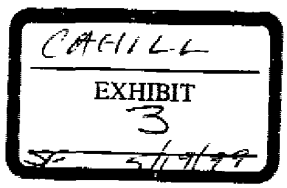
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For Immediate Release
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Agreement to Settle Lawsuit Reached;

Environmental Remediation to Progress



Anniston, AL – Solutia, Inc. announced today that an agreement in principle has been reached to resolve a lawsuit brought by Mars Hill Missionary Baptist Church in March 1996. The Church is located in a neighborhood immediately east of Solutia's Anniston Plant. Solutia's predecessor, Monsanto Company, manufactured polychlorinated biphenlys (PCBs) at that plant from 1935 to 1971, and the lawsuit alleges that PCBs from the Anniston Plant have contaminated the Church's property, causing a loss of value in the property.

The Company has offered since 1995 to relocate the Church to a new facility at a new site at the Company's expense. Solutia has already relocated Bethel Missionary Baptist Church to a new facility in Anniston without litigation. Working cooperatively with Bethel, the Company purchased the property, paid for the design and construction of the Church facility, and provided new furnishings and equipment for the new Bethel Church.

"The settlement reached with Mars Hill Missionary Baptist Church will also provide Mars Hill the opportunity to relocate to a new site in Anniston and construct and furnish an entirely new Church facility," said Adam Peck, counsel for Solutia.

"The settlement will allow both Solutia and the Church to move forward and avoid what could have been extensive and costly litigation, which is non-productive for all parties," said Peck.

Solutia is already nearing completion of an environmental remediation program on acreage adjacent to the Anniston Plant site. That program has included a Property Purchase Program under which homes of residents were purchased at a premium price to allow residents to relocate, recapping of closed landfills, and constructing extensive stormwater runoff control measures. "The settlement enables Solutia to acquire the Mars Hill Church property and include that property in this comprehensive remediation program, which is an important step toward the final resolution of this issue," said Peck.

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