PRESS RELEASE file: Carondelet

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TO:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONSANTO CARONDELET PLANT RECEIVES COMMUNITY INPUT

Every month a group of local residents sit down with the management of Monsanto's Carondelet facility and advises them on community issues and public perception about the company's performance. The company has the opportunity to measure its performance in the eyes of its community neighbors.

Residents from the Carondelet and Lemay communities meet regularly with the plant manager and the environmental safety and health manager to discuss topics of public interest and awareness regarding the plant's operations and relationship with the community. This community advisory panel is one of many similar groups working with Monsanto across the country to improve communication between its representatives and the communities where these plants are located.

The Monsanto Carondelet-Lemay Community Advisory Panel was created in the fall of 1994 to improve communication between the plant and its neighbors and other community members. Charter members of the panel were identified through an independent process designed to include community members recommended by local citizens and recognized for their community leadership and willingness to articulate issues. These representatives meet monthly to share information, to advise the management of Monsanto Carondelet regarding public perception, and to increase awareness of the plant's role in the community.

Panel members have discussed safety practices, environmental performance, educational involvement, employment issues, and support of community initiatives at the plant. Members have

offered ideas to better inform community residents about the plant, and to provide input on community awareness regarding the plant's role as a corporate citizen.

This dialogue is part of Monsanto's Pledge Guidelines and assists in fulfilling the company's community outreach goals. The Pledge Guidelines are a comprehensive set of policies to ensure operational excellence, and that environmental stewardship goals are met. Panel members and management representatives recently set goals for 1996. These include discussion of Monsanto's leadership role in the community, beautification of the plant site, improving community awareness regarding the plant's operations, and the role of the plant in partnership with local educators.

Mr. Craig Vanderburg, Carondelet's Plant Manager, stated, "The community advisory panel process is an additional way for Monsanto to communicate with the public, and is part of our long standing commitment to the Carondelet community to continue our practice of being a responsible neighbor."

The advisory panel is diverse with members expressing different perspectives such as near neighbors, health and safety, religious affiliation, business, community volunteer, environmental interests and education. Community members are: Ms. Jillar Brown, Sr. Marie Charles Buford, Mr. Sherman George, Ms. Jade Held, Mr. Jim Hudson, Mr. Vernon Knipp, Mr. Charles Jones, Ms. Julia Margraff, Dr. Robert Massie, Mr. Thomas McClarren, Mr. John McKay, Mr. Richard Mirkay, Fr. Bob Samson, Ms. Joan Smith, and Mr. Frank Ziegler, Jr. Mr. Craig Vanderburg, Plant Manager, and Mr. Eric Brimer, Environmental, Safety and Health Manager, represent Monsanto Carondelet.

The advisory panel members welcome questions and suggestions from the public. For more information about Monsanto or the advisory panel process, call Mr. Eric Brimer at 268-1845.

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