effort moving forward; and

WHEREAS, the Borough appreciates DOT&PF's responsiveness to this issue; and

WHEREAS, Borough residents, including approximately 5,000 who have signed the petition on the subject have requested that DOT&PF cease all use of the salt brine solution while DOT&PF studies the issue; and

WHEREAS, ending the use of the salt brine solution while the issue is studied in greater detail will provide additional data to be used in the best future highway safety decisions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough supports DOT&PF studying the potential adverse impacts or benefits from the use of salt brine solution, objects to the use of salt brine solution until more information is available, and requests that DOT&PF cease the use of the salt brine solution while it gathers more information and data regarding the use of salt brine solution for winter road maintenance purposes.

SECTION 2. That this resolution is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 10TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.

Brent Johnson

Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Michele Turner

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Chesley, Cox, Derkevorkian, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tupper, Johnson

No: None

Absent: None