



INDOT Dominates Snowfighting Awards

(Posted March 7, 2016) Ninety transportation facilities across the United States and Canada have received Safe and Sustainable Snowfighting Awards, and more than a quarter of them — 23 — are right here at INDOT.

The awards — presented by the Salt Institute, a nonprofit North American trade association — recognize environmental consciousness and effective management in the storage of winter road salt.

Steve McAvoy, INDOT Director of Fleet and Facilities Management, said our agency's continual effort to improve led to the high honors.

The criteria for the award go beyond superior salt storage practices.



The Westfield Unit salt building was one of 23 INDOT facilities honored by the Salt Institute.

“Safety is a factor in this as well,” said McAvoy. “It’s our brine making, it’s our wash water re-use to make brine, it’s everything that we’ve put into the salt building now. We have a Stage 1 pre-wash truck bay, we have full-service automated brine-making controls, all wrapped into one type of building.”

The old salt domes used to be standard nationwide, but those buildings featured only one entry door. That meant that workers couldn’t load inside the building, leading to safety issues with trucks and loaders moving in and out. Newer salt

facilities have reinforced fabric roof structures and offer better functionality for around the same price as an old salt dome.

“The new style of building offers space to load inside the building, creating safe, defined areas for the equipment to operate. We can load and offload salt under roof safely, and control all storm water flow,” said McAvoy.

Many other state DOTs have contacted INDOT about salt storage practices because, McAvoy said, “We really do lead the nation in what we do.”

That is evident in the 23 INDOT facilities that recently received the Salt Institute’s awards, and that number could grow in the coming years. McAvoy said we constantly assess and upgrade our facilities to meet INDOT’s high standards. On average, INDOT replaces two salt facilities each fiscal year, at a cost of \$1.2 million to \$1.6 million each, depending on size.

To read the Salt Institute release and see a complete list of honored facilities, click [here](#).



The Westfield Unit salt building is well-lit at night. The building is one of 23 INDOT facilities that ranked among the top 90 in the United States and Canada. For a complete list of honored facilities, click [here](#).