

To: File

Through: Jeff Edwards, Compliance Supervisor, Waste Compliance Section *JE*

From: Jason Holsten, Program Specialist II, Waste Compliance Section *JH*

Date: September 14, 2020

RE: Site Visit
AltEn, LLC
1344 County Road 10
Mead, NE 68041

NDEE ID: 84069

Mark Pomajzl, Hillary Stoll and I conducted a site visit at AltEn, LLC (AltEn) on September 11, 2020. We arrived on site at 0900 and met Scott Tingelhoff who escorted us around the property. The purpose of my visit was to observe locations where distiller's grain (DG) was being stockpiled and to also observe the compost pads as well as make other site observations relating to solid waste management. Mr. Pomajzl and Ms. Stoll were going to observe the wastewater lagoons and Mr. Pomajzl was going to conduct a stormwater inspection. Their report(s) are separate from my report. Photographs documenting my observations are attached (Attachment I).

I confirmed that DG was being stockpiled in the following areas: north and east of the hoop buildings, northeast corner of the property, and west of the compost pads. In addition, DG was observed to be on all three compost pads. DG was observed to be stockpiled approximately between alleys G13 to G34 of the adjacent cattle pins. A map from the facility's permit application showing the compost pad layout in relation to the adjacent cattle pins is attached for reference (Attachment II). Based upon the color of the DG, it appeared newer material was placed between G20 and G34. Mr. Tingelhoff said DG was mistakenly taken to the compost pads. His staff was going to remove the DG this week but due to the wet weather that hadn't happened yet. Concerning the DG on the pads, he said they were waiting for approval for land application of this material. Some of the other DG on the pads was mixed with rocks and would be disposed at a landfill.

Mr. Tingelhoff said DG disposed at the Butler County landfill has been primarily taken from the area around the hoop buildings and west of the compost pads. While there is still a lot of DG being stockpiled at the facility, I believe it does appear that some has been removed from west of the compost pads and the area around the hoop buildings. The stockpile located at the northeast corner of AltEn property appeared to be about the same size as the last time I visited the site in May 2020.



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In all areas, I observed DG to be in either piles and/or windrows of varying size. Mr. Tingelhoff explained that they crown the windrows to help with runoff. He said in the past, rainwater would pond on top of the DG stockpiles which he believed contributed to the odor problems. He said a compost turner is used now to help dry out the DG and Odor X is applied to help limit odors. He also said the facility is not composting any of the DG. I estimated many of the windrows to be between 10-15 feet high.

I observed that the super sacks of starch that had previously been stored west of the office building have been removed. Mr. Tingelhoff said all sacks had been disposed at the landfill and he said it was probably the Butler County landfill. He said this occurred since COVID and was probably in June or July. He said starch was still used in the ethanol process and came in 50-lb bags or cubic yard sacks. This starch is stored in the hoop buildings.

Mr. Tingelhoff said the biochar unit had operated for a couple of weeks after they completed their testing but it is currently not operating. They have to replace a blower and are waiting for the part. He said they have sent out multiple loads of biochar and estimated there is 250-300 super sacks currently on site. He did not know who took the biochar or where it went. He said Greencycle manages the biochar operation and he'd have to find me a contact if I had any further questions. He could ask Tanner Shaw for this information.

We discussed whether or not the biochar had been sampled to test for residual pesticides, similar to the DG. I am unaware of any testing being done on the biochar although Mr. Tingelhoff believes it has been tested and according to Mr. Shaw, contains no pesticides. I asked Mr. Tingelhoff to get a copy of the analytical results and share those with the Department.

Other site observations: prior to arriving at the facility I drove down County Road 10 which runs parallel with the stockpiled DG located at the northwest corner of AltEn property, north of the hoop buildings. There was a very strong pungent odor in the area. Weather conditions for the day were fog/mist/rain and east southeast wind 5-10 mph. Temperature was 55°F. Weather conditions were obtained from the 3-day history of the National Weather Service website after I returned to the office and were for the Wahoo, NE area.

The ethanol plant was not running during my visit. Mr. Tingelhoff said repairs were being made to the beer well.

Mr. Tingelhoff inquired about what needs to be done to get rid of the facility's composting permit. He also asked about how to get the bond back. I referred him to the Permitting Section and Keith Powell for his question regarding the bond. I said I believed he would need to provide written notification requesting removal of the permit and that an inspection would need to be conducted which would require the compost pads be empty.

ATTACHMENT I

Photographs



Photograph 1
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

From the office building, looking north northwest, photograph showing distiller's grain (DG) being stored east and north of the white hoop buildings.



Photograph 2
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

From the same vantage point as photograph 1, looking north, photograph showing DG being stored north of the office building.



