

# NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Resources.

## DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

May 7, 2021

Stan and Evelyn Keiser  
887 County Road 5  
Ashland, NE 68003

RE: NDEE Correspondence to AltEn, LLC  
Facility ID: 84069  
Program ID: NE0137634  
Subject: March 26 Pond Pesticide Sampling Results

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Keiser:

This letter is an update to our April 27, 2021 letter to you that transmitted the sampling results for the March 26, 2021 surface water sampling conducted by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) from the pond on your property, related to the environmental investigation at the AltEn, LLC facility.

Subsequent to the receipt of NDEE's April 27 letter, you had a phone conversation on May 6, 2021 with Mr. Tom Buell, NDEE Administrator for the Monitoring & Remediation Division, requesting a copy of any NDEE correspondence to AltEn, LLC regarding the pond sampling results and related actions required of AltEn, LLC by NDEE. Attached to this letter, please find a copy of NDEE's letter to AltEn, LLC dated May 6, 2021. Please note that as you already received the laboratory report sheets in NDEE's April 27 letter, these same sheets as attached to NDEE's letter to AltEn, LLC, are not included here.

This letter to AltEn, LLC requires them to include the Keiser pond area in future release investigation, monitoring, and remedial assessment activities. NDEE hopes you will allow access to the pond area as such work is being planned and conducted.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (402) 471-2223 or [jim.borovich@nebraska.gov](mailto:jim.borovich@nebraska.gov). Thank you again for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Jim Borovich, Groundwater Geologist  
Superfund/VCP Section  
Monitoring and Remediation Division

Enclosure



Pete Ricketts, Governor



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Pete Ricketts, Governor

May 6, 2021

Mr. Scott Tingelhoff  
General Manager, AltEn, LLC  
Capitol Corporate Services Inc.  
Suite 800  
1125 S. 103<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68124

RE: Keiser Pond Pesticide Sampling & Environmental Investigation  
Facility ID: 84069  
Program ID: NE0137634  
Subject: AltEn, LLC Environmental Investigation & Surface Water Sampling Results

Dear Mr. Tingelhoff:

This letter is an update to our letter of April 14, 2021 concerning the requirements for conducting an environmental site investigation related to the releases from the AltEn LLC property near Mead, Nebraska cited in that April 14 letter. Subsequent to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy's (NDEE) letter of April 14, sampling results for surface water sampling conducted by NDEE on March 26, 2021 from a pond on property owned by Evelyn and Stan Keiser, 887 County Road 5, Ashland, Nebraska have been received and reviewed. Based on these results, additional assessment work is being required.

Enclosed are the laboratory results for the surface water sample "21PE002251" collected from the pond on the Keiser property on March 26, 2021. The first column of the laboratory report identifies each chemical that was analyzed. The third column provides the numeric results of the chemical in units of Parts Per Billion (ppb) which is also equivalent to micrograms per liter, or  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . The J-coded results show estimated values for chemicals detected below the limit of quantitation (LOQ) of 5 ppb. A result followed by a result of "ND" indicates that the chemical was not detected.

Below is a comprehensive table showing all the sample results collected from the Keiser pond in comparison to benchmarks that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) indicates may be of concern for fish or invertebrates. The March 26, 2021 sampling results indicate that Thiabendazole was detected at 50.1 ppb exceeding the EPA Invertebrate Chronic benchmark; Clothianidin was detected at 50.3 ppb exceeding the EPA Invertebrate Acute and Chronic benchmarks; and Thiamethoxam exceeded the EPA Invertebrate Acute and Chronic benchmarks at 60.6 ppb. The remaining pesticides were either not detected or below the EPA benchmarks.

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Chemical	3-26-2021 Results (ppb or µg/L) 21PE002251	3-02-21 Results (ppb or µg/L) 21PE001504	Fish Acute (µg/L)	Fish Chronic (µg/L)	Invertebrate Acute (µg/L)	Invertebrate Chronic (µg/L)
Desthio-Prothioconazole	J 3.78	J 1.38	--	--	--	--
Tebuconazole	7.62	J 4.43	1,135	11	1,440	120
Thiabendazole	<b>50.1</b>	16.9	280	110	155	42
Clothianidin	<b>50.3</b>	ND	50,750	9,700	11	0.05
Fluoxastrobin	6.50	ND	--	--	--	--
Thiamethoxam	<b>60.6</b>	ND	57,000	20,000	17.5	0.74

**Bold** indicates data exceeds acceptable EPA benchmarks

"J" indicates data detected below LOQ of 5 ppb

"--" indicates that a benchmark is not available for this chemical

The results also exceeded Title 117 – Nebraska Surface Water Quality Standards for Dissolved Oxygen, Total Phosphate as P and Ammonia as N as indicated in the table below.

Parameter	3-26-2021 Results (mg/L)	2-22-2021 Results (mg/L)	Surface Water Quality Standard
Dissolved Oxygen	<b>0.4</b>	38.2#	Not less than 3.0*
pH	6.7	8.3	Between 6.5-9.0
Conductivity (umhos/cm)	483	1,011	Not more than 2000
Nitrate + Nitrite (as N)	<RL	1.06	--
Total Suspended Solids	30.0	26	--
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	23.4	4.52	--
Total Phosphate as P	<b>7.12</b>	<b>0.735</b>	0.050
Ammonia as N	<b>13.4</b>	0.126	46.33/4.45**
Chloride	17.9	68.8	860/230***
Temperature	8.4°C	NA	--
Dissolved Oxygen (saturation)	2.6 %	NA	--
Turbidity (NTU's)	36.1	NA	--
Sodium, Dissolved	13.8	NA	--

**Bold** indicates data exceeds Surface Water Quality Standards

\* - One-day minimum criterion that applies October 1 through March 31

\*\* - Ammonia concentration exceeded the thirty-day average criteria for Title 117-Surface Water Standards, Chapter 4, Section 003, Warmwater Aquatic Life Use Class Specific Criteria, Specifically Section 003.04A2 (thirty-day average). Ammonia concentration does not exceed the one-hour average for Title 117-Surface Water Standards, Chapter 4, Section 003, Warmwater Aquatic Life Use Class Specific Criteria, Specifically Section 003.04A1, Total Ammonia (one-hour average). Since this was a single sample, there is no one hour average so the results are for comparison to Surface Water Standards.

\*\*\* - Not to exceed 860 mg/L at any time or a 4-day average concentration of 230 mg/L

# - pond was exhibiting super-saturated conditions of 283% likely due to heavy algal growth/photosynthesis occurring under ice.

"--" indicates that a standard is not available for this chemical

"NA" - Not analyzed

"<RL" - less than Reporting Limit. The lowest amount of analyte that can be accurately reported by the method used.

*Dissolved Oxygen, pH and Conductivity* - field measurements taken during sampling

Based on these results, NDEE is including the area of the Keiser pond under the requirements of the environmental investigation steps discussed for the surface water and sediment sampling plan in NDEE's letter of April 14, 2021. This is to include additional monitoring of contaminant levels in pond water over time, sediment sampling, and an assessment of potential remedial actions for these contaminated media. The submittal date for a singular, comprehensive work plan for all the activities outlined in NDEE's referenced April 14 letter, and now including the Keiser property, remains **June 7, 2021**.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Borovich at (402)471-2223 or [jim.borovich@nebraska.gov](mailto:jim.borovich@nebraska.gov) or Hillary Stoll at (402)471-4252 or [hillary.stoll@nebraska.gov](mailto:hillary.stoll@nebraska.gov). Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Buell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tom Buell

Monitoring and Remediation Division Administrator

Enclosure