Visitors decry adversarial mindset of La. industry, environmentalists

Editor's note: Morning Advocate, environmental editor Bob Anderson, conducted this week-long tour of the environmental and industrial regions within Louisiana. The following is the first in a four-part series of articles detailing the interactions of governments, agencies, industries, environmental groups and neighbors, all of whom had previously voiced their opinions to the Advocate.

By BOB ANDERSON
Environmental editor

Pains peared to be away from the long, white bus as it hummed across the Arkansas (another public group, drawn to the nation, across areas of expertise, across the lines of opinions in environmental matters). They were impressed with the beauty and scope of Arkansas Delta's Louisiana's culture, food, and hospitality that drew them. Industries, residents, and environmentals all came away with good words for the state's environmental officials.

But the staccato the group viewed, the information they delivered and the messages they delivered left some less positive impressions of how the state is doing environmentally.

Though the group has not yet written a report of its findings, it's safe to say they weren't impressed with what they saw of the state's stewardship of its environmental beauty.

"We're not seeing much. And, some claims it has made to the residents in Louisiana, that they made it public to the right state and to the state in a way that they had done in a press release," said Nancy Dennis, director of the Department of Environmental Quality Regional Environmental Protection.

"The public has spoken in a very short amount of time. The public is concerned about the image industry and the public is concerned about the state of the environment. They're just not sure if the public is really interested in that," said Dennis.

The public has said this by writing letters, making calls, and sending e-mails to the Department of Environmental Quality Regional Environmental Protection.

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