

# St. Charles Herald-GUIDE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2000

Serving St. Charles Parish Since 1873

## Environmentalists reject results of Orion air samples

**NICOLE LAPORTE**  
*Staff writer*

Air samples taken over the last few weeks by Orion Refining Corp. of Norco - the results of which are to be presented at a community meeting tomorrow morning - have been called "invalid" by some environmental professionals.

The samples were taken in response to bucket samples collected by New Sarpy residents in late August that contained a benzene level nearly four times the state's allowable level.

In a letter dated Oct. 23, Orion was criticized for not providing sufficient information regarding test procedures, for being a poor communicator and for not living

up to its agreement with the community.

The letter was signed by Dorothy Jenkins of New Sarpy Concerned Citizens, Communities for a Better Environment Director Denny Larson, Louisiana Bucket Brigade Director Anne Rolfes and Soubra Company Director Wilma Soubra.

See SAMPLES, page 2A

2A

## Samples

FROM 1A

According to Rolfes, the sampling methodology that was agreed to be presented to Larson and Soubra for review was sent two weeks late, at which time samples had already been collected.

Rolfes said that despite several e-mail, fax and voice mail messages sent to Orion over the past few weeks, she was not contacted until Oct. 19.

Orion Spokesperson Joy Patin said that the standard EPA-approved testing method was sent late from Remedial Operation Group, the Texas chemical testing company that is reviewing the samples, and that it was forwarded to Larson and Soubra once it arrived.

Rolfes called the methodology "generic" and said it did not include specific locations and dates for the samples as had been agreed. She also pointed out that Orion did not wait for the method-

