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3M Phasing Out Some of its Specialty Materials

ST. PAUL, Minn. – May 16, 2000 – 3M today announced it is phasing out of the perfluorooctanyl chemistry used to produce certain repellents and surfactant products.

The affected product lines represent about two percent of 3M's nearly \$16 billion in annual sales. These include many Scotchgard™ products, such as soil, oil and water repellent products; coatings used for oil and grease resistance on paper packaging; fire-fighting foams; and specialty components for other products. 3M said it plans to substantially phase out production by the end of the year and will work with customers to accomplish a smooth transition.

"Our decision anticipates increasing attention to the appropriate use and management of persistent materials," said Dr. Charles Reich, executive vice president, Specialty Material Markets. "While this chemistry has been used effectively for more than 40 years and our products are safe, our decision to phase out production is based on our principles of responsible environmental management."

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3M Pollution Prevention Pays
Managing for a Better Environment

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State of Minnesota v. 3M Co.,
Court File No. 27-CV-10-28862