NEWS

Monsanto

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MONSANTO TO ASSESS CONDITIONS AT FORMER LANDFILL

SAUGET, ILL., Dec. 4 -- 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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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 to 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 completed 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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