Message

From: Green, Jamie [Green.Jamie@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/16/2021 7:27:55 PM
To: Weekley, Erin [weekley.erin@epa.gov]; Bednar, Candace [Bednar.Candace@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: AWARENESS: AltEn Ethanol Plant Release Inquiries

fyi

From: Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 1:27 PM
To: Cozad, David <Cozad.David@epa.gov>; Hayes, Scott <Hayes.Scott@epa.gov>; Singletary, DeAndre <Singletary.DeAndre@epa.gov>
Cc: Bryan, David <Bryan.David@epa.gov>; Washburn, Ben <washburn.ben@epa.gov>; O'Connor, Daniel <oconnor.daniel@epa.gov>; Buchholz, Ken <Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov>; Green, Jamie <Green.Jamie@epa.gov>
Subject: AWARENESS: AltEn Ethanol Plant Release Inquiries

Closing the Loop with the three Divisions:

1. Jamie Green received an email from a UNL professor (see immediately below) who wants to share details about the release and their other concerns regarding the plant. Jamie has connected with Danny.
2. OPA is also responding to a media inquiry regarding the AltEn ethanol plant release this weekend. (ECAD and SEMD concurred with response – see second item below)

1. ----------

UNL PROFESSOR EMAIL

From: Judy Wu-Smart <jwu-smart@unl.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:24 AM
To: Steeger, Thomas <Steeger.Thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Green, Jamie <Green.Jamie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Residue Data

Thank you, Tom.

Hi Jamie,

I called and left a message. We have concerns regarding a recent spill incident at AltEn that occurred this past Friday, just a few days after being ordered to shut down and remove their overflowing discharge waste.

I'd like **to share what I know regarding the spill and the lack of an accident response and I have several other questions about the water samples we took on site**.

Please give me a call when available. Here's my cell 925-305-7588.

Thanks,

Judy Wu-Smart

2. ----------

MEDIA INQUIRY

From: Carey, Curtis
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 12:21 PM
To: Chu, Ed <Chu.Ed@epa.gov>; Tapp, Joshua <Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov>
Cc: Cozad, David <Cozad.David@epa.gov>; Hayes, Scott <Hayes.Scott@epa.gov>; Bryan, David <Bryan.David@epa.gov>; Ben Washburn <Washburn.Ben@epa.gov>
Subject: AWARENESS: Media Inquiry - EPA R7 response to Meade, NE, AltEn Ethanol Plant Release Assessment

For your Awareness:

Region 7 received a media inquiry regarding this weekend's AltEn Ethanol Plant Release.

MEDIA OUTLET: Wahoo Newspaper; Saunders County, NE

REPORTER: Elsie Stormberg

INQUIRY: A source informed me that the EPA's ERT team was on site over the weekend in light of the frozen pipe that burst on Feb. 12. I wanted to confirm this fact. Is this true?

EPA REGION 7 RESPONSE: "The Nebraska Department of Energy and Environment (NDEE) requested EPA Region 7 provide support for a release at the AltEn plant in Mead, Nebraska. EPA Region 7 in Lenexa, Kansas, sent emergency responders to Mead, NE, to work with NDEE and plant officials on the response. For additional questions and details about the event, please contact NDEE."

NEWS COVERAGE:

KETV Ch. 7 Omaha NE - University of Nebraska working to contain spill from shutdown ethanol plant in Mead – 2/13/21 - Nebraska's Department of Environment and Energy says it is actively monitoring a discharge from the AltEn ethanol plant in Mead. Researchers with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center discovered the spill Friday, which was reported to be about 3 miles from the plant. http://bit.ly/3u6iZMw

Omaha (NE) World-Herald - Frozen pipe burst causes wastewater leak at ethanol plant near Mead – 2/13/21 - State environmental officials on Friday were monitoring an early morning wastewater discharge from an ethanol plant near Mead that had been ordered to close a week ago because of concerns about pollution of air, water and land. http://bit.ly/3anZnvu

AP - Wastewater spills at ethanol plant blamed on pipe bursts – 2/13/21 - A frozen pipe has burst at a Nebraska ethanol plant that had been ordered to close a week ago, causing a wastewater spill, environmental officials say. http://bit.ly/37jokXh

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From: Cozad, David <Cozad.David@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 12:06 PM
To: Hayes, Scott <Hayes.Scott@epa.gov>
Cc: Bryan, David <Bryan.David@epa.gov>; Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>; Washburn, Ben <washburn.ben@epa.gov>; O'Connor, Daniel <oconnor.daniel@epa.gov>; Buchholz, Ken <Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: AltEn - Mead, Nebraska

Agree, good statement

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 16, 2021, at 12:04 PM, Hayes, Scott <Hayes.Scott@epa.gov> wrote:

That highlighted statement would be accurate.

Copying Dave too.

If they need to talk to anyone about our work this weekend, I would suggest Danny O'Connor or Doug Ferguson.

From: Bryan, David <Bryan.David@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 11:51 AM
To: Hayes, Scott <Hayes.Scott@epa.gov>; Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>; Washburn, Ben <washburn.ben@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: AltEn - Mead, Nebraska

We have received an inquiry from the Wahoo (NE) Newspaper (proper name) regarding our response to the AltEn release. I would suggest the following, after we coordinate with NDEE Public Affairs –

NDEE requested EPA support for a release at the AltEn plant in Mead, Nebraska. EPA Region 7 in Lenexa, Kansas, sent emergency responders to Mead to work closely with NDEE and plant officials.

From: Schaefer, Joe <Schaefer.Joe@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 11:44 AM
To: Bryan, David <Bryan.David@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: AltEn - Mead, Nebraska

Hi David,

I think this is for you guys.

From: Elsie Stormberg <elsie.stormberg@wahoonewspaper.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 12:22 PM
To: Schaefer, Joe <Schaefer.Joe@epa.gov>
Subject: AltEn - Mead, Nebraska

Hi there,

My name is Elsie Stormberg and I am a reporter from the Wahoo Newspaper in southeastern Nebraska. The AltEn ethanol plant falls within our papers coverage area and we have been working to cover the situation. A source informed me that the EPA's ERT team was on site over the weekend in light of the frozen pipe that burst on Feb. 12. I wanted to confirm this fact. Is this true?

Since you are in charge of information, I figured you may be able to help me. If not, would you be able to direct me to someone who could? I appreciate your help and look forward to your response.

Thanks so much,
Elsie Stormberg