USDA

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United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Legislative and Public Affairs

Freedom of Information

4700 River Road
Unit 50
Riverdale, MD
20737-1232

Megan Haebler
Paralegal
13501 I Street, N.W. Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-3311

Dear Ms. Haebler:

This is in response to your October 7, 2009, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for a copy of Petition No.09-183-01, a petition for non-regulated status submitted by Monsanto Company to the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service. Your request was received in this office on October 7, 2009, and assigned case number FOIA 10-012. We apologize for the delay of this response.

Your request is granted. Enclosed on CD-ROM is a copy of the Petition totaling 389 pages. However, we have withheld the names of Monsanto employees under FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). This exemption protects information from disclosure when its release would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Also, the release of their names would not shed any light on APHIS duties and responsibilities.

If you are not satisfied with this response to your request, you may appeal within 45 calendar days from the date of this letter stating the reasons why the requested information should be released under the Act; and why the denial may be in error. Address your written appeal to the: Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Ag Box 3401, Washington, D.C. 20250-3401. Please refer to **FOIA 10-012** in your appeal letter and add the words **FOIA Appeal** to the front of the envelope.

If you have any questions, please contact the FOIA staff at (301) 734-8296.

Sincerely,

Katy Vagnon

for Tonya G. Woods
Director
Freedom of Information & Privacy Act
Legislative and Public Affairs

Enclosure