

To: gwilson@upstateforever.org

=====
Road salt, sand hit Upstate rivers
=====

Greenville News, The (SC)-February 1, 2004

Author: The Greenville News= Final, Jason Zacher, Staff

De-icing highways during storm leaves environmental impact

By Jason Zacher

ENVIRONMENTAL_WRITER

jzacher@greenvillenews.com

Nearly 2,500 tons of salt and 4,000 tons of sand were tossed on Upstate roads this past week, and now that the roads are clear, both are flowing to the rivers.

It's the equivalent of salt from 20 million table shakers in three days. De-icing roads is wreaking havoc on the environment in the North and West, but local environmentalists and road supervisors said the impact isn't as pronounced here -- partly because of how little ice we receive but also because of how the Upstate de-ices roads.

In the city of Greenville, nearly 300 tons of a salt and sand mixture was dumped, said Brien Watson, assistant public works director. Officials with several agencies said their plans for de-icing take the environment into account.

"That's why we don't do neighborhoods at all," Watson said. "We start with bridges, steep slopes and intersections."