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**News****Neil F. Hartigan**  
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(217) 782-1973**HARTIGAN AND MONSANTO ENTER INTO CONSENT AGREEMENT  
TO ADDRESS AIR POLLUTION CONCERNS**

SPRINGFIELD, IL -- September 25, 1990 -- Illinois Attorney General Neil Hartigan has reached agreement with the Monsanto corporation which will require the company to pay a penalty and continue comprehensive studies to correct deficiencies such as those which caused several serious air pollution incidents over the last two years.

The agreement comes about from a suit Hartigan filed against Monsanto over releases from W. C. Krummrich plant in the Village of Sauget, a heavily industrialized community in St. Clair County. The Krummrich plant has sustained at least four major releases of chemicals into the air since April 1988; at least 12 people received medical treatment for respiratory difficulties and other problems resulting from the releases.

"The most important part of this agreement is the provision which ensures that Monsanto will continue to undertake hazard operability studies of all systems with the potential to cause serious releases," Hartigan said. "HAZOP studies have become one of our most valuable tools in locating and defusing potential problems before they become real problems."

Monsanto has already begun and completed one such HAZOP study on its phosphorus trichloride process and has two others underway. Phosphorus trichloride was released in three of the four incidents, forming an "acid cloud" which caused discomfort to nearby residents. A work plan to correct deficiencies in that system has been submitted by Monsanto and approved by the state.

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Monsanto has been implementing that work plan, even while settlement negotiations were ongoing. Among changes Monsanto has made are new air pollution control equipment and storage tanks, and improvements in tank car loading and unloading. The total cost for improvements under the work plan is expected to reach \$4 to \$5 million when work is completed later this year. Under the agreement with Hartigan, six other systems at the Krummrich plant will undergo a similar comprehensive review over the next year, and full reports will be submitted to the state.

The agreement also calls for Monsanto to pay a \$60,000 penalty and an additional \$20,000 remedial payment to the state's Environmental Trust Fund, where the money will go towards future environmental enforcement activities. The company has also donated computer equipment to the St. Clair County Local Emergency Planning Committee to assist in emergency response coordination.

Hartigan's Office and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will continue to have access to the plant operations named in the consent decree to ensure that terms of the agreement are being met.

(NOTE TO REPORTERS AND EDITORS: For information from Monsanto, contact Andi Smith, Communications Specialist, at 618/482-6322)

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