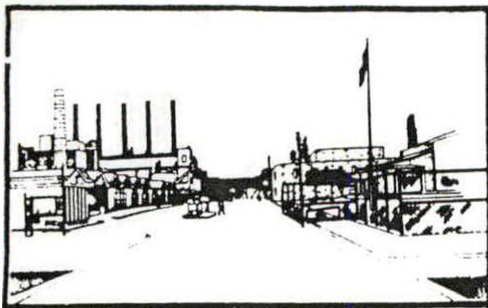




WGK TODAY

...a publication of the Wm. G. Krummrich Plant
...Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22,
1985

MONSANTO TO RELEASE INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL HAZARDS

RICHARD J. MAHONEY, MONSANTO'S PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, HAS DIRECTED ALL OF HIS MANAGERS TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITY OFFICIALS AND RESIDENTS THE SAME INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES THAT THE COMPANY ROUTINELY SHARES WITH ITS EMPLOYEES.

MAHONEY SAID THAT, "WHILE MONSANTO DOES SHARE WITH LOCAL FIRE, SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS SAFETY INFORMATION ON THE HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES WE MAKE OR USE, INCREASED PUBLIC CONCERN PROMPTED BY THE RECENT CHEMICAL ACCIDENT IN BHOPAL, INDIA DICTATES THAT WE GO STILL FURTHER IN THIS DIRECTION."

HE INSTRUCTED TOP EXECUTIVES AND LOCATION MANAGERS TO MAKE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, INTERESTED CITIZEN GROUPS AND THE NEWS MEDIA. HE SAID MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED THROUGH A SYSTEM OF "MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS" (MSDSS). MSDSS ARE TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS CONTAINING INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUAL CHEMICALS INCLUDING SUCH THINGS AS THE SPECIFIC OR GENERIC IDENTITY, PHYSICAL PROPERTIES, HEALTH EFFECTS, EXPOSURE LIMITS, SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.

MINDFUL THAT THIS INFORMATION MAY PROMPT FURTHER QUESTIONS REQUIRING ELABORATION, INTERPRETATION AND EXPLANATION, MR. MAHONEY ALSO TOLD HIS MANAGERS TO BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FREELY, EXPLAINING SAFETY PROCEDURES, TRAINING PROGRAMS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITIES.

"OBVIOUSLY WHATEVER INFORMATION WE RELEASE MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH ENSURING THE SECURITY OF OUR OPERATIONS AND, IN RARE CASES, THE PROTECTION OF LEGITIMATE TRADE SECRETS," HE CONTINUED. "BUT THE EMPHASIS OF OUR EFFORTS SHOULD BE UPON PROMOTING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, NOT UPON FINDING REASONS FOR WITHHOLDING INFORMATION."

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HE SAID THAT EACH PLANT MANAGER WILL DECIDE HOW BEST TO MAKE THE HAZARD AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN HIS COMMUNITY.

A MONTH AGO, IN RESPONSE TO THE BHOPAL TRAGEDY, MAHONEY APPOINTED A TASK FORCE OF SENIOR MONSANTO MANAGERS TO REVIEW THE ADEQUACY OF THE COMPANY'S SAFETY PROGRAMS WORLDWIDE. THE TASK FORCE EXPECTS TO COMPLETE THE BULK OF ITS WORK IN THREE TO FOUR MONTHS.

HE EMPHASIZED THAT MONSANTO HAS MAJOR HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS IN PLACE AT ITS PLANTS AND LABORATORIES WORLDWIDE. FOR EXAMPLE, SOME 1,300 MONSANTO EMPLOYEES WORK FULL TIME TO ENSURE THAT OPERATIONS ARE SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE. MONSANTO'S ANNUAL EXPENDITURE TO SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS HAS BEEN ABOUT 240 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. IN LATE 1983, THE COMPANY MOUNTED A VOLUNTARY WASTE-SITE CLEANUP INITIATIVE THAT IS EXPECTED TO COST AN ADDITIONAL 100 MILLION DOLLARS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

A COPY OF THE RELEASE, IN FULL, AND A SAMPLE MSPSS WILL BE POSTED ON BULLETIN BOARDS IN THE LOCKER ROOM, BUILDING BK AND THE CAFETERIA.

GREEN SHEETS BEARING DEPARTMENT HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL INFORMATION ARE POSTED ON BULLETIN BOARDS IN ALL PLANT DEPARTMENTS AND BOOKS CONTAINING MONSANTO MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS (MSDSS) ON MONSANTO PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS.

ANY EMPLOYEE WHO IS INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING MSDSS FOR HIS/HER OWN INFORMATION SHOULD SEND A WRITTEN REQUEST TO KEN STORMS, WGK INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST.

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A&S BENEFITS TAXABLE INCOME

ANY HOURLY EMPLOYEE WHO HAS RECEIVED SICK-PAY BENEFITS DURING 1984, WILL RECEIVE A SEPARATE W-2 FORM REFLECTING THE BENEFITS RECEIVED. A&S BENEFITS ARE TAXABLE INCOME AND SHOULD BE SHOWN AS SUCH WHEN FILING INCOME TAX RETURNS.

SHOEMOBILE SERVICES

SHOEMOBILE SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE PLANT ON JANUARY 28, NOON TO 4:30 P.M.

YOUR SYMPATHY IS APPRECIATED -- FAMILY OF DELORES LEHAN.