Monsanto

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FROM
(NAME—LOCATION—PHONE) D. R. Bishop - G4WA - 4-2891

DATE : June 29, 1988

SUBJECT :

REFERENCE :

cc: D. G. Bartolanzo - G4WF
B. J. Gilhousen - E2NK
G. F. Fort - G4WD
G. A. Young - G4WF

TO : W. J. Boyle - 1740
V. T. Matteucci - G4NR
M. W. McCombs - 1740
M. A. Pierle - G4WT

FYI, the attached from today's Post-Dispatch should be viewed as an early alert. Frequently this sort of publicity puts pressure on the bureaucrats to arbitrarily attack a big target.

DRB/c

Dan R. Bishop

DRB:ec

Attachment

DSW 136341

STLCOPCB4036305

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

June 29, 1988

Enforcement By Illinois EPA Is Called Lax

CHICAGO (AP) — State and federal environmental agencies are endangering the public by failing to adequately punish Illinois companies for serious hazardous-waste violations, a new report says.

A report by the U.S. General Accounting Office says that of 64 high-priority violations being handled by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, none has been addressed with adequate speed and penalty.

Illinois had the worst record among the states studied for handling high-priority violations, the report says.

And of the 53 high-priority violations handled by the Great Lakes region of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, only 10 have been addressed adequately and in a timely fashion, according to the report, which was cited in Tuesday's Chicago Sun-Times.

High-priority violations are those that pose an actual threat to people or the environment. Hazardous material leaking from a landfill and a spill from a waste transport truck are examples of high-priority violations.

The report, which was made public this week, did not cite details of any of the cases involved, the Sun-Times said. The report was the result of investigations of three U.S. EPA regions and of two states from each region.

Both the state and federal agencies fell short of the accounting office's expectations because they improperly classified many high-priority violations as less serious infractions to reduce heavy workloads, the report says.

Because of the lower priority classification, companies have not been fined for the violations, and dangerous violations have not been corrected quickly, the report says.

Officials of the state and federal agencies said they had not seen the report but acknowledged the laxity.

"We just don't have the tools to do the job," said William Child, manager of the state agency's division for land pollution control.

Child and some federal environmental officials blamed state laws that discourage strict penalties against polluters.

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