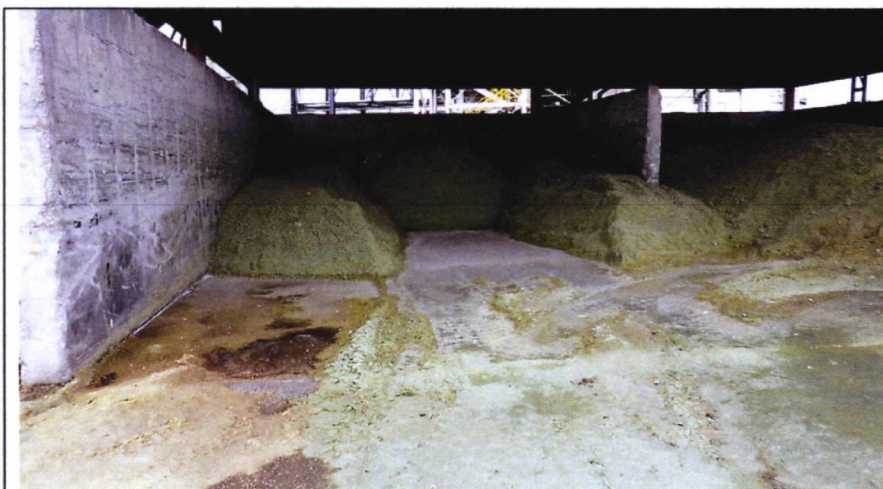
Photograph 3
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking northeast, photograph showing an excavator and some dirt work being done. Mr. Tingelhoff said the dirt was going to be used for a project.



Photograph 4
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking southwest from the parking lot located west of the office building. Photograph taken to show that the super sacks of starch previously stored in this area have been removed. According to Mr. Tingelhoff, the sacks were disposed at Butler County landfill.



Photograph 5
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking east, photograph showing DG in the load out area of the "wet cake barn." This is where DG drops from a conveyor at the end of the ethanol process.



Photograph 6
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking south, photograph showing super sacks of biochar located west of the biochar unit.



Photograph 7
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking southeast, photograph showing the biochar unit as well as super sacks of biochar located east of the unit.



Photograph 8
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking southeast, photograph showing a closer view of the super sacks of biochar mentioned in photograph 7.



Photograph 9
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking southeast, photograph showing additional super sacks of biochar located on the east end of the biochar unit.



Photograph 10
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Photograph showing a closer view of some of the super sacks of biochar mentioned in photograph 9 that have spilled their contents.



Photograph 11
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking west, photograph showing super sacks of biochar located west of the biochar unit.



Photograph 12
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Photograph showing some super sacks of biochar located on the west side of the biochar unit that have spilled their contents.



Photograph 13
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking west southwest, photograph showing numerous poly totes that have had their tops cut off. Located inside the totes was biochar and vegetation was growing in many of the totes.



Photograph 14
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Photograph showing a closer view of one of the poly totes mentioned in photograph 13.



Photograph 15
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking east southeast, photograph showing three super sacks staged to collect biochar from the biochar unit.



Photograph 16
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Photograph showing a piece of equipment used to turn windrows of DG.



Photograph 17
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking south, photograph showing DG stockpiled east of compost pad 1.



Photograph 18
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking southwest, photograph showing rows of DG stockpiled on compost pad 1.



Photograph 19
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking west, photograph showing DG stockpiled on compost pads 1 and 2.



Photograph 20
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking south, photograph showing rows of DG stockpiled on compost pad 1.



Photograph 21
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking south, photograph showing the size difference of some rows of DG observed on compost pads 1 and 2.



Photograph 22
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking south southwest, photograph showing DG stockpiled on compost pads 2 and 3.



Photograph 23
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking west southwest, photograph showing DG stockpiled on compost pads 2 and 3.



Photograph 24
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Photograph showing rows of DG stockpiled on compost pad 3.



Photograph 25
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking west, photograph showing DG stockpiled on compost pad 3 and in an area west of pad 3.



Photograph 26
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking south, photograph showing DG stockpiled in an area west of compost pad 3.



Photograph 27
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking southeast, from near the western edge of where compost was being stockpiled. This area was near alley "G13" of the adjacent cattle pens.



Photograph 28
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking west southwest, photograph showing DG being stockpiled in an area located on the northeast corner of AltEn property. Also observed was what appeared to be a pile of fly ash located next to a front end loader. Mr. Tingelhoff was unsure what the material was and didn't know whose property it was on. It could belong to Mead Cattle or the surrounding agriculture property owner.



Photograph 29
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Photograph showing the size of the presumably fly ash pile in relation to the front end loader.



Photograph 30
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Photograph showing a closer view of the presumably fly ash pile.



Photograph 31
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking southeast, photograph showing the DG being stockpiled at the northeast corner of AltEn property.



Photograph 32
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking primarily south, photograph showing the eastern edge of the DG being stockpiled at the northeast corner of AltEn property.



Photograph 33
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking southeast, photograph showing the DG being stockpiled at the northeast corner of AltEn property.



Photograph 34
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking south, photograph showing rows of DG being stockpiled at the northeast corner of AltEn property.



Photograph 35
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking east, photograph showing the northern edge of the DG being stockpiled at the northwest corner of AltEn property. This location is adjacent to and east of County Road 10.



Photograph 36
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

From the same vantage point as photograph 35, looking south, photograph showing the western edge of the DG being stockpiled at the northwest corner of AltEn property, north of the hoop buildings and parallel with County Road 10.



Photograph 37
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking east, photograph showing the rows of DG stockpiled in the northwest corner of AltEn property.



Photograph 38
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking east along the north side of the northern most hoop building. Photograph showing DG being stockpiled north of the hoop buildings.



Photograph 39
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

From the same vantage point as photograph 38, looking north, photograph showing rows of DG being stockpiled at the northwest corner of AltEn property.



Photograph 40
Date: September 11, 2020
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Ricoh WG-50
IIS# 84069, IWM Permit # NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Site Visit

Looking northeast, from the same vantage point as photographs 38 and 39, photograph showing DG being stockpiled at the northwest corner of AltEn property.

ATTACHMENT II

Compost Pad Layout

Compost Map (not to scale)

The yellow numbers are the numbers on the barn.

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