

AltEn: The Progress Continues

Achievements and 2025 Plan

October 2024

As remediation of the former AltEn site continues, the following is a summary of the progress made since 2021 and the plan for 2025.

There has been significant action by the AltEn Facility Response Group (FRG) for the safe solidification and transportation of wet cake off-site to a landfill, as well as water treatment and land application on local farm fields. Following the conclusion of the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 Pilot Project, the FRG now expects that removal of all wet cake from the former AltEn site will be completed by the end of 2025.

Throughout this process, we have been working to maintain the safety of the surrounding community and environment. To date, there has been no evidence of impact on local drinking water.

2023 – 2024 Achievements

The FRG has made significant progress to remediate the site that AltEn abandoned:

- The **Pilot Project tested the feasibility of solidifying wet cake** – a byproduct of the former ethanol production process – and identified the best practices to solidify, then safely transport and dispose of it at a landfill in Bennington, Neb., which is permitted by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) to accept such material. Now that best practices have been identified, **the FRG is working on solidifying and transporting the remaining wet cake to the landfill.**
- Wet cake needs to be mixed and solidified with materials like bentonite before it is transported from the site. **Up to 70 percent** of the wet cake will be solidified by the end of 2024.
 - Approximately **45,000 tons** of solidified wet cake were safely disposed of in 2024 through Oct. 27, bringing the total solidified wet cake removed from the site to **55,200 tons** in **2,540 truckloads**.
 - The amount of wet cake still on site is estimated to be more than **70,000 tons**, which translates to more than **84,000 tons** of solidified wet cake that will need to be removed from the site.
- Lagoon water treatment has been completed with over **107 million gallons** of water being successfully treated.
 - An estimated **61 million gallons** have been applied through Spring 2024 and another estimated **38 million gallons** are currently being applied to more than **1,100 acres** of local land this fall, which has been an enormous benefit to farmers because of the nutrient value of the treated water.
 - Land application of treated lagoon water will be completed in November.
 - Contact stormwater from the Wet Cake Area and lagoons will continue to be contained and treated.
- Earlier this summer, solids within the Northeast and Northwest Lagoons were consolidated and accessible liner was removed and transported off-site for disposal at Pheasant Point Landfill. Solids within the Southeast Lagoon were dredged and pumped into Geotubes – large filter tubes that retain solids while water drains out – placed in the Northeast Lagoon for dewatering, which was done to improve the treatment process for the remaining lagoon water in the Southeast Lagoon. Continuous environmental monitoring – including air, groundwater and soil tests – verifies site stability. These efforts are all part of the FRG's ongoing work to remediate the site.
- In March 2024, the process to remove unused corn seed was completed. More than **6,100 tons** of seed were safely transported and disposed of at a waste-to-energy facility in Oklahoma.

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Progress Continues in 2025

The FRG expects that the removal of all wet cake from the former AltEn site will be completed by the end of 2025. While the wet cake solidification and transportation will pause during the Winter months due to the cold temperatures, the FRG will remain actively engaged in the following areas:

- ✓ Conducting regular groundwater testing to confirm public safety. Area groundwater continues to be safe based on the most recent results.
- ✓ Collecting and analyzing additional soil samples from under the Northwest Lagoon where the solids have been cleared and the liner removed.

The FRG is working to deliver the following in 2024–2025 to the NDEE:

- Groundwater Data Gap Work Plan: Dec. 31, 2024
- Stormwater Management Plan: Dec. 31, 2024
- Lagoon Solids Remedial Action Plan (RAP): June 30, 2025

Key Takeaways

- Since completing a pilot project for wet cake removal, we have made significant progress: More than **55,200 tons** of solidified wet cake were safely transported to and disposed of at a landfill in Bennington, Neb.
- We have treated more than **107 million gallons** of water at the on-site treatment plant. An estimated **61 million gallons** have been applied to local farmland and an additional **38 million gallons** are being applied this Fall, which has been an enormous benefit to farmers.
- Like last year, we will again pause wet cake removal during winter months. The site might seem a little quieter; however, the FRG will be hard at work addressing the many issues AltEn left when the company abandoned the site.



Residents and community leaders can check the FRG website for updates at AltEnInfo.com or by scanning the QR code on the left.