Message

From: Sloop, John [Sloop.John@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/7/2022 6:48:28 PM
To: Brennan, Amanda [brennan.amanda@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: AltEn pesticide data

Yeah, it's a lot of work trying to make sense of everything. I mean, I do appreciate that all of the information is out there and made public – but there has got to be some better way of organizing it all on their end.

Sounds good, if I can help out any more just let me know!

Take care and have a great week,

Sloop

From: Brennan, Amanda <brennan.amanda@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 12:39 PM
To: Sloop, John <Sloop.John@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: AltEn pesticide data

You weren't kidding- it's pretty time consuming looking for documents, especially when the results for every sample analyzed is uploaded separately into the management portal- uffda.

The information you provided was super helpful, and I did read it all, so I really appreciate you taking the time to provide the detail.

For now, I mainly wanted to get an idea of which pesticides were targeted and which were detected. I'm trying to finalize a proposal for StRAP 4, and wanted to figure out which assay might be the best for determining bioactivity of the pesticides and transformation products observed.

Again, thanks so much!

Amanda

From: Sloop, John <Sloop.John@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 3:07 PM
To: Brennan, Amanda <brennan.amanda@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: AltEn pesticide data

Hey, Amanda,

Full disclosure – I got going on this email and at the end realized it's insanely long, so I'm sorry about that! Just wanted to go ahead and give you as much info as I could on exactly how I made the presentation and how I found all of the data associated with it!

I'm glad you've been using that slideshow, I hope it's been helpful! To be honest, I put that together kind of on a whim back in October because when this project first got brought up, I didn't really know what the full scope of it was, or how many people would be on it and how involved all of us would be with this site, so I just wanted for myself some quick reference guide Seth and I could have about some of the data that was already found. At the time I was making it, I had literally no idea that it would be shared with anyone else at EPA, let alone people from other organizations working on the project. Not to say I'm not cool with this; I'm super glad people have been using it and hope it's been helpful at

organizing some of the main things that've been going on. But I can say that this definitely isn't my "best work", seeing as I didn't really track exactly where I was pulling all of that info from.

So I definitely should have done a better job at keeping track of where exactly I puled all of that information from. Lol

The website that I mainly used was the information site that the NDEE has been maintaining (http://dee.ne.gov/Press.nsf/pages/AltEn is where the most current updates are, and anything that occurred before like November 2021 is housed on the archived site here: http://dee.ne.gov/Press.nsf/pages/AltEnArc) and the "Nebraska Enterprise Content Management Portal" (https://ecmp.nebraska.gov/publicaccess/viewer.aspx?&MyQueryID=340). The content management portal is cool because basically every piece of information or data that has been collected associated with AltEn is housed there. The portal also really sucks because it is so difficult to find anything up there. Every little piece of info is put up there, and it's all organized by date, but the "DEQ Description" information in the search results makes it pretty difficult to piece together what that document is, without having to open the file and figure it out for yourself. (Anything related to AltEn that has been uploaded on the portal can be found by searching "DEQ Facility Number" 84069.)

So basically, what I had to do to try and piece together the "story" was this: I would read through the little blurb of updates on either the current or archived version of the Information and Updates for AltEn site. Then, based on the date that the specific update was posted, I would go to the content management portal site and try and find any documents that were uploaded to the portal around the date that the update that was posted. Then, for some of the commercial labs that were the ones contracted to actually do some of the analyses, I also tried to find specific methods that they used to see if that would provide any more detail. And finally, based on all of the shit I found, I then tried to make some of the tables that you see in the PowerPoint (some of them I made, and some of them were organized well enough to where I could just pull it straight from the document posted on the portal.)

All in all, it was a giant cluster-fuck of me trying to piece everything together in some manner that made a bit more sense, haha.

So like, for example: the slide that I have about Groundwater Results from August 19, 2021. On the (archived) information and updates website, there is a blurb labeled "NDEE receives drinking water sample results – Aug. 19 2021". It said there were non-detectable levels for all compounds test, with the exception of one UNL well that had 0.071 ug/L of clothianidin. So, I went to the content management portal to try and find more info. There are 10 different documents labeled "SAMPLING RESULTS" on the portal dated 8/19/2021. So I looked through all of those (each PDF is like 30 pages, it absolutely sucked lol), and found the one that had that piece of information listed (it's "8/19/2021 – DEQ Memo - Internal – SAMPLING RESULTS – NE0137634 – PCS – 84069" if you want to find it; I've attached it here so you don't have to go hunting for that one). There isn't anything specific listed on the report about how the data was collected, so I went to the Pacific Agricultural Laboratory (PAL, the lab who did this round of analysis) website (https://pacaglab.com/index.html) and looked through a bunch of the PDF's that they provide which detail the different types of analyses they offer. I'm assuming that they performed a "Comprehensive Pesticide Profile", seeing as that's the only one I saw that actually had Clothianidin listed as a chemical included (I've attached that PDF here, as well). Based on the Comprehensive Pesticides Profile document from PAL, it says that they use AOAC Official Method 2007.01 (QuEChERS method) for that analysis. (I found something on that method online as well, and also attached it here.)

But yeah, I think that about explains it. It was a hell of a lot of bouncing back and forth between the Information and Updates website and the Content Management Portal, reading a hell of a lot of PDFs, and then in some cases trying to find additional information from the commercial lab that actually performed the analysis.

If you'd like me to, I'd be more than happy to help you find specific documents that you might be interested in. For the example I gave above, I kinda just picked a random slide from the presentation and walked through step-by-step on how I got that info. I'm honestly trying to be as involved as I can be on as many of these individual projects associated with this site, for a couple of reasons, mainly because (a) I want to get as much experience doing as much as I can to help out, and (b) I really really really would love to see the people in who were in charge of AltEn actually be held responsible for the almost outright poisoning of this community that they did. It's insane the lack of oversight that led to this problem,

and all of it was at the end of the day just because they wanted to save as much money as they could. It's infuriating, to me at least.

And wow holy shit, that's an incredibly long email. I'll put a disclosure at the top because I know I tend to be long-winded about some stuff, but jesus I'm sorry you have to read all of this!

Anyways, I hope this helps, and again, if I can be of any help in finding documents, finding methods, or even helping with planning or running samples when they come in, or really anything else with your side of this project, if I am able to help, I'd love to!

Take care,

Sloop

From: Brennan, Amanda <brennan.amanda@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 2:10 PM
To: Sloop, John <Sloop.John@epa.gov>
Subject: AltEn pesticide data

Hi Sloop!

I've been going through the background information on AltEn that you presented, and is on the AltEn Teams Page. Would you happen to have copies of the analytical analysis reports you mentioned in your presentation handy that you can share? I must not be the best "googler" or searcher because my quick attempts didn't yield anything close to what you found and presented on.

Thank you so much,
Amanda

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