

Court dismisses the lawsuit against Kobe Steel and a Group company

Kobe Steel, Ltd. announces that Kobe District Court dismissed the plaintiffs' claim, which was filed against Kobe Steel and its wholly owned subsidiary Kobelco Power Kobe No. 2, Inc. (hereinafter, the Companies) on September 14, 2018, as announced in the press release "Lawsuit filed against Kobe Steel and a Group company" as of October 3, 2018.

The lawsuit concerns the Kobe Power Plant's No. 3 and No. 4 units (hereinafter, the new power plant) currently in operation at 2, Nadahama Higashicho, Nada-ku, Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture (within Kobe Steel's Kobe Works).

1. Circumstances leading to the causes and raising of the lawsuit

The Companies undertook environmental impact assessment procedures for the plan to establish the new power plant (procedures completed on June 25, 2018, with the end of the public inspection period for the environmental impact assessment report), as well as made efforts to provide information and explanations in order to gain the understanding of the parties involved, including the residents of the immediate area. Despite such efforts, a lawsuit demanding injunctions on the construction of the new power plant, etc. was filed from those who claimed that by living in the vicinity of the planned construction site for the new power plant, they could suffer from the operation of the new facility.

2. Overview of the people raising the lawsuit

40 people who live in the vicinity of the new power plant

3. Content of the lawsuit

The plaintiffs claimed that the operation of the new power plant could cause air pollution and global warming (climate change) and consequently violate their personal rights. The plaintiffs demanded injunctions on the construction of the new power plant, etc. by the Companies and one other company.

In response, the Companies challenged the legality of the plaintiffs' claim and sought dismissal of the claim, arguing that the environmental impact assessment procedures for the new power plant construction plan had been properly implemented and that compliance with relevant laws and regulations had been confirmed.

4. Future prospects

This court's decision will have no impact on the Companies' business results. The Companies will continue to respond appropriately if the plaintiffs appeal against the decision.