SOLUTIA'S ANNISTON PLANT

A New Beginning

Solutia Inc. opened for business on September 1, 1997, as an enterprise that is already successful, drawing on nearly a century's worth of experience in applied chemistry. Formerly the chemical business units of Monsanto, Solutia owns and operates 10 established global businesses which produced sales of approximately $3 billion in 1996. Although a new company, Solutia ranks among the top 20 chemical manufacturers in the United States.

Based in St. Louis, Missouri, Solutia has a major presence in the world with 16 manufacturing plants in 12 different states, ~~along with~~ manufacturing facilities in Belgium, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Solutia operations also include sales offices, research laboratories, and technical centers worldwide.

According to Solutia's Anniston Site Manager, Blake Hamilton, "The name Solutia was chosen for this new company, because it says something important about the way we think and work. We apply our knowledge of chemistry creatively to solve problems for customers – hence our tagline 'applied chemistry, creative solutions'."

Solutia's Anniston Plant has been solving customer problems since 1915 when Theodore Swann built the plant to manufacture explosive shell cases for the Army. Today, the plant operates seven days a week, 24 hours a day, and employs around 90 people with an annual payroll of $5.0 million. The products are not sold directly to the public, but instead, are sold for industrial applications. This means you usually will not see the name Solutia on the marketplace shelf. The following products are made at the Anniston Plant:

- Therminol heat transfer fluids, which are used for industrial applications requiring moderate to very high temperatures, such as generating electricity from solar energy and molding and setting plastics.

- HB-40 brand polymer modifier, which is an ingredient found in many plasticizer formulations. In many applications, HB-40 is used to make plastics more pliable and easier to use.

- Paranitrophenol (PNP), which is used in the manufacture of acetaminophen, a non-aspirin pain reliever. It is also used in the manufacture of some dyes and pesticides.