



NEWS RELEASE

For More Information Contact:

Kelly Barton (913-344-9319)

Manager Corporate Communications

North American Salt Company Announces EPA Recognition for Thawrox Highway Deicing Product

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (March 7, 2011) — North American Salt Company, a subsidiary of Compass Minerals (NYSE: CMP), today announced the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded the Design for the Environment (DfE) label to Thawrox®, one of the company's premium highway deicing products, indicating that it meets the EPA's criteria for environmental safety.

"The EPA's requirements are very stringent, and we're pleased that the agency recognized the positive environmental profile of Thawrox," said Jason Bagley, North American Salt Company's business director of specialty products. To obtain the label, Thawrox demonstrated that it reduced the total salt needed to treat a road by more than 30 percent, functioned at temperatures near zero degrees Fahrenheit and met other environmental safety codes. The Thawrox liquid additive also complies with Pacific Northwest Snow Fighters' criteria for reduction in corrosivity to steel.

Thawrox is more effective in significantly colder temperatures, clearing ice at temperatures down around 0 degrees Fahrenheit. It also contains an environmentally safe, naturally-derived plant sugar, similar to corn syrup, that keeps it from bouncing off the road or blowing away in the wind. The natural substances make it safe for the environment, and the magnesium chloride in Thawrox is produced by solar energy, another environmental consideration.

The reduced application rate helps reduce costs to municipal budgets, and its distinctive orange and brown coloring facilitates precise and effective application.



About North American Salt Company

North American Salt Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Compass Minerals, sells salt and other minerals to customers throughout the United States. The company's products include mined rock salt for highway and consumer deicing, and high-grade branded and private label mineral products for consumer and industrial use.

About Compass Minerals

Based in the Kansas City metropolitan area, Compass Minerals is a leading producer of minerals, including salt, sulfate of potash specialty fertilizer and magnesium chloride. The company provides highway deicing salt to customers in North America and the United Kingdom and specialty fertilizer to growers worldwide. Compass Minerals also produces consumer deicing and water conditioning products, ingredients used in consumer and commercial foods, and other mineral-based products for consumer, agricultural and industrial applications. Compass Minerals also provides records management services to businesses throughout the U.K.