

Suncor

HOWEVER, NONE OF IT LEAKED INTO THE RIVER

By NEIL BOWEN
The Observer

The Ontario Environment Ministry announced Thursday the creation of a task force to look into the prevention of industrial spills following another mishap in the Chemical Valley.

Nearly 44,000 litres of crude oil was released within Suncor's Sarnia refinery near a storage tank and was contained using a foam-like substance. None leaked into the nearby St. Clair River, the company said.

In announcing the Industrial Pollution Action Team on Thursday, Environment Minister Leona Dombrowsky said the government was moved to action because of recent chemical spills.

"Recent events along the St. Clair River demonstrate the need for strong action to keep communities across the province clean and safe," Dombrowsky said in a release.

"I want this team to get to the root of the problem and come up with ideas to prevent spills and dangerous air emissions from happening now and in the future."

Within 30 days, the team will recommend prevention measure for industry to avoid spills.

Suncor was alerted to the leak by neighbours who had detected the distinctive odour of sulphur.

At the request of Suncor, Sarnia Police subsequently issued an order for First Nations residents to stay indoors and close their windows.

Aamjiwnaang Chief Phil Maness said he is growing increasingly concerned about the situation.

"There must be legislation to make industry and its manager more accountable," he said calling for "true penalties" for environmental offences. Com-



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