




To: Stormwater and Resource Planning Professionals

From: T. J. Mullen,  President

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Subj: USING THE SNOUT IN COLD WEATHER AREAS

We receive occasional requests for information about the suitability of SNOUT installations in areas where below freezing temperatures are common during winter. BMP, Inc. is headquartered in New England, where freezing conditions are normal wintertime occurrences. We have more than 30,000 SNOUTs in the northeast US and Canada with hundreds in Maine and New Hampshire alone. We also have SNOUTs in Alaska and Edmonton, Alberta. With more over 65,000 installations, we have never been notified that SNOUTs were causing any problems due to icing in catch basins or any other cold weather condition.

Here are a couple of reasons we have seen no adverse effects in cold weather climates:

- As most catch basin sumps are at least partially below the frost line, solid freezing in the sump is a rare condition at a time when liquid precipitation would occur. Even in northern Maine, where the frost line is typically believed to be around 6', we have not received any reports of problems.
- Even when ice in the catch basin occurs, as soon as liquid precipitation enters the structure, an opening is immediately scoured around the perimeter of SNOUT and the water can flow. Within a matter of minutes, most ice is melted and full flow conditions can occur.
- As for the freeze/thaw cycle, the thick gasket supplied with all SNOUTs in the installation kits provides plenty of room for ice expansion (should it occur), resulting in an excellent long term seal and solid installation in all conditions.

Therefore, be sure to require the factory installation kit hardware be used in every structure, and no problems should result. Feel free to contact us with questions. Thank you for the interest in our designs.