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Marjorie Brooks

xc: Binder

November 18, 1991

Memorandum

TO: Loren W. Wassell
Kevin S. Cahill
Andrea H. Smith

FROM: Marjorie Brooks

Attached is the latest revision of the contingency news release on the consent agreement for the former Krummrich landfill, correcting Bill Boyle's name.

Please call if I can be of further assistance.

attachment

cc: Robert L. Peirce

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To Loren Wassell	From Marjorie Brooks
Co. Monsanto	Co. FH
Dept.	Phone # 982-2024
Fax # 694-1585	Fax #

DSW 136835

STLCOPCB4036795

FOURTH DRAFT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Andi Smith
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MONSANTO TO ASSESS CONDITIONS AT FORMER LANDFILL

SAUGET, Ill., Date -- Monsanto Company has agreed to study conditions at the former Krummrich landfill in Sauget and to evaluate alternatives for corrective action.

The study is the result of a consent agreement negotiated by Monsanto, the Illinois Attorney General's Office and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

"This process will determine what action is required to ensure the long-term protection of public health and the environment," said William J. Boyle Jr., plant manager. "Monsanto is committed to carrying out the work carefully and correctly."

The landfill does not pose any immediate health or environmental problems, but Monsanto will respond fully and willingly to the state's concerns, Boyle said.

Public comment will be sought and considered carefully during the process. There will be a public comment period before the consent decree is finalized. Once the consent agreement is entered in St. Clair County Circuit Court, Monsanto will hold a public meeting to explain the investigation, to answer questions and to hear the concerns of area residents.

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landfill/ad one

Illinois Attorney General Roland W. Burris commended Monsanto for the agreement, which resolved litigation over the site that had been pending since 1982.

An environmental engineering firm will investigate conditions at the site and recommend alternatives for remedial action. The firm was hired by Monsanto, subject to the approval of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The study is expected to take approximately a year and a half. The findings will be presented at a second public meeting. The IEPA will closely monitor the study and will select the corrective action it believes is appropriate. If Monsanto agrees, Monsanto will carry out the corrective action, again with IEPA oversight.

The 36-acre landfill was used from 1959-1977 to dispose of waste from the Krummrich plant and from other Monsanto facilities in the St. Louis area. The landfill was capped with clay, in accordance with state law for closing landfills at that time, covered with soil and seeded. It is completely fenced.

"The landfill does not represent current Monsanto waste-disposal practices," Boyle said. "It was built more than 30 years ago, in compliance with existing state law of that era, but landfill designs were not as sophisticated then and the state of environmental knowledge was not as advanced."

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landfill/ad two

Today, the Krummrich plant no longer uses landfills to disposal of routine process waste from its chemical manufacturing operations, Boyle said. Great emphasis is placed on waste-minimization efforts. The plant reuses and recycles materials wherever possible. The next preferable option is to destroy or treat the waste, with land disposal the last option.

The Krummrich plant's efforts augment a voluntary program announced by Monsanto in 1988 to reduce air emissions of toxic chemicals by 90 percent by the end of 1992. Since 1987, emissions of these chemicals at the Krummrich plant have decreased by 65 percent.

Monsanto Chemical Company, the largest operating unit of Monsanto Company, has also targeted a 70-percent reduction in the amount of organic and toxic inorganic waste released into the environment by 1995. At the Krummrich plant, these types of waste have been reduced 25 percent toward the 70-percent goal.

In another project announced last month, Monsanto is collecting soil samples along Dead Creek to evaluate whether corrective action is warranted and feasible.

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