

New OECD Guidelines Case

This is an OECD Watch case alert notification. This alert is sent each time OECD Watch is informed about an OECD Guidelines complaint being raised by NGOs at a National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines. Overviews of all pending cases are published in the in the OECD Watch Quarterly Case Update (www.oecdwatch.org/publications-en/quarterly-case-updates), and information on all cases filed by NGOs can be found in OECD Watch's online case database (www.oecdwatch.org/cases).

Case	Human rights violations at Usibelli's Wishbone Hill coal mine	
Company/ies		Status
Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. (UCM) The Electric Power Development Co., Ltd. (J-Power)		<i>Filed</i>
Complainant	Chickaloon Native Village Traditional Council (CNVTC)	
Date filed	5 May 2011	
NCP(s) concerned	US and Japanese NCPs	
Guidelines Chapter(s) & paragraph(s)	Chapter II par. 1, 2, 5 Chapter III par. 1, 2, 4, 5, Chapter V par. 2, 3	
Issue		
<p>The complaint alleges that Alaska-based UCM and Tokyo-based J-Power have violated the OECD Guidelines with relation to operations at the Wishbone Hill coal mine in Alaska, USA. In 1997, UCM purchased coal mining leases for 8,000 acres near Wishbone Hill, within Chickaloon ancestral lands. In 2010, UCM built a coal hauling and exploration road to the mine site less than 100 yards from the Chickaloon Tribal school, drilled up to 20 exploratory drill holes and excavated three trenches. The Wishbone Hill mine is expected to reach full production in 2012, and J-Power, a Japanese electric utility, is "the most likely purchaser" of coal from the mine.</p> <p>Specifically, the complainant contends that UCM has failed to contribute to sustainable development, has violated the human rights of Chickaloon Tribal members, has failed to properly consult and disclose information to Tribal members, and has failed to prepare an appropriate environmental impact assessment for its Wishbone Hill activities. According to the complainant, UCM's exploration activities were environmentally destructive, socially disruptive and undertaken without any Tribal consultation. The company has failed to provide the community with accurate information on the effects of its (proposed) activities on the survival of a culturally important salmon species and has ignored CVTNC's considerable efforts to restore the salmon, decimated by previous coal mining. CNVTC further alleges that UCM's environmental impact assessment is based on incomplete and false information about mammal (particularly moose), salmon and bird species and habitats and that it failed to adequately address the Tribe's concerns about water and health problems their religious and spiritual rights, their life-ways, ceremonies and spiritual relation to their ancestral lands.</p>		
Developments/Outcome		
The case was filed at the US and Japanese NCPs. The US NCP has confirmed receipt of the complaint and is conducting an initial assessment.		
More information about the complaint		
More information about the case and the complaint: http://oecdwatch.org/cases/Case_214 Contacts: Alberto Saldamando, International Indian Treaty Council, alberto@treatycouncil.org		

About OECD Watch

OECD Watch is an international network of civil society organisations from across the world promoting corporate accountability. OECD Watch represents a diverse range of civil society organisations working on human rights, labour rights, consumer rights, transparency, the environment and sustainable development.

OECD Watch facilitates NGO activities around the OECD Guidelines and the work of the OECD's Investment Committee.



The OECD Watch secretariat is hosted by SOMO, the Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations, based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

For more information on the network and/or specific OECD Guidelines cases, send an e-mail to info@oecdwatch.org or visit www.oecdwatch.org.