

Legal appeal filed against Kobe Steel and a Group company

June 29, 2023
Kobe Steel, Ltd.

Kobe Steel, Ltd. announces that the Company and its wholly owned subsidiary Kobelco Power Kobe No. 2, Inc. (hereinafter, the Companies) received a notice of appeal together with the grounds of appeal from the Osaka High Court, concerning the legal appeal filed by some of the plaintiffs who were dissatisfied with the Kobe District Court's judgement that dismissed the plaintiffs' claims raised against the Companies on September 14, 2018, as announced in the press release "Court dismisses the lawsuit against Kobe Steel and a Group company" as of March 20.

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. Background of the appeal filed against the Companies

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 new power plant site, they could suffer from the operation of the new facility. The lawsuit was dismissed by the Kobe District Court as the court of first instance, but the appellants were dissatisfied with the judgement of the first instance and thereby filed the appeal.

2. Overview of the appellants

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

3. Content of the appeal

The appellants are seeking a judgment to rescind the judgment of the first instance and to order the Companies and one other company to stop the operation of the new plant.

4. Future prospects

The Companies believe that the judgment of the first instance was reasonable and there are no grounds for this appeal. Therefore, we plan to respond appropriately to this appeal by presenting our claims in court.

The impact of this appeal on the Companies' business performance is unclear at this point. In the case that items for disclosure should arise in the future, we will promptly make a disclosure.