

AltEn: A Year of Progress

2023 Summary and 2024 Outlook

December 2023

As 2023 ends, we want to note the progress made at the site and outline preliminary plans for the new year. This has been a year of significant action by the AltEn Facility Response Group (FRG) with cleanup, water treatment and land applications. We have made progress with the Solid Waste Pilot Project and pausing operations due to colder weather. We will resume in the Spring. This past year we have had the opportunity to meet with Mead community members during two open houses. We appreciate Mead's support as we continue our work in 2024.

2023 Achievements

The FRG has made significant progress to remediate the site that AltEn abandoned. Here are highlights of actions taken as of Dec. 5:

- Approximately **4,060 tons** of leftover seed have been removed from the site. Removal from the North and South Hoop Buildings has been completed and the estimated **1,025 tons** of seed that today remains in the silo will be removed by the end of January 2024.
- A new on-site water treatment plant became fully operational in August. The FRG has treated **15.7 million gallons** of lagoon water this year, which brings the total volume treated to **65.1 million gallons**. Approximately **20.6 million gallons** of treated, nutrient-rich water have been applied to local farm fields. An estimated total of **58 million gallons** remains to be treated, not including future stormwater. Treatment is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.
- The Solid Waste Pilot Project was designed to test the feasibility of solidifying wet cake and safely disposing it in a landfill. In October and November, a total of **10,208 tons** of solidified wet cake were transported to WM's Pheasant Point Landfill.
 - The pilot is pausing for the Winter because the ability to solidify the wet cake is limited if temperatures are low enough to freeze it.
 - A total of **514 truckloads** of solidified wet cake were successfully transported to WM's landfill in 2023. We identified best practices that we will apply when wet cake removal restarts in the Spring.
 - A wet cake remedial action plan (RAP) will be developed in 2024.
- In late November, samples were taken from soil located under the wet cake pile. Results will be available in January 2024.

Progress Continues in Winter 2024

While the Solid Waste Pilot Project is pausing wet cake removal until Spring 2024, the FRG's work with the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) on the stabilization and long-term management of the AltEn site will continue throughout the coming months. We will remain actively engaged on the following areas this Winter:

- *Conducting regular groundwater testing to confirm public safety. Your groundwater continues to be safe based on the most recent results.*
- *Analysis of soil samples from under the wet cake pile.*
- *Treating lagoon water for additional farmland application this Spring to meet increased demand from local farmers.*

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- We are proud of our progress in 2023: Many actions were taken to remediate the abandoned AltEn site, including the removal of several hundred tons of wet cake.
- With the pause in wet cake removal, the site might seem a little quieter over the Winter months – though the FRG will be hard at work addressing the many issues AltEn left when the company abandoned the site.
- The FRG will continue ongoing conversations with the NDEE about progress at the site, including the planning and preparing of a wet cake RAP in 2024.



Residents and community leaders can check the FRG website for news and developments at [AltEnInfo.com](https://www.alteninfo.com) or by scanning the QR code on the left.