Alten Facility Release, Mead, NE

On 2/12-13/21, Approximately 4 million gallons of stillage liquids and manure was released from a frozen valve on a digester tank. The contents of the tank are suspected to contain pesticide residue. Attempts by the facility to stop the flow at the source (tank) were unsuccessful. The facility placed two dams along the flow path to stop the material, recover with a vac truck/pumps and place the recovered material in retention ponds at the facility. USEPA FOSC Ferguson and NDEE SOSC Morrow arrived on site 2/13/21 to assess the work of the responsible party's containment and recovery progress. Material consistent with the nature of the release was observed flowing beyond the recovery points set up by the facility. USEPA FOSC Ferguson has requested the facility personnel contain and cleanup the release as soon as possible. Extreme low temperatures and frozen ground at the site are exasperating response efforts. Observations were made of the extent of the release and samples of released material were collected. USEPA FOSC Ferguson will return with the START contractor on 2/14/21 to oversee the facility's containment and collection efforts and continue to assess the extent of the release.

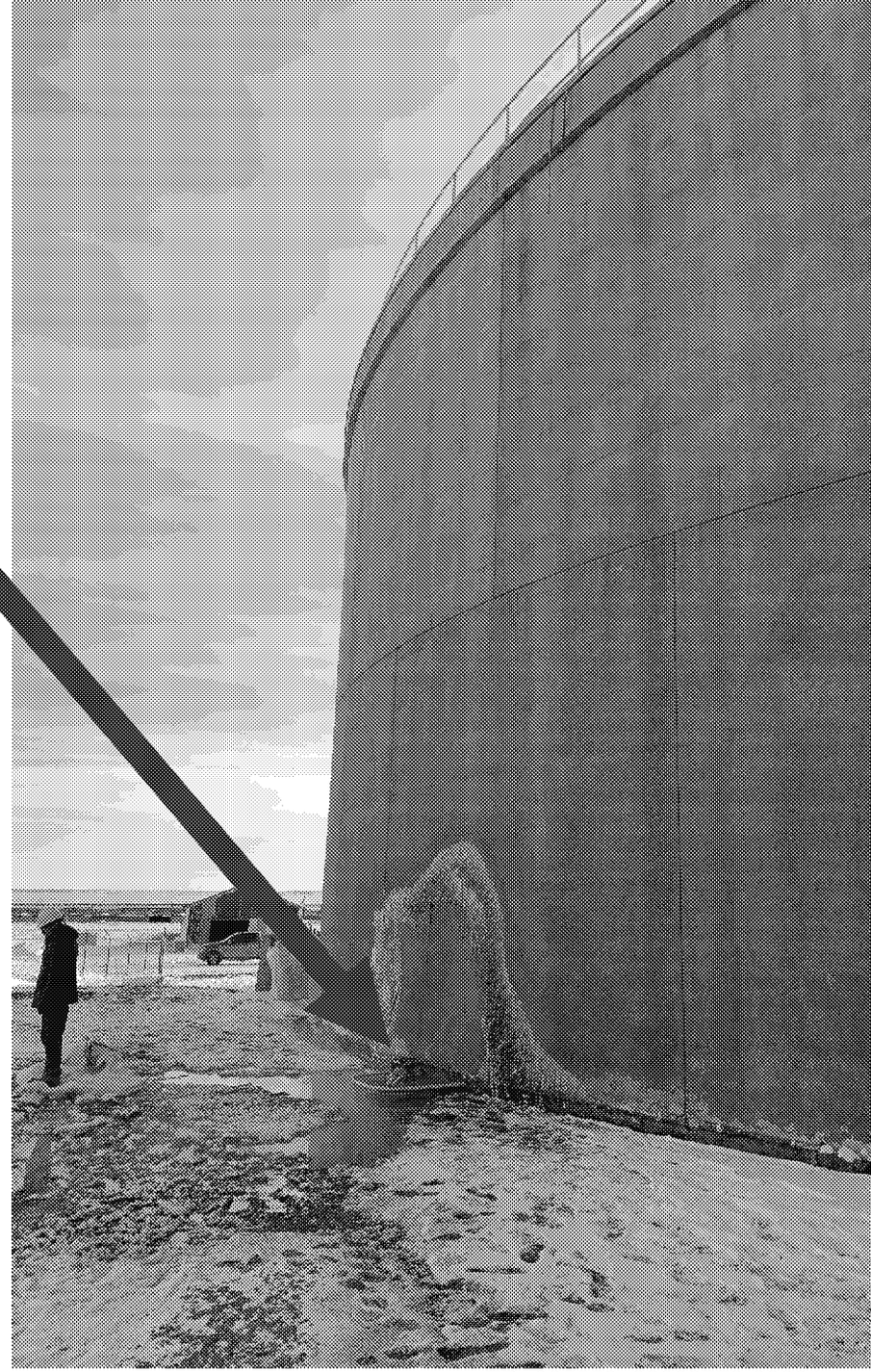
AltEn Facility, 1344 County Road 10, Mead, NE
ounty Rd 10
First sample location and attempted dam
Leaking Tank and Second Sample Location
©2021 Google
Google Earth
1985
Imagery Date: 6/4/2018 41°11'40.78" N 96°28'34.19" W elev 1184 ft eye alt 4395 ft

1344 County Rd 10
Leaking Tank
Flow Direction
from facility
10
9
N
© 2021 Google
Google Earth
1985
Imagery Date: 6/4/2018 41°11'38.84" N 96°28'27.41" W elev 1183 ft eye alt 7357 ft

Arrow pointing to the sub-surface broken valve on the digester tank.

