

## Macy, Jim

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**From:** Megan Hunt <mhunt@leg.ne.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2022 9:52 AM  
**To:** Macy, Jim  
**Cc:** carla.felix@nabraska.gov  
**Subject:** Re: Questions re: AltEn

Thank you for your thoughtful response, Director Macy. I truly appreciate this information.

- Meg

On Tue, Jun 14, 2022 at 6:46 PM Macy, Jim <[jim.macy@nebraska.gov](mailto:jim.macy@nebraska.gov)> wrote:

Dear Senator Hunt:

I provide the following in response to your email of May 23, 2022:

### Question 1 Response:

Risks to infants and pregnant women are already included in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s methods for development of the Human Health Benchmarks for Pesticides (HHBPs). HHBPs are levels at or below which adverse health effects are not anticipated from one-day (acute) to lifetime (chronic) exposure to pesticides in water. These are available online here: <https://ordspub.epa.gov/ords/pesticides/f?p=HHBP:home>. The attached EPA Fact Sheet describes how HHBPs for pesticides in drinking water are developed in more detail. This includes a brief description of how risks to infants and pregnant women are included in the development of the HHBPs.

### Question 2 Response

Most of the wells near the AltEn site are private water wells. The Department is not aware of any private wells that chlorinate near the AltEn site. Private wells are unregulated by the Department, thus, information available to the Department regarding these wells is limited.

Public water systems (PWS) are regulated by the Department. The Village of Mead is a PWS and has a water treatment plant that includes chlorination. The Village of Mead's wells are upgradient of the AltEn site and no pesticides, including neonicotinoids, were detected in these wells when the Department sampled them in August 2021. Since the Village of Mead's wells are upgradient of the AltEn site, it is unlikely that any pesticides in groundwater at the site would migrate to the Village's wells. The Army National Guard is also a PWS. Their wells are downgradient of the AltEn facility and they also chlorinate their water. However, no pesticides, including neonicotinoids, were detected in these wells when the Department sampled them in August 2021. Sampling results are publicly available on the department's website through the public records portal using Facility ID 84069 and/or the AltEn Update webpage. There are no other public water

systems with permanent water chlorination within five miles of the AltEn facility. The Department plans to conduct more well sampling later this month.

The Department has not evaluated the potential of neonicotinoids to form other compounds when they are chlorinated. The science surrounding this issue is complex and still emerging. The Department will monitor any developments in this area of science.

Sincerely,

**Jim Macy, CLSSEGB Director** | Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

402-471-3383 | P.O. Box 98922, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922

<http://dee.ne.gov>

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**From:** Megan Hunt <[mhunt@leg.ne.gov](mailto:mhunt@leg.ne.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2022 2:13 PM

**To:** Macy, Jim <[jim.macy@nebraska.gov](mailto:jim.macy@nebraska.gov)>

**Cc:** [carla.felix@nebraska.gov](mailto:carla.felix@nebraska.gov); Valentine, Kara <[kara.valentine@nebraska.gov](mailto:kara.valentine@nebraska.gov)>

**Subject:** Questions re: AltEn

Good Afternoon Director Macy,

I have a few questions regarding the AltEn plant and neonicotinoids (neonics). Please let me know if you would like a formal letter.

I understand that neonics (neonicotinoids) have already been found in the water table around the AltEn property and that NDEE uses the [EPA's acceptable levels](#) of neonics for human consumption for adults and not what might adversely affect infants. Given this information:

1) Have you determined the levels of neonics and other chemicals (or their combination) from pollutants from the treated seed by-products at AltEn (and the surrounding area) that you deem acceptable for consumption for infants and pregnant women? If so, what are those levels and how were they determined? If not, do you plan to determine safe levels for infants and pregnant women?

2) The NRDC reports that: “. . . some government and university experts are warning that neonics have the potential to form even more toxic compounds when they are chlorinated during routine tap water treatment.” Has NDEE determined the extent to which people living near the AltEn plant might be chlorinating water that contains neonics? If so, what are the findings? If not, are there plans to conduct such tests?

Thank you in advance for your time in assisting me with finding these answers. I look forward to your prompt reply.

Best,

Megan Hunt

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State Senator Megan Hunt

Nebraska Legislature :: 8th District

[Website](#) :: [Twitter](#) :: [Instagram](#) :: [Facebook](#)

State Capitol, PO Box 94604

(402) 471-2722

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