

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
BUREAU OF OIL AND GAS MANAGEMENT**

**DOCUMENT NUMBER:** 550-2100-007

**TITLE:** Approval of Brine Roadspreading Plans

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 31, 1998

**AUTHORITY:** The Clean Streams Law (P.L. 1987, No. 394) (35 P.S. Section 691.1 et seq.)  
Solid Waste Management Act (P.L. 380, No. 97) (35 P.S. Section 6018.101 et seq.)  
The Administrative Code (P.L. 177, No.175) (71 P.S. Section 510.1 et seq.)  
25 Pa. Code Chapters 78 and 101

**POLICY:** DEP will review all plans for the beneficial use of oil and gas well brine for dust control and road stabilization for compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

**APPLICABILITY:** This policy applies as guidance for decisions by DEP's oil and gas management program when evaluating plans for spreading brine for dust control and road stabilization.

**PURPOSE:** This guidance document provides the Department's interpretation of applicable laws and regulations where necessary detail is absent from the law or regulation.

**DISCLAIMER:** The policies and procedures outlined in this guidance document are intended to supplement existing requirements. Nothing in the policies or procedures shall affect regulatory requirements.

The policies and procedures herein are not an adjudication or regulation. There is no intent on the part of the Department to give these rules that weight or deference. This document establishes the framework within which DEP will exercise its administrative discretion in the future. DEP reserves the discretion to deviate from this policy statement if circumstances warrant.

**LENGTH:** 3 pages

**LOCATION:** Volume 11, Tab 07

## **Plans for Roadspreading of Brine for Dust Control and Road Stabilization**

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Any person who spreads brine from oil or gas wells or other sources (such as brine treatment plants and brine wells) on unpaved roads for dust suppression and road stabilization must submit a plan on a yearly basis. The plan can be submitted by the well operator, municipality, owner of the road, or the service company. The plan must show how the potential to pollute is minimized. Approval by DEP must be received before roadspreading may begin.

Plans are to be submitted using DEP form 5500-PM-OG0082, and must include:

- The name, address and telephone number of the person and company seeking the approval, and of the persons doing the spreading.
- The license plate number(s) of the brine spreader truck(s).
- An original signed and dated statement from the municipality or other person authorizing the use of brine on their roads, stating that they will supervise the frequency of spreading.
- A legible map of the municipality or area identifying the roads that are to receive the brine and brine storage areas not at the well site or treatment plant.
- A description of how the brine will be applied, including the equipment to be used and the method for controlling the rate of application.
- The identification of the geologic formation from which the brine is produced.
- A chemical analysis of the brine for: calcium, sodium, chloride, magnesium, and total dissolved solids.

### **OPERATING REQUIREMENTS:**

DEP will review the plan for completeness and adherence to these operating requirements:

- The application of brine to unpaved roads shall be performed in accordance with the approved plan.
- The brine shall only be applied at a rate and frequency necessary to suppress dust and stabilize the road. The rate and frequency of application must be controlled to prevent the brine from flowing or running into roadside ditches, streams, creeks, lakes and other bodies of water, or infiltrating to ground water.

- Recommended spreading rates: The road should initially be spread at a rate of up to ½-gallon per square yard (typically after the road has been graded in the spring). The road should subsequently be spread at a rate of up to 1/3-gallon per square yard no more than once per month, unless – based on weather conditions, traffic volume or brine characteristics – a greater frequency is needed to control dust and stabilize the road. Application rates for race tracks and mine haul roads should be determined for each site and should not exceed one gallon per square yard.
- Only production or treated brines may be used. The use of drilling, fracing, or plugging fluids or production brines mixed with well servicing or treatment fluids, except surfactants, is prohibited. Free oil must be separated from the brine before spreading.
- Brine shall not be applied within 150 feet of a stream, creek, lake or other body of water.
- Brine must be spread by use of a spreader bar with shut-off controls in the cab of the truck.
- Brine shall not be placed on sections of road having a grade exceeding 10 percent.
- Brine shall not be spread on wet roads, during rain, or when rain is imminent.
- Each vehicle used to spread brine shall have on each side a clearly legible sign which identifies the applicator.
- A person who receives approval for the roadspreading plan must submit a monthly report to DEP (form 5500-FM-OG0046) indicating the location and amount of brine spread during the month. This report must be submitted by the 15th day following the month in which the brine was spread. This report must be submitted even if no spreading took place during the preceeding month.
- Any revision to the plan must be submitted to DEP for approval. Approval must be obtained before implementation of the revisions.
- The party with the approved road spreading plan must advise the regional DEP office by phone at least one day before planned roadspreading activity occurs. Information to be provided in this advance notice is: operator name, county, township, road sections or other locations, and the intended dates.

Failure to comply with these operating requirements may result in DEP rescinding the plan approval.