

Sunday
Home

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Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671	1 of pages > 1
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Monsanto to take samples at Dead Creek

By Jeffrey Peyton
Staff writer

Monsanto Chemicals has decided to take the lead in the corporate effort to clean Dead Creek and adjacent sites.

Monday, Monsanto will begin collecting soil samples from Dead Creek as a first step in determining what cleanup efforts will be necessary.

Dead Creek, which runs through Cahokia and Sauget, first gained prominence as a hazardous waste site in 1980 when a dog died of chemical burns after rolling in the creek.

Preliminary investigations then revealed quantities of white phosphorous on the surface of the creek, along with high concentrations of deadly PCBs and more than 20 other hazardous chemicals up to 30 feet underground.

Andy Smith, spokesman for Monsanto's Krummrich plant in Sauget, said Monsanto will spend the next several months collecting soil samples and testing the samples for hazardous chemicals.

"We'll use this information to evaluate corrective action," Smith said.

The portion of Dead Creek being tested runs from Queeny Avenue in Sauget to Judith Lane in Cahokia. None of the property being tested is owned by Monsanto.

Smith said Monsanto is taking the lead in the cleanup study out of the company's commitment to cleaning the environment.

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