ATLANTA--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov. 18, 1994--The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Friday the settlement of an administrative enforcement action against Monsanto Co. Inc. of Anniston, Ala., for alleged violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, also known as Superfund) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).

According to the Administrative Complaint, the company allegedly failed to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC), the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) following a Dec. 24, 1992, release of benzene in an amount equal to or greater than the Reportable Quantity (RQ) from its facility.

Additionally, the Complaint alleges that the company failed to provide a written follow-up emergency notice to the SERC and LEPC as soon as practicable after the release.

Under the terms of the Consent Agreement and Consent Order, Monsanto will pay a civil penalty of $1,650 for the CERCLA violation to the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund and a civil penalty of $14,950 for the EPCRA violations to the United States Treasury. Also, the company will undertake and complete, as a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP), the installation of safeguards at the facility to prevent potential future releases of benzene.

The SEP includes the installation of a benzene vapor recovery system and a high speed fuel blending system. The new blending system will create a more efficient burn of the waste stream which will result in reduced emissions. The estimated cost for the SEP is $335,000.

CERCLA, in part, requires certain facilities to immediately notify the National Response Center when there has been a spill or release of a hazardous substance in an amount equal to or greater than the reportable quantity. EPCRA requires certain facilities to immediately notify the State Emergency Response Commission and the Local Emergency Planning Committee when there has been a spill or release of a hazardous substance in an amount equal to or greater than the reportable quantity.

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