

BUILDING THE GREEN PARTY

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Rachel Treichler's Blog

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2007

More pols join suit against ExxonMobil



Two articles today about New York City politicians getting involved at long last in the Exxon oil spill. Maybe Green Party campaigns do have effects!

New York Daily News, January 26, 2007

<http://www.nydailynews.com/boroughs/story/491942p-414396c.html>

More pols join suit against ExxonMobil: Rep. Weiner also urges congressional hearings

BY JIMMY VIELKIND

DAILY NEWS WRITER

As it tries to clean up a decades-old Greenpoint oil spill, ExxonMobil is pumping millions of gallons of contaminated water into Newtown Creek each year,

environmental advocates charged yesterday.

Two more Brooklyn officials joined a lawsuit by the group Riverkeeper, which is seeking \$32,500 in damages for every day the petroleum giant continues to pump semitreated water into the creek, including traces of the carcinogen benzene.

"This company's blatant disregard for the health and safety of Brooklynites is downright disrespectful," Borough President Marty Markowitz said.

Markowitz toured the creek yesterday with state Sen. Martin Dilan (D-Greenpoint) and City Council members David Yassky (D-Williamsburg) and Eric Gioia (D-Queens) to announce their participation in the ongoing lawsuit.

In addition, Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-Brooklyn), a member of the House subcommittee on environment and hazardous materials, called yesterday for congressional hearings on the spill.

ExxonMobil is working to clean up 17 million gallons of oil spread over 55 acres in Greenpoint and Bushwick. Dating to the 1950s, it is the largest spill in an urban area, exceeding the amount of oil released by the infamous Exxon tanker Valdez.

Company officials say their actions are in full

compliance with state law and called the lawsuit "inaccurate and baseless."

"We sample the treated ground water every month to ensure compliance with these discharge limits," spokeswoman Premlata Nair told the Daily News.

But Riverkeeper officials said the state Department of Environmental Conservation's oversight of the Greenpoint spill is less stringent than it should be.

A spokeswoman for the agency said the allegations will be reviewed.

Residents who live near the creek said they hope the action will put pressure on ExxonMobil to be a good corporate citizen.

"We just can't get [the company] to do anything," said Mike Hofmann, 55, a retired postal worker who has lived in Greenpoint all his life and is a plaintiff on the Riverkeeper suit.

"This is dragging on in the courts, and hopefully getting more fines will move them along."

Yassky said the company's expenses will only pile up the more it battles the community.

"Sooner or later, they have to pay the piper," Yassky said. Originally published on January 26, 2007

New York Sun, January 26, 2007

<http://www.nysun.com/article/47466>

Solons Attack Exxon Mobil Over 1950 Spill

By ELIOT BROWN

Special to the Sun, January 26, 2007

Local politicians offered stinging criticism of oil giant **Exxon Mobil** yesterday as they announced plans to file an additional lawsuit against the company charging it failed to properly clean oil spilled in **Brooklyn** groundwater.

The suit, which the officials said is to be filed in federal court in 60 days, will likely be tacked onto a larger lawsuit against the company over the spill in Brooklyn. An estimated 17 million gallons of oil was leaked by **Standard Oil** into **Greenpoint** groundwater in 1950, about 9 million gallons of which Exxon Mobil has removed. However, in removing the groundwater since 2005, the company has been out of compliance with federal standards, groundwater environmental groups and lawmakers claim.

"Has Exxon Mobil no decency at all? They refuse to face the fact that they have been polluting Brooklyn, Greenpoint, **Queens**, and the waterways around **New**

York City," City Council Member David Yassky said at a press conference near the Newtown River. The president of Brooklyn, Marty Markowitz, Council Member Eric Gioia, and state Senator Martin Dilan all took turns pledging their support for the new action against the oil company.

Exxon Mobil denied any wrongdoing, saying it frequently tests the water. "We take our environmental responsibility very seriously," an Exxon Mobil spokesman, Prem Nair, wrote in an e-mail message.

POSTED BY RACHEL AT 9:44 AM

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