Information given in millions of $.

Totals for each parish are based on projects for which the dollar investment is known.

* Parishes with projects for which the dollar investment was not reported.

Industrial expansions under way

By BOBBY LAMB
Advocate business writer

Industrial expansions totaling $7.2 billion are under way, completed or proposed at 144 process plants, fabricating facilities, refineries and other industrial facilities in Louisiana, according to a 1989-90 annual survey released by the Port of South Louisiana.

The projects are creating between 10,700 and 11,000 new permanent jobs and 25,000-25,900 construction jobs around the state, the survey said.

A parish-by-parish breakdown of the projects shows the heaviest investment is along the Mississippi River chemical/refinery corridor from Baton Rouge to New Orleans and in Calcasieu Parish. Other parishes with major projects in the state included a James River paper mill expansion in West Feliciana Parish, a hydroelectric plant in Concordia Parish, an Army ammunition plant in Webster Parish and proposed uranium enrichment facility in Claiborne Parish.

The annual report was prepared by Virginia Simons, assistant director at the Port of South Louisiana and formerly manager of petroleum and chemical development for the Economic Development Council of the Louisiana Chamber and the River Region. Simons has produced the report since working for a major engineering firm in 1975. Simons was out of the office this past week and unavailable for comment.

The report said projects are making downstream products from raw materials already produced in the state. It cited the DEXXO Polymers plant in Plaquemine, a $300 million joint venture between Dow and Exxon, and Formosa Plastics pipe and industrial film plants in Pointe Coupee Parish as examples.

Meanwhile, the state has made some progress with diversification into new industries. The report highlighted the Kronos titanium dioxide plant in Baton Rouge, a new stainless steel products plant in Ruston and Video Display Corp.'s new television tube plant in Bossier City.

With the renewed industrial activity, a number of idled plants have been acquired and/or reopened. Examples included Aggreko Inc.'s equipment maintenance facility in New Iberia, American International Petroleum Corp. refinery in Lake Charles, the Avondale Todd Shipyard in New Orleans, BioCom USA Ltd. ethanol plant in Jennings and Riverplex International wood chip terminal in Reserve.

The list of projects by parish includes:

- ST. CHARLES PARISH:
  - Agrico Chemical Co., Taft: reopening of 1 million-pound-per-year phosphoric acid plant; 134 new jobs; completion March 1989.
  - Cotelco Industries, St. Rose new 40,000-square-foot industrial equipment facility; completion summer 1990.

- ST. LOUIS PARISH:

SEE EXPANSION, 28