Kevin Cahill - let's discuss further. Gary 6/23

I N T E R O F F I C E M E M O R A N D U M

Date: 14-Jun-1994 03:59pm CDT
From: Kevin S. Cahill
CAHILL, KEVIN S.
Dept: The Chemical Group
Tel No: 314-694-7518

TO: BARTON, GARY F (GFBART@CCMAIL)
TO: Robert Jones (JONES, ROBERT N.)
TO: Laurence J. O'Neill (O'NEILL, LAURENCE J.)
TO: PIERLE, MICHAEL A (MAPIER@CCMAIL)
TO: Charles A. Ross III (ROSS III, CHARLES A.)
TO: SACKETT, RUSSELL F (RFSACK@HP)
TO: Michael W. Winkel (WINKEL, MICHAEL W.)

CC: MILLER, KEITH S (KSMILL@HP)
CC: Loren Wassell (WASSELL, LOREN W.)

Subject: USEPA Region V -- Gateway Initiative

U.S. EPA Region V, based in Chicago, convened the "Mississippi River Gateway Initiative", at the State Community College of East St. Louis. The meeting was conducted to discuss local environmental and health concerns. The session was moderated by David Ullrich, Deputy Regional Administrator for Region V.

Several state and federal agencies were represented at the meeting, which was conducted in two parts. The morning session was closed to the public to facilitate discussion among the government participants, followed by an open session with presentations from four Metro East panelists.

The panelist were: Kathy Andia, founder, SPILL (Stop Pollution in Illinois) based in Granite City; Reverend Dr. Buck Jones, Executive Director, Project HOPE (Helping Other People Emerge); Venessa Marion, Operation New Spirit East St. Louis; and Louis Tiemann, East St. Louis Community Fund.

This format closely resembles a federal Interagency Task Group created by President Clinton's Executive Order on Environmental Justice. The U.S. EPA led task group is charged with looking across the federal government and ensuring that all federal laws and programs are being administered fairly, and without regard to racial or economic considerations. Each EPA regional office is conducting similar local meetings.

During the open session, the most pressing needs as identified by the panelists are 1) the remediation of abandoned waste sites in East St. Louis, and 2) the demolition of abandoned homes and other structures. Two of the panelists mentioned Monsanto, however, there was no direct attack on manufacturing operations

at W.G. Krummrich.

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Two positives emerged in post meeting conversations. During the closed session Monsanto was complimented for meeting the requirements of EPA's 33/50 program. Secondly, Rev. Buck Jones indicated that the NAACP's Executive Director, Ben Chavis, was complimentary of Monsanto's policy of maintaining an open door to the community through our Community Advisory Panels.

A reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch covered the meeting.

Although Monsanto was not the focus of the meeting, we are prepared for media inquiries.

K.S. Cahill