

'Cradle To Grave'

About a couple of years ago, after nearly a year of enduring swirling dust, grinding noise, insidious odors and double-duty cleaning of homes and yards, in addition to being deprived of much of their family recreation, residents of Wilsonville were especially chagrined by leaders announcements that Monsanto intended to undertake a multi-million dollar expansion for the production of swimming pool cleaner and adjuncts in order to remain the world leader.

In a subsequent conference, a Monsanto environmental director indicated to several Wilsonville people that the company always followed its products from the cradle to the grave and was not aware of any Monsanto wastes coming to Wilsonville, apparently not recognizing PCB wastes as part of that commitment. A Wilsonville representative replied there were plenty of drums with a Monsanto label.

Use of the site for Monsanto product wastes was confirmed recently when Monsanto joined in a lawsuit in support of the waste handler contending in part they used the site that a Circuit Court and Appellate Court has ruled to be unequivocally geologically unstable.

Since PCBs have polluted the Hudson River and Lake Michigan among others, and a national syndicated columnist confirms that PCB contamination is widespread, at what point in the process of generation use and disposal of poison substances can it be said that the grave has been reached?

Mike Popovich

Wilsonville