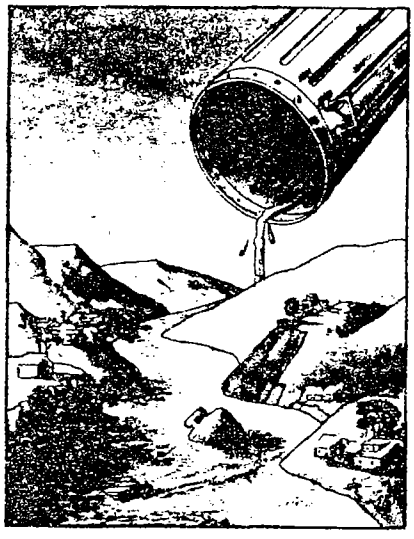
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

File Krummrich

A Commitment To Keep The River Clean



I take strong exception to the Oct. 28 editorial, "Ready Or Not. Here Comes The EPA," which all but accused the Metro East area of discharging illegal levels of wastes into the Mississippi River and cleaning things up when company visits, namely Greenpeace and the Environmental Protection Agency. As manager of the American Bottoms Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, which treats the majority of wastewater in the Metro East area, I feel compelled to set the record straight.

The reason Greenpeace's effluent samplings taken several months apart yielded different results is because they were taken from different sources. The first samples were taken from the Sauget physical chemical treatment plant, a stage in the treatment process that provides primary treatment to industrial waste. The effluent from the P-Chem plant then goes to American Bottoms for secondary treatment, including the removal of organic materials.

The second samples were taken from the American Bottoms effluent. Obviously, effluent that receives primary and secondary treatment will be much cleaner than primary only.

American Bottoms has continued to receive negative press when, in reality, it is now one of the most efficient systems on the Mississippi River. We currently have a level of 95 percent efficiency of waste removal, treating 20 million gallons of wastewater a day. The plant began operation in April 1986 and experienced initial start-up problems not unusual for a new facility. Then, in December 1987, the Zimpro carbon treatment system, which would have removed the yellow color, failed. We are still working on remedying that situation. The Illinois Pollution Control Board recognized this problem and gave us a temporary variance.

But of the 2,400 different opportunities in which the plant effluent could have violated our permit in the last three months, we have had only two minor excursions — a record of which we are very proud. Our effluent consistently meets state and federal standards. EPA's sampling program should verify the accuracy of our results.

To even suggest we would tamper with the results of the EPA program is an affront to this establishment, the industries and the citizens of Metro East without whose initiative the building of American Bottoms would not have been possible. I suggest you do your homework before making similar accusations in the future.

George R. Schillinger
General Manager
American Bottoms Regional
Wastewater Treatment Facility
Sauget

The Oct. 28 editorial and two Nov. 1 letters have given new meaning to the term "corporate bashing." To insinuate that industry on the East Side routinely cleans up its act only when it knows someone is checking borders on slander.

And to base your case on the proposition that unannounced sampling conducted by Greenpeace last May yielded higher levels of pollutants than sampling taken during the Beluga's extended and highly visible stay last September demonstrates your lack of understanding of the actual situation.

You know, or you should have known, that the Greenpeace sampling took place at two distinctly different discharge streams. The first came from the Sauget physical chemical treatment facility that provides only primary treatment (that stream then receives secondary treatment later). The second came from American Bottoms Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility that provides both primary and secondary treatment. Obviously, the facility that does only primary treatment is going to contain higher levels of waste.

Monsanto is in compliance with all water discharge standards to American Bottoms. We do not operate any differently because the EPA or Greenpeace is in town. Production was not curtailed, and production rates will be provided to the EPA as part of the sampling program. We don't conduct our business illegally. For you or anyone else to insinuate otherwise is irresponsible.

Dan R. Bishop
Director of Public Affairs
Monsanto
Creve Coeur

D. G. Bartolanzo	G4WF
W. J. Boyle	1740
H. J. Corbett	D1D
V. T. Matteucci	G5NR
M. W. McCombs	1740
M. A. Pierle	G4WT
R. G. Potter	G4NH
J. H. Senger	A3NA
D. L. Sliney	G4NJ
T. J. Slocum	B2ND
G. A. Young	G4WF

FYI: The Post finally got around to presenting our side.

DRB
11/9/88

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