

12-7-1986

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JUDGE APPROVES USX BIAS AWARD

The New York Times

December 7, 1986, Sunday, Late City Final Edition

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Section: Section 1; Part 2, Page 43, Column 5; National Desk

Length: 317 words

Byline: AP

Dateline: PITTSBURGH, Dec. 6

Body

A \$3.3 million settlement of a sex discrimination suit against USX Corporation has won final court approval.

Federal District Judge Alan N. Bloch gave final approval Friday to the settlement against the mining division of USX, formerly the United States Steel Corporation. He tentatively approved the settlement in July.

The ruling culminates an eight-year court battle involving two USX mining districts in Pennsylvania and West Virginia with about a dozen mines, some of which are now idled.

"I'm glad it's over," one of the original plaintiffs, Linda Butcher, said. "I did it entirely on the basis of principle. I had no thought of winning money. I was just angry I wasn't hired when they hired men less qualified."

Norman Wesley, a spokesman for the Pittsburgh-based USX, said that the company had no comment on the ruling.

Ms. Butcher, 41 years old, of Pittsburgh, and Joan Bondira, 30, of nearby Wilkinsburg filed separate lawsuits against United States Steel Mining Company Inc. in 1978, charging the company with sex discrimination in hiring. Their suits were eventually merged into a case tried before Judge Bloch in 1984.

The judge found that sex discrimination occurred in the company's Gary district of southern West Virginia from 1976 to 1978, a period in which the district employed only a small number of women.

In the Cumberland district in southwestern Pennsylvania, the judge found that sex discrimination had occurred from early 1977 to Aug. 5, 1977, the date the first woman was hired there.

Roslyn M. Litman, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, estimated that as many as 400 women were discriminated against in unsuccessful bids for mining jobs in the two districts. So far, the attorney has located 300 of unsuccessful applicants who would share in the settlement.

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Ms. Butcher, now an electrician, will receive \$50,000 in damages. Ms. Bondira, a mechanical maintenance worker, will receive \$8,000.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: APPROVALS (92%); DISCRIMINATION (92%); JUDGES (92%); GENDER & SEX DISCRIMINATION (91%); SETTLEMENT & COMPROMISE (91%); GENDER & SEX DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT (90%); LITIGATION (90%); NEGATIVE SOCIETAL NEWS (90%); SUITS & CLAIMS (90%); WOMEN (89%); DAMAGES (78%); EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION (78%); LAW COURTS & TRIBUNALS (78%); LAWYERS (78%); NEGATIVE BUSINESS NEWS (78%); BLUE COLLAR WORKERS (77%); CRAFT & TRADE WORKERS (77%); MINE WORKERS (77%)

Company: UNITED STATES STEEL CORP (94%); MARATHON OIL CORP (93%); USX CORP (93%); UNITED STATES STEEL CORP (94%); MARATHON OIL CORP (93%)

Organization: USX CORP

Ticker: X (NYSE) (94%); MRO (NYSE) (93%)

Industry: NAICS331110 IRON & STEEL MILLS & FERROALLOY MANUFACTURING (94%); SIC3312 STEEL WORKS, BLAST FURNACES (INCLUDING COKE OVENS) & ROLLING MILLS (94%); NAICS447190 OTHER GASOLINE STATIONS (93%); NAICS324110 PETROLEUM REFINERIES (93%); NAICS211111 CRUDE PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS EXTRACTION (93%); SIC2911 PETROLEUM REFINERIES (93%); LAWYERS (78%); IRON & STEEL INDUSTRY (77%); MINE WORKERS (77%); MINING & EXTRACTION (77%); MINES & MINING (72%)

Geographic: PITTSBURGH, PA, USA (93%); PENNSYLVANIA, USA (93%); WEST VIRGINIA, USA (92%); UNITED STATES (92%)