Monsanto

APR 29 1993

FROM (Name-Location-Phone) F. J. Stokes - B2ND - 4-2876

DATE : April 26, 1993

CC: L. J. Guarraia
K. S. Cahill

SUBJECT : **Response to Mr. Lancefield**

REFERENCE :

TO : R. J. Mahoney

Attached, for your review, is a response to Mr. Lancefield's concerns about hazardous waste in Sauget.

F. J. Stokes

Attachment

DSW 134608

Monsanto

RICHARD J. MAHONEY
Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer

Monsanto Company
800 N. Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63167

April 30, 1993

Mr. Thomas S. Lancefield
700 Stewart Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Mr. Lancefield:

Thanks for your recent letter. I always appreciate hearing from our owners and learning what's on their mind.

You're right about last June's Wall Street Journal article, it makes us sound pretty bad. It says we had a strategy of denial in the face of enormous cleanup liabilities for hazardous waste sites. You're wondering "How does this article square with Monsanto's strong environmental commitments and the tough goals we've set for ourselves?" Let me give you my perspective:

The sources of contamination at the Sauget landfill and Dead Creek are more complicated than the Journal would have us believe. The chemicals came from a number of commercial and industrial sources over a period of 75 years. Far from stonewalling, we are working with the State of Illinois to develop responsible solutions.

Our first priority for sites, like those described by the Journal, is to stop any harm to people. As far as we, or anyone else has been able to determine there are no immediate health threats to the community in Sauget.

Once health and safety are assured, we work with others to determine who should be responsible for resolving the site's problems. I want to make sure Monsanto does the right thing for our communities and the environment. We certainly want to resolve the problems for which we're responsible -- and we've committed millions of dollars toward that process in the Sauget area.

DSW 134609

We clearly don't want to shirk our responsibility, but when cleanup costs for hazardous waste sites can average $30 million each, your point about balancing cost and environmental considerations becomes important. It's not fair to our shareowners if we volunteer to pay large sums for fixing problems caused by others.

I'm pleased that you recognize our deep commitment to the environment. Our goal is to reduce releases and off-site transfers of toxic chemicals to the air, land and water by 70 percent by the end of 1995. Meanwhile, you'll be glad to know that our plant in Sauget no longer uses landfills to dispose of routine process waste from its operations. In my view, our best strategy for hazardous waste is not to generate it in the first place. Although the technology to do this hasn't all been invented -- I continue to make this a high priority.

We are working hard to deliver results to our shareowners, our communities and others with a stake in our company. Importantly, we want to achieve our success in ways of which we -- and our children -- can be proud.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Mahoney

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