Pressure of the released material estimated to be 600 psi for the approximately 4M gallons released from the tank.

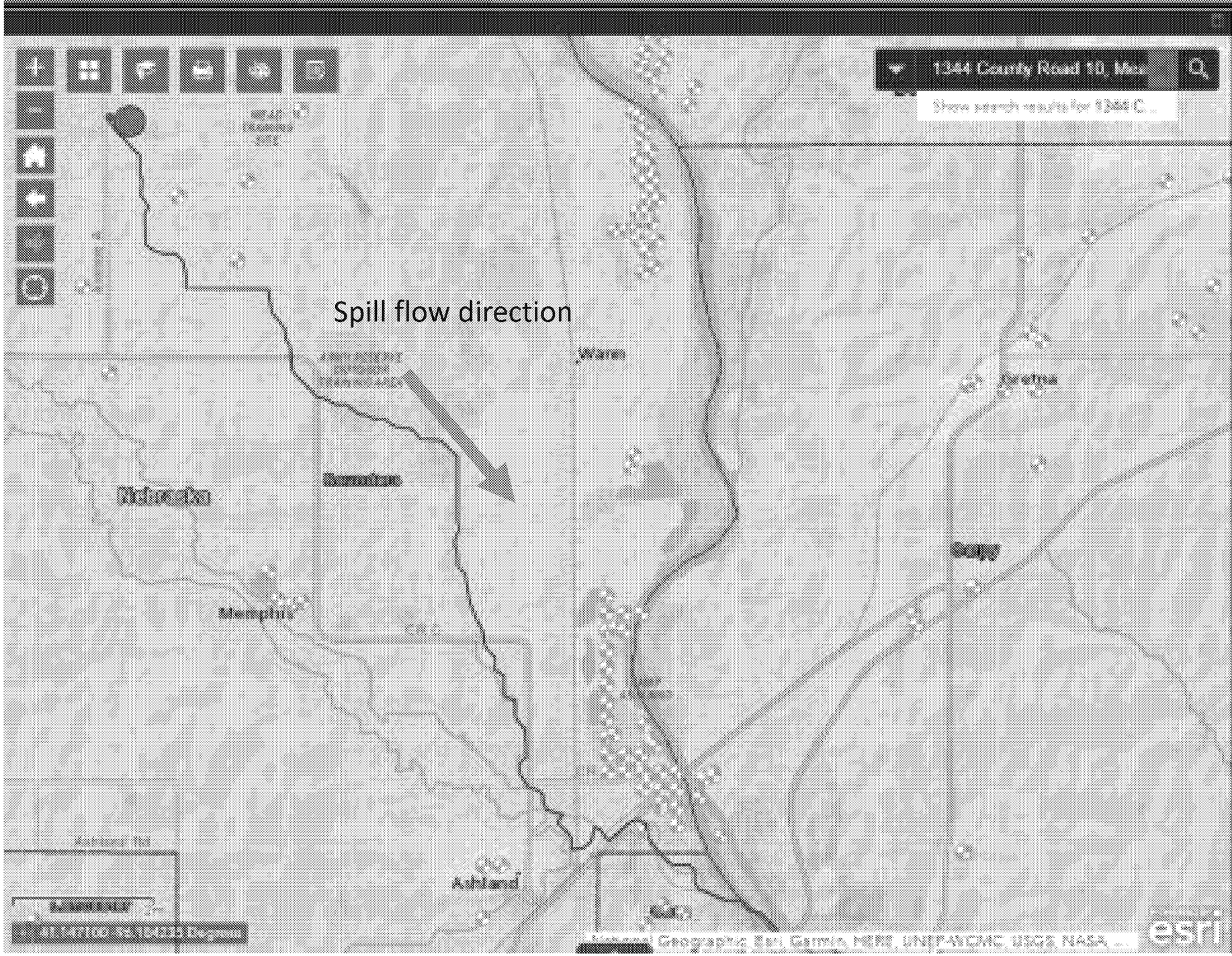
Crews placed insulation and a heating device on the valve at the other digester tank to reduce the likelihood of a similar failure.

