March 16, 1983

PREPAREDNESS STATEMENT
Anniston Plant PCB Incident

We have been advised that the Soil Conservation Service has found relatively low levels (low ppm range) of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in 8 of 22 core samples of sediment taken from Choccolocco Creek in the Anniston area. The sampling was done as part of advance prepartion for dredging the creek. The creek feeds the _____ Creek and ultimately flows to the Coosa River.

Monsanto's Anniston plant formerly manufactured PCBs, ceasing production there in 1971. Plant officials are assisting the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and the Conservation Service in developing a sound technical plan designed to enable the dredging in an environmentally acceptable manner.

PCBs are oily liquids with the consistency of mineral oil. They were and still are used mostly as insulation fluids in closed-system electrical equipment. Prior to 1970, when it was confirmed that they resist biodegradation once they enter the environment, they were also used in a wide range of other applications such as heat transfer and hydraulic fluids and carbonless copy paper.

It is now known that PCBs are ubiquitous in the environment, i.e., they are commonly found in small trace amounts in many rivers and streams.

MONS 019321



For these reasons, it would be unproductive to try to identify the source of the PCBs in Choccolocco Creek, especially since the creek readily accepts surface water runoff from much of the City of Anniston.

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Note: See attached Monsanto position statement which addresses the toxicity and health effects of PCBs.

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