

Macy, Jim

From: Carol Blood <cblood@leg.ne.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 2:36 PM
To: Macy, Jim
Cc: Brianna Full
Subject: Re: AltEn

Good afternoon Commissioner Macy:

I am sending you this email today in hopes of receiving a response on a long list of questions that the volunteer group I work with have in reference to the environmental crisis at the AltEn Plant in Mead, Nebraska. I apologize in advance for the length of the list, but am very appreciative of the ongoing support you've given us whenever we do have questions.

Our group has a zoom meeting every Wednesday at noon. We would welcome you to the meeting should you want to speak with us and answer the questions in person or make yourself available to join us for some organic questions. Please let me know if this is of interest to you.

Below are the questions we are hoping to receive answers on:

1. Are water samples being collected at various locations during and following rain events at locations from the AltEn plant to the Platte River?
2. AltEn water and soil testing is incomplete without testing for metabolites. Is NDEE testing soil and water for metabolites? If not, why not?
3. Have auto samplers been deployed to collect both ground and surface water samples at designated times of the day or triggered to collect during rain events?
4. The water level in the NW lagoon is rapidly declining. Are soil tests from the floor of the lagoon being taken and analyzed for pollutants?
5. Please explain how AltEn pesticides are now showing up in the aquifer?
6. An inspection report photo shows the size of one lagoon whate decreasing. What is the cause of this? Are toxic gases venting into the atmosphere?
7. Was runoff from the site during recent significant rain events sampled and tested? If so, what were those results? (According to the inspection reports, runoff escaped the plant site at CR-9)
8. Does NDEE have a complete inventory of the contents of the AltEn hoop houses? If so, where can that inventory be found? Are there bales of empty seed bags in the hoop houses?
9. Has Ndee investigated the contents of AltEn's two warehouses in Lincoln, NE? Are they empty? A lawsuit filed recently by the owner of one of the warehouses indicated the owner removed and disposed of AltEn's contents after nonpayment of rent and utilities.

What did the content consist of and how was it disposed of? There remains a large pile of treated seeds in AltEn hoopouses. What will be done with the remaining treated seeds and contaminated lagoon liners and seed bag materials stored there?

10. Why is nothing being done to mitigate the animals burrows compromising the berms around the lagoons?

11. Are wells on the Mead Cattle Company feedlot being tested for nitrates and pesticides? If so, where can those results be found? If not, why not? Will manure pits and sites where contaminated wetcake were previously stockpiled on Mead Cattle property but since removed be tested? If not, why not?

12. What types of physical inspections are being conducted to assure the integrity of the Posi-Shell covering the wet cake pile? Line of sight is not sufficient to assess the entire covering for cracking or other loss of integrity.

13. What does NDEE have planned to prevent further contamination of the aquifer? Can you please explain why NDEE has not acted to prevent further leaking from damaged lagoons when they became aware of the rapid leaking and loss of waste effluent for several months? What does NDEE have planned to prevent further leaking of effluent from the NW lagoon?

14. Does NDEE have any written agreement with the AFRG outline the AFRG's long term commitment for complete cleanup and restoration of the AltEn site?

15. Does NDEE have a plan for mitigating and restoring the Keiser Pond?

Again, Thank you in advance for answering our questions. Your time and information is sincerely appreciated.

Senator Carol Blood
Nebraska Legislature-District 3
402-471-2627