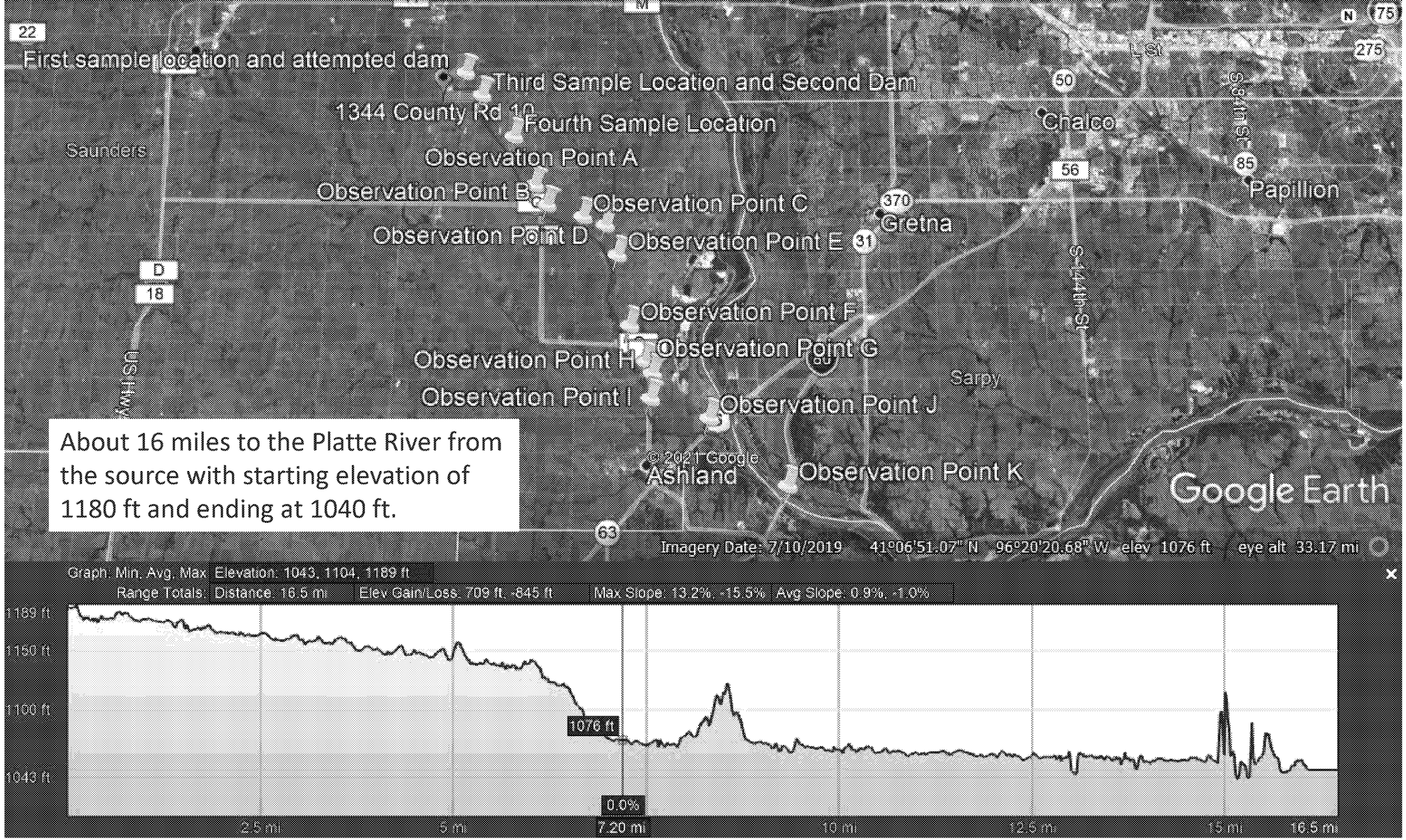


Material flow path from the tank

Sampling Locations and Retention Structures from 2/14/21

Down stream trace of facility to the Platte River




First sampler location and attempted dam
Third Sample Location and Second Dam
1344 County Rd 10
Fourth Sample Location
Observation Point A
Observation Point B
Observation Point C
Observation Point D
Observation Point E
Observation Point F
Observation Point G
Observation Point H
Observation Point I
Observation Point J
Observation Point K
Saunders
Chalco
Gretna
Papillion
Sarpy
Ashland
About 16 miles to the Platte River from the source with starting elevation of 1180 ft and ending at 1040 ft.
© 2021 Google
Google Earth
Imagery Date: 7/10/2019 41°06'51.07" N 96°20'20.68" W elev 1076 ft eye alt 33.17 mi
Graph: Min, Avg, Max Elevation: 1043, 1104, 1189 ft
Range Totals: Distance: 16.5 mi Elev Gain/Loss: 709 ft, -845 ft Max Slope: 13.2%, -15.5% Avg Slope: 0.9%, -1.0%
1189 ft
1150 ft
1100 ft
1043 ft
1076 ft
0.0%
2.5 mi
5 mi
7.20 mi
10 mi
12.5 mi
15 mi
16.5 mi

Planned Activities for 2/14/2021

- Oversee the facility's containment and recovery activities
- Travel to observation points accessible by road and assess the extent of the release
- Obtain samples from the receiving stream where possible at the observation points
- Deliver samples to the laboratory on Monday 2/15/2021