NEWS

Monsanto

FOR RELEASE **IMMEDIATELY**

CONTACT: Bob Aquadro
Phone: (314) 622-1477
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Monsanto Company
800 N. Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63167

MONSANTO JOHN F. QUEENY PLANT EARNS TOP SAFETY DESIGNATION

ST. LOUIS, February 16, 1996 -- Monsanto's John F. Queeny plant today received the top safety honor bestowed by the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Voluntary Protection Program Star.

The Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) is an OSHA initiative which rewards manufacturing and construction sites that achieve and maintain outstanding safety programs. To earn the Star designation, a plant must undergo a very rigorous OSHA audit showing its safety programs and practices reach various levels of excellence and its accident rate is below the rest of the industry. Monsanto's and the Queeny plant's safety records are less than one-third of the Chemical Industry average. The Queeny plant has improved its record by 50 percent since it began participation in the VPP program.

In addition, the Queeny plant boasts a unique partnership among labor -- International Chemical Workers Union Local 16, management and OSHA to develop and monitor safety programs, setting the framework for continued excellent performance. The Queeny plant works with the ICWU's Center for Worker Health

- more -

DSW 135837

and Safety Education, which has a branch in St. Louis. The Center has worked closely with plant representatives to coordinate health and safety training at the plant.

In bestowing the Star to the plant, OSHA Assistant Regional Administrator Carmine Barone stated, "The Monsanto Queeny plant is now among some 200 sites in the country which have achieved a level of safety excellence which all manufacturing sites should emulate. While requirements for the Star are very demanding, the rewards are great in terms of greater cooperation and lower injuries." Barone said that VPP sites generally show a 70 percent lower lost work day incidence rate than plants in similar industries.

"We are very gratified to receive this honor," said Queeny Plant Manager Stephen J. Henderson. "Safety has been a top priority among our employees throughout the company's history. At this plant, we have created non-traditional networks and alliances to continuously improve performance. Earning this Star validates that our systems are working."

Some of the factors cited in the OSHA report as contributing to attainment of the Star status include: "very good employee involvement through use of team building and networks; and effective use of computerized preventive maintenance program, job safety analyses and training requirements."

Monsanto Company committed in 1992 that each of its sites would enter the Voluntary Protection Program and strive for Star status. So far, 11 sites have earned

DSW 135838

STLCOPCB4035811

Stars and one more site was recommended for Star status. Monsanto's international locations, although not governed by OSHA, are held to similar standards as part of the company's global commitment to safety. One international site has achieve the equivalent of Star status. The VIP program helps to fulfill an element of the Monsanto Pledge, the company's seven-point commitment to improved environmental safety and health performance, which is, "To ensure no Monsanto operations poses any undue risk to our employees and our communities."

Star sites are not subject to random safety inspections as long as their statistics are maintained. Any employee complaint or incident will continue to be investigated through regular OSHA inspection procedures.

The Monsanto John F. Queeny plant is Monsanto's first and oldest operating facility beginning operations in 1901. Today it employs 145 people in the manufacture of heat transfer fluids, ingredients for sweeteners, and other high performance intermediate materials.

-o0o-

St. Louis
021696