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# Monsanto trying to avoid lawsuit

**By Joan Rice**
**Journal staff writer**

Monsanto is trying to avoid a lawsuit stemming from a dispute between the chemical company and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency over an accident in Monsanto's Sauget, Ill., plant March 3.

The Illinois EPA has requested that the Illinois attorney general seek a lawsuit to force Monsanto to replace an acid-cooling system after the accident in which the system produced an emission.

But Monsanto maintains that replacing the system with another kind would increase, not decrease, the chances of another incident, said Andrea Smith, a spokesperson for the company.

Representatives from Monsanto want to meet with the Illinois attorney general and the IEPA to settle the matter quickly, Smith said. She said that plant manager Jack Molloy said "a lawsuit is not an appropriate way to handle this."

The accident happened at Monsanto's William G. Krummrich plant. Plant management conducted an investigation and allowed another by the IEPA, Smith said.

Smith wouldn't say how much a new acid-cooling system would cost. "The cost isn't the issue," she said. "Our position is that we have the safest and best technology to produce this kind of chemical."

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