(3)

FACT SHEET ON HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP DAYS

Background: This project would consist of our manufacturing sites organizing annual events in which community residents could turn in household chemical products (old paints, cleansers, aerosols, pesticides, etc.) for proper disposal. The idea is not new. Various chemical plants around the country have carried out such events over the past decades. I'm not aware of any firm that has embraced this activity as a company-wide "showcase" for their environmental commitment (but am checking with CMA).

Opportunity: The enthusiasm the public has demonstrated for this activity, its ability to affect people at a very grass-roots level, and our global presence give us the chance to make this activity a highly visible showcase for Monsanto's commitment to environmental responsibility (including Responsible Care). A number of options for doing so are possible:

* organize and run such events entirely on our own,

* partner up: logical candidates would include national disposal firm, other chemical firms, local government entities, national environmental group,

* identify and hire an independent group to do the organizing and implementing. Our role would be to provide funding (or arrange funding from multiple sources).

Last year, our Creve Coeur headquarters site ran a successful household chemicals clean-up weekend. The Decatur plant recently helped fund and staff a city-sponsored effort there. The Solaris SBU worked with customer Wal-Mart to carry out a program in metropolitan St. Louis.

This program could provide for significant employee involvement. It is attractive to the news media; it has the potential for strengthening relationships with local government, and it can trigger deeply felt appreciation among participants. It is entirely consistent with the Monsanto Pledge, our vision of sustainability, and Responsible Care.

Monsanto Role: A number of options are outlined above, ranging from running it ourselves to becoming the catalyst for pulling together a coalition effort.

To get the maximum community, employee and public relations benefits from such a program, our commitment to it should be multi-year (minimum of 5 years?).

DSW 135305

Benefits: They are largely described above: employee involvement, logical fit with our businesses, clear demonstration of commitment to responsible chemical handling, news attention, strengthening community relationships.

Risks: Legal liability for waste disposal needs further investigation. Perhaps a potential for leak or spill during collection activities. Gradual loss of news interest in activity (it become routine).

Potential Partners: Waste disposal firms, other chemical or manufacturing firms, state chemical councils, local government entities, environmental organizations (co-sponsorship).

Resources Needed: As for dollars, the 1994 Creve Coeur headquarters event funded entirely by Monsanto cost us: ??? On the other hand, the dollar cost to the Decatur plant of participating in the city-organized effort was $5k. (The total disposal-related costs of the Decatur event was $25.6k.)

The extent to which our people's time would be consumed by this program is a function of how we participate in it. Obviously the time commitment goes up if we choose to become the sole or primary organizer and implementer. Our time commitment declines as we become part of a broader effort. Question: does any "turn-key" operation of this sort exist in the U.S. or Europe? (I don't know.)