

Statistics of Environmental Disputes

A great number of environmental disputes have been settled through the environmental dispute settlement system. From its inauguration in 1970 to the end of March 2007, the Environmental Dispute Coordination Commission handled 785 cases, of which 773 cases were settled. The Prefectural Pollution Examination Commissions handled 1,127 cases, of which 1,083 cases were settled.

At the time the system had just been established, there were many industries-related pollution cases that posed serious threat to human health or property, such as Minamata disease cases.

Recently, besides the above, cases related to urban life or activities of citizens, for example, noise from neighbourhood or automobiles, air pollution by exhausted gas emission, etc. are increasing. Also, there have been drastic changes in types of environmental disputes; residents, who are against construction of mass-burn incinerator, insist that released air or polluted water from the incinerator may cause harm to their environment, etc..

Main cases handled by the Environmental Dispute Coordination Commission

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cases on <i>Minamata</i> disease• Cases on damage to pearl farming• Cases on noise from <i>Osaka</i> International Airport• Case on noise from road traffic in <i>Setagaya</i> ward, <i>Tokyo</i>• Cases on air pollution caused by spiked tires• Cases on noise from <i>Shinkansen</i> trains• Cases on water or soil pollution by agrochemicals used at golf courses• Cases on waste management |
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Typical cases handled by Prefectural Pollution Examination Commissions
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cases related to neighborhood noise, such as noise caused by outside equipments of air conditioners or refrigerators etc.• Cases related to noise and vibration caused by factories• Opposition to construction of mass-burn incinerator or roads• Cases related to damage from agrochemicals used at golf courses |
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