

Public meeting to be held on former landfill project

A public meeting will be held March 11 on plans by Monsanto Company to study conditions at the former Krummrich landfill in Sauget and to evaluate alternatives for possible corrective actions.

The study is part of a consent agreement finalized in December 1991 by Monsanto, the Illinois Attorney General's Office and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and entered in St. Clair County Circuit Court in February 1992.

"The landfill does not pose any immediate health or environmental problems, but Monsanto acknowledges the state's concerns and is committed to carrying out the project safely and correctly," said William J. Boyle, Jr., plant manager.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Sauget Village Hall, 2897 Falling Springs Road. Representatives from Monsanto and the environmental company involved in the project will explain the investigation, answer questions and hear the concerns of area

residents. A representative from the Illinois EPA will also attend.

The environmental engineering firm will investigate conditions at the site, assess potential risks and evaluate the feasibility of possible remedial actions. The firm was hired by Monsanto, subject to the approval of the IEPA. The study is expected to take approximately 18 months. The findings will be presented at a future public meeting.

The IEPA will closely monitor the study and will recommend the corrective action it believes is appropriate. If Monsanto agrees, Monsanto will carry out that 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 completely fenced.