

PRESS RELEASE

MONSANTO ANNOUNCES FURTHER RESULTS OF A CONTINUING HEALTH STUDY PROGRAM

Since 1978, Monsanto's plant in Indian Orchard has conducted a special health study program for all employees who may have been exposed to asbestos in its phenolic manufacturing operation during the period 1941-1959. Asbestos has not been used at the plant in product manufacture since that period.

X-rays, provided at company expense to all potentially exposed employees, have been examined by a recognized medical expert in the field of asbestos-related illness. His findings concluded that of the 487 employees in the study, 422 were found to be free of any problems and 65 showed some signs which may be indicative of effects associated with asbestos exposure. No deaths have occurred as the result of an asbestos-related illness.

The following measures continue to be taken for employee protection by Monsanto:

The company continues to attempt to locate former employees, identified as possibly working in the phenolic operation during the usage period, to inform them of this health study and ask their participation.

A periodic monitoring program was instituted by Monsanto for those employees who have shown signs. To date, no progression of the condition has been seen; however, we will continue to monitor these employees.

Monsanto has provided the study information to Union officials and appropriate Federal and State authorities.

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