

To: File

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

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

Date: July 25, 2017

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

NDEQ ID: 84069 (IWM)

Program ID: NE0204447

On July 24, 2017, Morgan Leibrandt, Dave Johnson, Jeff Edwards and I conducted a site visit at AltEn, LLC. The purpose of this visit was for Messrs. Leibrandt and Edwards to observe the site and to review with facility personnel their response letter received by the department on June 8, 2017.

We arrived on site at approximately 10:35 a.m. and proceeded to the office building. There we met Mary Tinglehoff, explained the reason for our visit, and asked to talk with Mr. Jim Stewart. Ms. Tinglehoff said he was out of town and that we would need to talk to Craig Gubbels. She contacted Mr. Gubbels by telephone and escorted us to a conference room where we waited for Mr. Gubbels to arrive. After Mr. Gubbels arrived, introductions were made and we explained the reason for our visit.

Mr. Gubbels explained that the facility has been working with Nutrient Advisers out of West Point, NE on securing fields for land applying the compost currently being stored in the secondary storage area. He discussed the reason for not being able to land apply the compost during the past spring and said the facility hopes that most of the compost can be land applied this upcoming fall. He said given the nutrient value of the compost, primarily for nitrogen, approximately 10-20 tons of compost per acre could be applied. Land application timelines vary depending on the crop and other conditions but typically occur between October and December and possibly into January. NDEQ staff reiterated the department's request for land applying all compost currently being stored in the secondary storage area and said that the facility may be required to provide a timeline to the department indicating when the secondary storage area will be cleared of compost.

Mr. Gubbels was asked if the facility was continuing to take material to the secondary storage area. He said wet cake was but not compost. In fact, the facility had not generated any compost material and the compost pads were empty. He explained that the facility has received almost all of the equipment for the Bio Char system and hoped to soon begin construction. Once



constructed, the Bio Char process will burn all of the wet cake (wet distiller's grain). Mr. Gubbels provided a brief overview of the Bio Char process and explained the possible uses of the finished product (after burning) which is like charcoal. This material would be collected in super sacks and sold.

We asked Mr. Gubbels about surface water runoff from the secondary storage area. Mr. Stewart mentioned that the facility had constructed dikes around the storage area to control runoff in his response letter to the department. Mr. Gubbels said this wasn't his area of expertise but he remembered seeing the dikes being constructed when the facility began using the secondary storage area. We attempted to view the dikes while driving around the property but were unable to ascertain their exact locations. We departed the site at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Photograph 1

Date: July 24, 2017

Photographer: Jason Holsten

Camera: Nikon Coolpix L810

IIS#: 84069

IWM Permit #: NE0204447

Subject: AltEn, LLC Compost Facility

Looking north, north east, compost material is on the right side of the photograph.



Photograph 2

Date: July 24, 2017

Photographer: Jason Holsten

Camera: Nikon Coolpix L810

IIS#: 84069

IWM Permit #: NE0204447

Subject: AltEn, LLC Compost Facility

Looking east, south east, photograph showing the amount of compost material located at the secondary storage area.



Photograph 3
Date: July 24, 2017
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Nikon Coolpix L810
IIS#: 84069
IWM Permit #: NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Compost Facility

Looking north east, photograph showing piles of wet distiller's grain. This material was separate from and located north of the compost material mentioned in the previous photographs.



Photograph 4
Date: July 24, 2017
Photographer: Jason Holsten
Camera: Nikon Coolpix L810
IIS#: 84069
IWM Permit #: NE0204447
Subject: AltEn, LLC Compost Facility

Looking west, photograph showing the empty compost pads. All three pads were empty at the time of the site visit. Mr. Gubbels explained that the weeds would be sprayed in the near future, if they haven't already.

