SECOND DRAFT

Remarks prepared for William J. Boyle, Jr.,
public meeting on former Krummrich landfill,
March 11, 1992

Good evening, and thank you for coming. I'm Bill Boyle, manager of Monsanto's Krummrich plant in Sauget.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to explain the work we will be doing at our former landfill in Sauget, to answer your questions and to hear your concerns.

After I describe the project very briefly, I'll turn the program over to Nicholas Valkenburg, vice president of Geraghty & Miller. Geraghty & Miller is the experienced, nationally respected environmental engineering firm Monsanto has hired with the approval of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Nick will spend about 20 minutes describing in more detail the activities that will be going on at the site, and discussing the timetable for the project.

Also here tonight is Paul Takacs, the Illinois EPA's manager for this project. Although Paul won't be making a formal presentation, he is willing to answer questions.

After Nick's presentation, we will be happy to hear your comments and to answer your questions. Public comment is important to this whole process, and we want to hear what you have to say. We are willing to stay tonight until your last question has been answered.

Now let me tell you a little bit about the project.

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When the landfill was closed in 1978, it was capped with clay in accordance with existing state law at the time. It was then covered with soil and seeded. The area is completely fenced. And as you can see from this map, the site is a considerable distance from residential areas.

It's important to note that this landfill does not represent current waste-disposal practices at Monsanto. The landfill 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.

Today, the Krummrich plant no longer uses landfills to dispose of routine process waste from its manufacturing operations. We place highest priority on waste-elimination and waste-minimization efforts, such as the $25 million system installed recently to pretreat the wastewater leaving our plant. Our next preferable option is to destroy or treat the waste, with land disposal the last option.

Although we do not operate land-disposal facilities like this anymore, it is our responsibility to ensure that facilities we operated in the past protect public health and the environment over the long term. This project will be done safely and correctly.

Now I'd like to introduce Nicholas Valkenburg of Geraghty & Miller, who will tell you a little bit more about what will be taking place at the site.....

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The work we will be doing is the result of a consent agreement negotiated by Monsanto, the Illinois Attorney General's Office and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The agreement was finalized in December and entered in St. Clair County Circuit Court last month.

Under the consent agreement, Monsanto has agreed to study conditions at the landfill, to assess potential risks and to evaluate alternatives for possible corrective action. This process will determine what action is needed to ensure the long-term protection of public health and the environment.

The study will take approximately 18 months, with the Illinois EPA closely monitoring the work. There will be another public meeting like this one to discuss the results.

The Illinois EPA will then select the corrective action it believes is appropriate for the landfill. If Monsanto agrees, we will carry out the corrective action, with the Illinois EPA providing oversight.

I'd like to emphasize that the landfill doesn't pose any immediate health or environmental problems. Nonetheless, Monsanto recognizes the state's concerns and will respond fully and willingly to them.

Monsanto operated the 36-acre landfill near the Mississippi River from 1959 to 1977. It was used to dispose of waste from the Krummrich plant and from other Monsanto facilities in the St. Louis area.

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