Environment charge filed against GHR

By BOB ANDERSON
Advocate staff writer

The state filed environmental charges against GHR Energy Corp. of Good Hope Monday, alleging three violations linked to air pollution problems.

Two of the charges resulted from an incident in which an oily spray stained a number of houses and cars in the vicinity of the plant.

The third charge alleges failure of the company to follow an order from the Environmental Control Commission to install air pollution control equipment to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions.

The matter was set for hearing before the Environmental Control Commission on Jan. 26 at 9 a.m.

The company could face a civil penalty of up to $25,000 a day for each violation.

The allegations are the latest in a series of environmental citations filed against the company in recent years, including two for which the company has received civil penalties.

Last spring GHR was fined $265,000 by the Environmental Control Commission for illegal discharges of phenol into the Mississippi River.

In June 1980, the company agreed to pay the state $250,000 to settle charges that for five years it had discharged excessive amounts of wastes into Bayou LaBranche in St. Charles Parish. At the time, the settlement was the largest environmental (See GHR, Page 6-B)
The latest charges against the company claim:

- GHR failed to put into operation a tailgas unit as required by a March 25 compliance order from the state. As a result, the company has discharged sulfur dioxide into the air in excess of the limitations listed in the company’s air quality permit.
- On June 5, GHR discharged a mixture of oil and water into the atmosphere without the appropriate permit.
- GHR failed to immediately notify the Department of Natural Resources of the pollution incident at the plant.

The firm was then known as Good Hope Industries Inc.

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settlement or penalty ever collected in the state.

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