MONSANTO
FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

DATE: October 14, 1993

TIME: 1:58pm

TO: BETH VANDERBECK

COMPANY:

FAX #: 1585

 # OF PAGES (INCL COVER SHEET): 5

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MESSAGE:

DSW 133538

Remarks by Nicholas L. Reding
Vice Chairman
Monsanto Company
At VPP Recognition Program
Anniston, Ala., Oct. 18, 1993

Draft: 10/14/93

Thank you, Bill (De Fer). I'm now going to say the most popular phrase in the language of business. No, not "I'm from St. Louis, and I'm here to help you." Instead, the truly popular phrase, "I'll be brief."

It was not quite two years ago that we made the commitment for all of our U.S. facilities to participate in OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program. That commitment was a concrete example of what we mean in the Monsanto Pledge when we say that, "It is our pledge to ensure that no Monsanto operations pose any undue risk to our employees and our communities."

At the time we made that commitment to VPP, only one Monsanto plant -- Pensacola -- had achieved Star status.

Now there are two.

For a plant to achieve Star status is -- of course -- a feather in Monsanto's hat.

But more importantly, it is a tribute to the Monsanto people who made it happen -- the people who saw that the goal was worth attaining -- the people who stretched themselves -- who broke the cultural barriers -- who disregarded the skeptics.

It was the Monsanto people who put aside whatever differences there were between management and staff -- between management and union -- whatever the difference.

It was the Monsanto people who said that a good safety record it not good enough -- we want to be the best.

It was the Monsanto people who decided that compliance with safety laws and regulations wasn't enough -- we want to go beyond that.

It was the Monsanto people -- the Monsanto people of Anniston -- who seized the initiative -- worked in common purpose -- and made themselves "stars."

You are an example to your company. You have much to proud of. And your company has much to be proud -- with the people of Anniston. Congratulations.

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