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## Sex Discrimination Trial Against U.S. Steel Subsidiary Opens

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# Sex Discrimination Trial Against U.S. Steel Subsidiary Opens

The Associated Press

May 7, 1984, Monday, AM cycle

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**Section:** Domestic News

**Length:** 502 words

**Byline:** By MARCIA DUNN, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** PITTSBURGH

## Body

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Officials of U.S. Steel Corp.'s mining subsidiary told a woman miner that she was "too pretty" to work underground, she testified Monday as the sex discrimination case against the company began in federal court.

"I was told how the men cussed and used profanity and that it was dirty ... that I was too pretty to go under the ground," said Regina Mae Hall, 33, of Brenton, W.Va.

She had applied for a job at U.S. Steel's Pinnacle Creek Mine No. 50 in West Virginia in 1976. She said she was told the mine was not hiring anyone, but several months later she saw 15 to 20 new employees, all of them men.

She filed a discrimination suit with the West Virginia Commission on Human Rights in late 1976 and won back pay.

Ms. Hall, who later got a job as a miner for another coal company, was among several witnesses testifying Monday on behalf of a discrimination suit filed by three southwestern Pennsylvania women against U.S. Steel Mining Co. Inc.

Russell Guttshall, an attorney for U.S. Steel, did not present any opening remarks and declined to comment afterward on the case.

In her opening remarks, Roslyn Litman, attorney for the women, told U.S. District Judge Alan Bloch that such discriminatory practices "pervade the entire system" of the mining subsidiary.

The company's recruitment and hiring policies, along with harassment of female miners, "combined together to chill the effect of women so that women knew with U.S. Steel they need not apply," Ms. Litman said.

The plaintiffs are requesting back pay for all women who have experienced discrimination while applying or working at jobs in U.S. Steel mines in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky and Alabama.

Ms. Litman estimates that at least 1,500 women have applied at U.S. Steel's Eastern mines since 1976. The company hired its first female miner in 1975, after state laws banning women from the mines were overturned. About 330 women have been hired by U.S. Steel since then, she said.

"We're hoping for some injunctive relief in the future so we can put some women in there (the mine)," Ms. Litman said.

The non-jury trial is expected to last four to six weeks, with Bloch deciding whether discrimination exists and, if so, what damages will be awarded.

The class action was filed in 1978 by Joan Bondira, 28, of Pittsburgh, a construction worker; Linda Lou Butcher, 39, of Waynesburg, an electrician; and Lois Ann Layhew, 38, of McClellandtown, a school bus driver.

All three applied for jobs at U.S. Steel mines during the mid-1970s, but only Ms. Layhew was hired. She was not allowed to return to her job, however, following an automobile accident.

Doris Ann Hubbard, 35, of Eolia, Ky., testified she was discouraged during a job interview with U.S. Steel.

"He (the personnel officer) asked me if I really wanted to work in a mine," she said.

Ms. Hubbard said she was harassed after being hired in 1979 at the Winifred No. 33 mine in Lynch, Ky. She said she continually was told "I shouldn't be there and if I weren't there some capable man could have that job."

## **Classification**

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**Language:** ENGLISH

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Sex Discrimination Trial Against U.S. Steel Subsidiary Opens

**Industry:** NAICS331110 IRON & STEEL MILLS & FERROALLOY MANUFACTURING (94%); SIC3312 STEEL WORKS, BLAST FURNACES (INCLUDING COKE OVENS) & ROLLING MILLS (94%); NAICS212112 BITUMINOUS COAL UNDERGROUND MINING (85%); SIC1222 BITUMINOUS COAL UNDERGROUND MINING (85%); LAWYERS (78%); MINE WORKERS (78%); MINES & MINING (78%); MINING & EXTRACTION (78%); MOTOR VEHICLES (60%); TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS (60%)

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