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Marjorie Brooks

November 5, 1991

Memorandum

TO: Loren W. Wassell
Kevin S. Cahill

FROM: Marjorie Brooks

Attached for your review are revised drafts of the proposed news release and supplemental questions and answers for the former Krummrich landfill.

By the way, I thought it was terrific that Illinois EPA Director Mary Gade singled out Monsanto and the Krummrich plant for praise during her keynote speech at the RCGA environmental conference today. Kevin, I bet you and Max were beaming!

attachments

cc: Robert L. Peirce

Post-it™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671	# of pages ▸
To Loren Wassell / Kevin Cahill	From Marjorie Brooks
Co. Monsanto	Co. FH
Dept.	Phone # 982-8624
Fax # 694-1585	Fax #

DSW 136829

STLCOPCB4036789

THIRD 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 H. Boyle, 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.

DSW 136830

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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DSW 136831

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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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DRAFT

Supplemental Questions and Answers
Former Krummrich Landfill

1. Q. Why has it taken nine years for this lawsuit to be settled?

   A. While we would agree we wish it had been settled sooner, there is no impact on public health. If there was an impact, it would have been settled sooner. We have been negotiating in good faith with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Attorney General's Office for some time on this matter.

   Monsanto has not waited to take action in connection with the landfill. Before and after the suit, we have taken steps to protect the public health and the environment. We placed a two-foot-thick clay cap over the landfill when it was closed in 1977, in accordance with state law at that time for closing landfills, and planted grass on it to help prevent seepage of rainwater through the landfill. We also began a groundwater monitoring program and completed a $1.5 million project to install rocks and sand along the riverbank to control erosion.

2. Q. The attorney general says that for decades, "companies rountinely dumped their waste by-products into the creek or buried them in makeshift landfills in the area." What does Monsanto say about that?

   A. The former Krummrich landfill was built more than 30 years ago, in compliance with existing state law. However, landfill designs were not as sophisticated then and the state of environmental knowledge was not as advanced. The landfill was closed in 1977. It was capped with clay, in accordance with state law for closing landfills, covered with soil and seeded. It is completely fenced. Today, the Krummrich plant no longer uses landfills to dispose of routine process waste from its chemical manufacturing operations.

   Prior to the 1930s, when the state of environmental knowldge was not as advanced as it is today, Dead Creek was used to discharge waste from a number of industrial and commercial operations in the area, including the Krummrich plant. Monsanto has not discharged waste into the creek for many decades. The company has a policy that the best way to deal with hazardous waste is to avoid making it in the first place.

DSW 136833

3. Q. The attorney general talks about a Monsanto "cleanup"; Monsanto's news release talks about "corrective action." Are these the same things?

   A. Monsanto has agreed to assess the conditions at the former landfill and to evaluate alternatives for corrective action. It would be premature to speculate what those alternatives might be; that is the purpose of the investigation we will undertake. Whatever corrective action is chosen, it will protect the public health and the environment. Monsanto and the attorney general's office clearly agree on the course of action we are about to pursue.

4. Q. What is Monsanto's response to the attorney general calling the Dead Creek area "one of the most polluted sites in Illinois."

   A. The former Krummrich landfill is only one of 18 sites -- 12 tracts of land and six sections of Dead Creek -- that have been lumped together as the "Dead Creek sites." The reason these sites were consolidated by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is that none of them, on their own, pose enough potential hazard to warrant the expenditure of government investigation and cleanup funds. In fact, the former Krummrich landfill is about a mile from the creek. The waste in the landfill is not related to the chemicals in the creek, which were discharged by a number of industries and commercial operations in the area over many years. The attorney general has correctly noted that many other companies in the vicinity of Dead Creek are responsible for the contamination in the area.

5. Q. Isn't the $150,000 that Monsanto will pay the state a penalty for doing something wrong?

   A. No, the money is to reimburse the state for the amount it spent to investigate and monitor the site -- so-called response and oversight costs.

6. Q. Will the remediation be a multi-million-dollar project?

   A. We won't know the cost of remediation until the study is completed. The study will cost about $1 million.