

COMMUNIQUE



NEW DEMOCRATS

NEO-DEMOCRATES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement on the MOE's Intervention in the "S" Area Dumpsite

The Ministry of Environment with its proposed "S" Area intervention is embarking on a very dangerous and ill-advised course.

The Ministry are locking themselves behind closed doors with Hooker Chemical Company, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and New York State, the parties directly responsible for the state of the Niagara River. Without including public interest groups in their initiative, there can be no guarantee that the public interest will be served by their intervention.

In fact, the legal implications of this intervention are terrifying. If the province of Ontario signs any agreement with Hooker Chemical Company that does not result in 100% clean up of the "S" Area site, the province may very well be signing away any future right to claim damages to the Niagara River and Lake Ontario from the abuses of the Hooker Chemical Company.

Given the Ministry's track record on the Niagara River -- their failure to clean up the Canadian side and their lack of interest in forcing the Americans to clean up their side -- this new initiative can only be regarded as a frivolous intervention undertaken more for its public relations value than for the purposes of calling Hooker to task for its destruction of the Niagara River.

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