Monsanto Pledge

The Monsanto Pledge was announced by Chairman and CEO Richard J. Mahoney at a meeting of the Corporate Conservation Council of the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 30, 1990. Here is the pledge as announced by Mahoney:

"It is our pledge to reduce all toxic and hazardous releases and emissions, working toward an ultimate goal of zero effect. It may take time, but we will not be satisfied with anything else.

"It is our pledge to ensure that no Monsanto operation poses any undue risk to our employees and our communities.

"It is our pledge to work to achieve sustainable agriculture with the lowest inputs feasible, through new technology and new practices.

"It is our pledge to ensure the safety of groundwater. If our products are found to pose a problem, we will solve it by whatever means necesssary. We will make our technical resources available to farmers who may have concerns about groundwater contamination, even if none of our products is involved.

"It is our pledge to keep our plants open to our communities, bringing the community into plant operations. Our employees and our communities will be kept fully informed of any significant hazard – if we can't eliminate the hazard, we'll work to eliminate the source of it.

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"It is our pledge to do our part to halt deforestation and declining biodiversity. All corporate real estate, including plant sites, will be managed with the benefit of nature as a serious operating factor.

"It is our pledge to search worldwide for technology that will reduce and eliminate waste from our operations, with the top priority being not making it in the first place.

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"Our commitment is to achieve sustainable development for those aspects of the environment where we have an impact. Our commitment is to

achieve sustainable development for the good of all people in both developed and less-developed nations.

"But it is not enough to simply 'unpollute' the world. We must provide food and energy for ever-growing populations, most of which are in the Third World and not in the developed nations, which have the resources and freedom to worry about these vital environmental issues.

"We must rectify the mistakes of the past while we continue to develop and introduce the new technologies to provide the essentials for mankind in the future.

"And we must ensure, as we know we can, that these new technologies will not create problems to be dealth with by our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

"I have described the Monsanto Pledge. We are determined to achieve it and we are pursuing the programs needed to achieve it."

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