

Statement  
3/10/2020  
Takao Saiki

1. Since October 4th, 2015, I have been living with my wife near the Nagai Urushima Fishing Port in Yokosuka. We used to live in Tokyo, but we moved here to the Sagami Bay because my wife has always wanted to live in a place with a nice view of Mt. Fuji.

2. Since we were looking for a place where we could see Mt. Fuji well, our house is only 100 meters away from the shore of the bay. The height difference from the land below is less than 8 meters with a near-vertical slope, and while there is a concrete retaining wall on the cliff of the parking lot side of the house, there is no retaining wall on the other side's cliff, which is currently covered by overgrown trees and grass. Two years ago, Yokosuka City staff came to investigate whether it was necessary to construct an additional retaining wall, but since the cliff was lower than the standard height for constructing one, the investigation was ended without any further action.

At this time, we learned from the city staff that our house was built on a place designated as a sediment disaster warning area (steep slope). The distance between the house and the cliff is only about 2 meters, so if the cliff collapses, there is a high possibility that the house will also collapse along with it.

(Photo taken by Proxy for the Plaintiff Akito Kubota, 2/26/2020: The house on the top of the hill)



(Photo taken by Proxy for the Plaintiff Akito Kubota, 2/26/2020: Showing the proximity of the house to the cliff)



3. The typhoon that occurred in October 2017 brought tremendous rain and wind that made me concerned whether or not it would be safe to stay at our location. At Nagai Arai fishing harbor, about 300 meters away from our home, boats and fishing materials were thrown onto the slope, and the guardrail in front of Nanya Beach on the Arasaki coast near Arai Fishing Port was destroyed by the high tide.

In addition, during the event of Typhoon Faxai (No.15) in 2019, roads were blocked after seaside cliffs near Arai fishing port collapsed. When a nearby cliff with similar topography to the one near my house collapsed, I became seriously worried that the cliff near us would collapse as well.

4. The wind during Typhoon Faxai was so violent that it felt as if our house would blow away. The power outage lasted 15 hours. In addition, near the Arai fishing port, flood tides and high tides overlapped, throwing the connected fishing boats up onto the land. In my house, the ridge sheet metal on the roof has a gap to allow air to pass to keep rain from entering, but in the case of Typhoon Faxai, water entered through the gap causing devastating damage on the second floor and seeping to the first floor. In addition, a large amount of rainwater flowed from the fields on the opposite side of the cliff toward the house, causing gravel on the road in front of the house to wash away. Due to the enormous growth of natural disasters caused by climate change, typhoon winds are intensifying. I am worried that my home will be swept away like those in the Bahamas during a hurricane last year.

5. I first heard at the end of 2017 about the plan to build a new coal-fired power plant in Yokosuka. After submitting an opinion to Yokosuka's mayor to stop construction, they replied that the city will not propose to cancel the construction plan. They stated that this was an administrative decision by a private business based on the plans to reduce air pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions from existing facilities, the government's energy mix framework for 2030, and the agreement between the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Minister of the Environment on February 9, 2016. I have also urged the governor of Kanagawa Prefecture to stop the construction, but they only responded by saying they will request JERA Co., Ltd. to take appropriate environmental considerations.

6. As a Japanese citizen, it is unbearable to me to expose the world to the danger of further large-scale natural disasters by accelerating global warming through coal-fired power generation and burning coal, which emits the largest amount of CO<sub>2</sub> among fossil fuels. Furthermore, as a Yokosuka citizen, dispersing harmful PM<sub>2.5</sub>, sulfur oxides, and nitrogen oxides emitted from coal-fired power plants to neighboring citizens in Zushi, Kamakura, Fujisawa, Yokohama, Tokyo, and Chiba, is equally hard to bear. Because wind does not constantly blow in the same direction, the smoke could also disperse in the area of Yokosuka Nishi where I live. At my annual health checkup, I have been told that my lungs have shadows, and that I have a respiratory disease. The air pollution could put my life at risk.

7. If the government is not trying to protect the health and life of its citizens, then we citizens of Yokosuka have decided to enter as plaintiffs, requesting cancellation of the construction of the Yokosuka coal-fired power plants. We cannot cause further harm to the lives of many, and so we want to do whatever it takes for the sake of future generations to stop the construction of coal-fired power plants.