

AltEn Facility Remediation Response

AltEn vacated its ethanol production facility in Mead in 2021. Since that time, the AltEn Facility Response Group (FRG) has been voluntarily working, under the direction of the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), to stabilize the site and develop Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for the water and the solids remaining on-site. To date, there has been no evidence of impacts to local drinking water.

Learn more at alteninfo.com.

Our work is helping to ensure the safety of the surrounding community and environment.

The FRG and NDEE have taken steps to stabilize and remediate the site, including the following to date:



To create safe conditions, treated more than 49 million gallons of lagoon water through 2022 at the water treatment facility we built on the AltEn Site, 30.8 million gallons of which have been land-applied to local farms as a beneficial nutrient source through Spring 2023. Our contractor will install an improved water treatment facility and will be ready to begin treating water again in August 2023, and treated water will once again be land-applied in Fall 2023.



Continued to conduct regular inspections of the water storage lagoons, including continuous tracking of groundwater monitoring wells, with data reviewed weekly. There continues to be no evidence of impacts to local drinking water from the AltEn site.



Installed rock check dams along the stormwater drainage channels as an additional best management practice further reducing the amount of soil particles in stormwater leaving the AltEn Site.



Prepared and submitted the Water Remedial Action Plan (RAP), including water treatment and land application of the treated water to local farms. The RAP was submitted to NDEE on September 12, 2022, a public hearing was held on December 14, 2022, and NDEE approved it on March 20, 2023.



Constructed a new, lined pond system that provides up to an additional 50 million gallons of storage capacity.



Refurbished and re-lined the emergency pond to allow for the digesters to be safely drained in advance of winter, while also winterizing the ethanol plant and piping to reduce the potential for damage caused by freezing conditions.



Consolidated the wet cake and installed a temporary Posi-Shell cover as interim protection from weather, odor and the potential for stormwater contact with the wet cake until a permanent solution is approved by NDEE.



Commenced draining the Northwest Lagoon via pumping it to the Northeast and Southeast Lagoons where it can be treated.



Managed the chemical inventory left behind by AltEn.



Continued to evaluate remedial options for safely managing the solids, including bench-scale testing and reviewing proposals from commercial landfills and treatment vendors. The Solids RAP is expected to be submitted in 2023.

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Water RAP Details:

- FRG submitted its initial Water RAP to the NDEE on September 12, 2022, and sent the final Water RAP for NDEE approval on October 14, 2022. The Water RAP was approved on March 20, 2023.
- NDEE held a public comment period and public hearing on December 14, 2022, on the final Water RAP.
- FRG continues to work under the Voluntary Clean-up Program (VCP) and is committed to implementing the Water RAP.

Water RAP Recommendations:

- Treating the untreated lagoon water and the stormwater that accumulates within the lagoons and ponds during the remedial action period.
- Installing an updated water treatment system to improve performance and efficiency, including upgrading the former Emergency Pond to manage sludge from the water treatment system until these materials can be managed with other Site solids
- Using the treated water for valuable land application, as a nutrient-rich benefit for crop health in local fields.



For up-to-date information about progress at the AltEn site, visit alteninfo.com.

Ongoing Effort

The FRG continues to assess site conditions and gather additional data about the solids at the AltEn site to best inform our recommendation for the Solids RAP.

A Solid Waste Pilot Project is currently being planned for 2023 that will include wet cake solidification on-site followed by its off-site transportation and disposal at a landfill permitted by NDEE to receive these materials to assess the feasibility of this solids management alternative.

Why do farmers need seed treatment?

Please see information here: seed-treatment-guide.com.

FRG

What is the FRG?

The AltEn Facility Response Group (FRG) includes six former AltEn customers – AgReliant, Bayer, Beck's, Corteva Agriscience, Syngenta and WinField United – that formerly supplied corn seed to AltEn. The group formed after the NDEE sought assistance with their efforts to address environmental issues at the AltEn site. The FRG joined together to address the unsafe conditions created by AltEn's mismanagement of solids and water generated by the ethanol production process on-site and are participating in the NDEE's Voluntary Clean-up Program pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement.