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Md. jury finds Exxon Mobil liable for \$150 million

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By BEN NUCKOLS The Associated Press Thursday, March 12, 2009; 1:45 PM

TOWSON, Md. -- A jury is awarding about \$150 million to nearly 300 people who sued Exxon Mobil over wells contaminated by a gasoline leak north of Baltimore.

The Baltimore County jury awarded a majority of the families in the lawsuit about \$1 million each for emotional distress Thursday. Other damages cover declining home values and lifetime medical monitoring.

The jury didn't find Irving, Texas-based Exxon Mobil committed fraud, and therefore couldn't impose punitive damages. The plaintiffs had sought several billion in damages.

About 26,000 gallons of gasoline leaked from a gas station in 2006 in the town of Jacksonville.

Exxon Mobil Corp. says the spill was an accident. Company attorney Jim Sanders says he's gratified the jury found no intentional misconduct.

On the Net:

Exxon Mobil Corp.: http://www.exxonmobil.com