Monsanto Company
800 N. Lindbergh
St. Louis, Missouri 63167

facsimile transmittal

To: John A. Seymour, Jr. **Fax:** (205) 236-3421

From: Beth L. Rusert **Date:** July 11, 1997

Re: Monsanto Anniston Plant VPP **Pages:** 2

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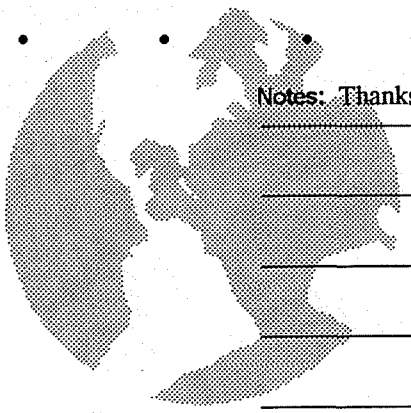

Notes: Thanks for your assistance.

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FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATELY

CONTACT: Beth Rusert
(314) 694-8527

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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St. Louis, Missouri 63167

MONSANTO ANNISTON PLANT RECERTIFIED TOP SAFETY RATING

July 11, 1997 -- Employees at the Anniston, Alabama, plant were honored yesterday by the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for remaining one of the safest plants in the nation. Originally selected into OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) as a Star site in May 1993, the Anniston plant was commended for continuing to improve safety and health conditions.

The plant also celebrated more than six months injury free. Charles Anderson, assistant administrator for OSHA's Region IV, presented Blake Hamilton, Anniston site manager, with the official recertification as one of OSHA's VPP Star plants. Also present for the ceremony were John Hunter, Chemicals' chief operating officer designate; Dennis Cavner, Chemicals' Operational Excellence team leader; Jim Sams, vice president for Region V of the International Chemical Workers Union; John Seymour Jr., city manager of Anniston; and Eli Henderson, Calhoun County commissioner for the Monsanto plant's district.

"Our employees are very proud to again be designated as a VPP Star site," Hamilton explains. "We know it must be our top priority every day to assure that this is a safe workplace for our employees and our neighbors."

In order to be recertified as a "Star" site, the plant demonstrated it commitment to safety and health during rigorous inspections by OSHA officials. Included were checks of records, reviews of compliance programs and lengthy interviews with employees.

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IMMEDIATELY CONTACT: Beth Rusert
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