Mar 13, 2009 5:47 pm US/Eastern

Oil Spill Victims Await Compensation From Exxon



Reporting Mike Schuh TOWSON, Md. (WJZ) - Oil giant Exxon Mobil has been ordered to pay \$150 million to dozens of Baltimore County homeowners whose property values were ruined by contaminated well water.

Mike Schuh reports other homeowners in the same area of

Jacksonville, who didn't take part in the lawsuit against Exxon, want their own cut.

Exxon will be in Jacksonville cleaning up for a long time to come, but the financial housekeeping is only halfway complete.

Those living in the affected area don't have to read the news; they're living it. The gas tanks at the station are long gone, but tanks of bottled water are now at nearly every home.

Twenty-eight thousand gallons of gas leaked out of a connecting pipe. Some of it remains under the homes and in the wells of 240 families.

"It's a severe leak. The amount of product is just unheard of in today's underground storage tank business." said one resident.

A Baltimore County jury is making Exxon pay \$150 million to 88 families. Not everyone in the area was part of that verdict.

Peter Angelos' firm has another 150 clients that they're representing, but they've all been told not to talk about it publicly.

Click to enlarge A Baltimore County jury found

Exxon Mobil Corp. liable for a gasoline leak in Jacksonville.

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Privately, some have told Eyewitness News that they're very excited about what happened Thursday, but they're very concerned that Exxon could appeal.

"I think it's fabulous," said Kevin Cory.

Cory lives right next door to the family that received the largest compensation from Exxon.

"I'm not suing Exxon, and honestly I didn't have the time or the energy to go through and go do depositions and go sit in court. Thank God my neighbors did it because it helped protect me," said Cory.

Angelos' firm says that the issues they will bring for a jury are different than the ones presented in the previous winning case.

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