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For more information, contact:

Rosemary Dunn

713-521-7450

ardunadv@aol.com

**SOLVAY CHEMICALS, INC. WEATHERS
HURRICANE IKE**

HOUSTON, TX (September 16, 2008)... The entire Southeast Texas area was dealt a severe blow by Hurricane Ike in the early morning of Saturday, September 13, 2008. Solvay Chemicals, Inc.'s hydrogen peroxide plant and sodium percarbonate plant located in La Porte (Deer Park), Texas escaped without significant damage. The area was subject to mandatory evacuation and is still subject to curfew as are the areas where many employees reside. The company is now focused on returning employees to work safely and supporting their personal rebuilding efforts.

Both production units will restart when production staff, raw materials and utilities are available. Many of our raw material suppliers and service vendors were also impacted by the hurricane. Solvay Chemicals is working with its suppliers to gain access to sufficient quantities of raw materials at the earliest possible time.

This unplanned downtime will cost the company at least 7-10 days of production. Therefore, Solvay Chemicals declares force majeure and will enforce a 75% allocation program for hydrogen peroxide, effective immediately. This includes shipments from terminals in Appleton, Joliet, Cleveland, Crafton (Pittsburgh), Philadelphia, Charlotte, Raleigh, Birmingham, Jacksonville, Louisville, Fremont, Southgate, Saskatoon, Salt Lake City and LaPorte (Texas). We anticipate that the allocation program may remain in place for at least 60 days. We regret having to take this action and will make every effort to resume full production as soon as possible. We will also make every effort to make up the lost production as quickly as possible and lift the allocation.

Solvay Chemicals, Inc. is part of the **Solvay Group**, an international chemical and pharmaceutical Group with headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, whose companies employ some 28,000 people in 50 countries. In 2007, the Solvay Group's consolidated sales amounted to EUR 9.6 billion, generated by its three sectors of activity: Chemicals, Plastics and Pharmaceuticals (NYSE Euronext: SOLB.BE – Bloomberg: SOLB.BB – Reuters: SOLBt.BR). Solvay is listed on the NYSE Euronext stock exchange in Brussels. Details are available at www.solvay.com