



April 5, 2002

Cynthia Floyd-Coleman  
Freedom of Information Officer  
EPA Office of Executive Secretariat  
HQ Freedom of Information Operations Staff Office  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Room 247N, MC 1105A  
Washington, DC 20460

**VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 566-2147**

Ms. Floyd-Coleman:

***Re: FOIA Request No. HQ-RIN-01332-02, Request for Meetings with Monsanto officials about Anniston, AL***

I received your fax this morning and was surprised to find that you sent me what appears to be a form letter that denied my request for a fee waiver on behalf of the Environmental Working Group (EWG), a § 501(c)(3) not-for profit watchdog organization. I am concerned that you might not have thoroughly read the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No. HQ-RIN-01332-02 that I submitted yesterday. The FOIA that I sent explains why EWG should receive a fee waiver according to the six factors outlined by the Department of Justice. I even cite to the Department of Justice, Freedom of Information Act Guide & Privacy Act Overview in my FOIA request. I have enclosed a copy of the e-mail FOIA that I sent yesterday for your review.

Please let me know if your letter of April 5, 2002 meant to state that the FOIA I submitted on April 4, 2002, which describes in three detailed pages why EWG should receive a fee waiver, is insufficient. If this is the Environmental Protection Agency's position, I would appreciate an additional letter stating that the FOIA request and request for fee waiver, as originally written, is insufficient. Any guidance on what is an appropriate fee waiver request would also be appreciated.

So you know our intention, EWG is investigating the Administration's decision to cut a highly unusual deal with Monsanto that could prove financially beneficial to the company as it faces total liability (according to a state jury verdict last month) for decades of PCB contamination of Anniston, Alabama and its residents. We are concerned that your letter is an attempt to prevent EWG from obtaining the documents relevant to this investigation.

I look forward to your prompt response to this request. If you have any questions with respect to this request, please contact me at (202) 667-6982.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Brandeis White".

Heather Brandeis White, Esquire  
General Counsel  
Environmental Working Group  
1718 Connecticut Ave., N.W.  
Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20009  
Telephone: (202) 667-6982  
Fax: (202) 232-2592  
Email: [hwhite@ewg.org](mailto:hwhite@ewg.org)