Q 10: In Anniston, Alabama, and nearby communities such as Sweet Valley and Cobb Town, Monsanto has been involved in cleaning up PCB-contaminated soils. What is the current status of this remediation project? Is litigation pending at this site? Are there any existing orders, consent decrees, or other government actions associated with this project?

Response: Monsanto Company, in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), has begun implementation of a plan to manage and contain PCBs in soils and sediments on our property and the area immediately east of our plant, including two Anniston neighborhoods called Sweet Valley and Cobb Town. Current activity includes erecting fencing and preparing the site before we begin construction of a storm water management system on Monsanto-owned property. Litigation is pending in state courts in Calhoun County and two other nearby counties and in federal court.

In March, 1996, Monsanto and ADEM entered into a Consent Order in which Monsanto agreed: to sample four specified areas for the presence of PCBs and report the results to ADEM; to identify other areas of potential PCB presence and propose and implement a sampling plan for such areas; to complete the upgrading of the cap of an old landfill on plant property in accordance with an earlier plan approved by ADEM; to complete the design and construction of storm water runoff controls for the area immediately east of the plant; to undertake additional efforts to relocate residents in the sampling area east of the plant and to reduce exposure potential for those who did not relocate; and to offer weekly cleaning services to two churches in the area immediately east of the plant. Monsanto has fully complied with the terms of the Consent Order.

Over the past couple of years, the Monsanto Anniston Plant, in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) has been conducting soil sampling and analysis in several areas near the plant. In areas east and north of the plant, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have been measured in sediments in drainage ditches which carry storm water away from the plant and in soils adjacent to those drainage ditches. Trace levels of PCBs were also detected in some storm water samples in those ditches. PCBs are chemicals formerly manufactured by Monsanto at the Anniston Plant until 1971. They were used primarily as fire-resistant fluids in electrical equipment.

Monsanto and the regulatory agencies agree that detectable levels of PCBs should not be allowed to leave Monsanto property in storm water. Therefore, Monsanto and ADEM are cooperating in a program which will assure that the PCBs found during our sampling program will be managed and contained accordingly. We have begun implementation of a plan which will involve collecting the storm water from our property and managing it in such a way that it will not contain PCBs as it leaves our property. Current activity includes erecting fencing and preparing the site before we begin construction of the storm water management system on Monsanto-owned property.

In order to facilitate storm water management and other remediation activity, Monsanto has offered to purchase residential property in two areas, one east and one north of our plant. Most of the owners of the residential property have accepted Monsanto's offers. The voluntary program involved purchase of the property at appraised value plus an additional premium, and it included an early sign-up bonus, allowance for legal and miscellaneous expenses, and assistance in locating alternate housing. Residents who chose not to participate in the Property Purchase Program were offered temporary relocation and cleaning of their homes.

Monsanto agrees with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and environmental health experts at the University of Alabama-Birmingham that the potential for exposure to soil and dust containing PCBs does not suggest that there is any threat to the residents' health. However, the state agencies and Monsanto agree that steps to reduce or eliminate the potential for exposure are appropriate. Participation in the Property Purchase Program and the temporary relocation plan offers the residents timely and effective means to reduce their potential for exposure.

Several lawsuits are pending against Monsanto in Alabama. Among these are several precipitated by fish consumption advisories issued by ADPH on Choccolocco Creek and Lake Logan Martin. (The fish consumption advisories advise people not to eat certain fish from these waterways, because they may contain more than the FDA tolerance level of 2 ppm for PCBs.) Monsanto does not comment on pending litigation.

The Monsanto Anniston Plant has an ongoing commitment to be a good neighbor to its fence line neighbors and to the greater Anniston community. Monsanto intends to conduct its operations in a manner which is fair to everyone concerned. The Anniston Plant's commitment to good corporate citizenship is consistent with the goals of the entire Monsanto Company.

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