

NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (NOEC) INVESTIGATION REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION

NOTIFICATION NUMBER 021221-NH-0845				NDEQ ID / Program ID 84069	
INSPECTOR Mark Pomajzl					
INSPECTION DATE 2-14-2021	TIME/ARRIVAL 10:00am	TIME/DEPARTURE 10:30am	WEATHER Clear		TEMP 2F
PROBLEM LOCATION			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as NEC Problem Location		
NAME Scott Tingelhoff				PROGRAM ID # 84069	
POSITION/TITLE General Manager					
BUSINESS NAME AltEn, LLC					
ADDRESS 1344 County Road 10		CITY Mead	COUNTY Saunders	STATE NE	ZIP CODE 68041
QUARTER N1/2, SW1/4	SECTION 12	TOWNSHIP N 14		RANGE E 8	
DIRECTIONS TO SITE From Airport, Highway 92/77 (Rd M) -3E, Rd 13-0.75, W Side		LATITUDE 41.19714		LONGITUDE -96.48081	
RESPONSIBLE PARTY			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as NEC Responsible Party		
NAME Scott Tingelhoff				PROGRAM ID # 84069	
POSITION/TITLE General Manager					
BUSINESS NAME AltEn, LLC					
ADDRESS 1344 County Road 10		CITY Mead	COUNTY Saunders	STATE NE	ZIP CODE 68041
TELEPHONE NUMBER (H) 1-402-443-6262	TELEPHONE NUMBER (W)	TELEPHONE NUMBER (C)		EMAIL stingelhoff@mrgkc.com	
SITE OBSERVATIONS					
WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as NEC Observations		
COMMENTS <p>There are two 4,000,000-gallon digesters that were filled with thin stillage from the ethanol plant and manure from the adjacent feedlot to generate methane to fuel the ethanol plant boilers. The thin stillage and manure are about three years old. Cold temperatures froze a pipe and an unknown quantity of thin stillage and manure spilled to the adjacent road ditch. The thin stillage may contain pesticides from the treated seed corn stock.</p>					
WHERE AT THE SITE IS THE PROBLEM?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as NEC Observations		
COMMENTS <p>Four-million-gallon digester at SE corner of property. Mr. Tingelhoff called NSP about 0300 Friday morning at (402) 471-4545. (old spill reporting number) but no option to report spill. Called back to NRC and was given NDEE 800 # and NEMA # by NRC; but neither answered. Mr. Tingelhoff got NDEE answer machine but did not wait for after-hours #.</p>					
OTHER PERTINENT DETAILS: Mr. Tingelhoff called NSP about 0300 Friday morning at (402) 471-4545. (old spill reporting number) but no option to report spill. Called back to NRC and was given NDEE 800 # and NEMA # by NRC; but neither answered. Mr. Tingelhoff got NDEE answer machine but did not wait for after-hours #.					



Today Sunday February 14, 2021 I was instructed to visit the AltEn facility. The visit was to observe and document the spill. I arrived on or about 10:00am. I went to the main office building and attempted to find a representative. There was no one in the office so I proceeded to the investigate the digester.

Upon arrival, I noted that the area east of the digester was significantly lower than before. I briefly spoke to Mr. Peterson who was about to leave. I stated I was just there to document the digester. Mr. Peterson granted me access and then went to buy supplies. I was able to walk to the broken pipe, photo 1. There was no one onsite to confirm, but it appears the digester is empty. The facility has not installed storm water controls or spill response measures to mitigate the spill. I then walked around the digester and noted the north digester had developed a large icicle, photo 2. The icicle covers the valve and piping system. I did email Mr. Tingelhoff of the icicle for information purposes. AltEn installed caution tape below the icicle. Mr. Egr stated Saturday that the north digester pipes are now protected by heat lamp, heat tape and foam insulation.

I then investigated the southeast culvert/outfall 001, photo 3. There was no one onsite so I inspected the structure. I observed that water continues to flow through the makeshift dam, photo 4. I did not inspect the spill on University of Nebraska – Lincoln UNL property.

Attached:

- **Photos**

Name: Mark Pomajzl

Date: 2-19-21

ATTACHMENT I Photographs



Photo 1

NOEC Inspection Report

Date Taken: 2-14-2021

Photographer: Mark Pomajzl

Facility Name/ Project Name: AltEn

Facility IIS number / Project identifier: IIS: 84069

Location: South digester

Direction Facing: North

Description: The photo depicts workers making repairs. The facility is pumping wastewater into the emergency lagoon.



Photo 2

NOEC Inspection Report

Date Taken: 2-14-2021

Photographer: Mark Pomajzl

Facility Name/ Project Name: AltEn

Facility IIS number / Project identifier: IIS: 84069

Location: North digester

Direction Facing: Northwest

Description: The photo depicts a leak forming a large icicle on the north digester. AltEn is aware that it is there.



Photo 3

NOEC Inspection Report

Date Taken: 2-14-2021

Photographer: Mark Pomajzl

Facility Name/ Project Name: AltEn

Facility IIS number / Project identifier: IIS: 84069

Location: Southeast culvert

Direction Facing: West

Description: The photo depicts the makeshift dam. The dam is larger than observed on Saturday.



Photo 4

NOEC Inspection Report

Date Taken: 2-14-2021

Photographer: Mark Pomajzl

Facility Name/ Project Name: AltEn

Facility IIS number / Project identifier: IIS: 84069

Location: Southeast culvert

Direction Facing: East

Description: The photo depicts flow exiting the east side of the culvert.

Pomajzl, Mark

From: Pomajzl, Mark
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Scott Tingelhoff; Mary Tingelhoff; Ken Peterson
Subject: water leak on the north digester
Attachments: RIMG0083.JPG

Dear Mr. Tingelhoff,

I was onsite Saturday and today (Sunday). Both days I noticed a small but consistent water leak from the north digester. I know you and your team are aware of the icicle it has formed since it is blocked off with tape, see photo. The question is, could this cause valve or piping failure? I was just concerned of the way it looked this morning and wanted to give you a heads up. It would be a good idea to investigate that leak especially during this extreme cold temperatures.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you

Mark

