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Opinion of MGC Regarding a Soil Pollution Study Conducted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government

A soil pollution study performed in Omori-minami 4-chome, Ota-ku, Tokyo has revealed that dioxin levels are substantially higher than regulatory standards.

Because this land was previously owned by Japan Gas Chemical Co, Inc. (JGC), which merged with Mitsubishi Edogawa Chemical Co., Ltd. in 1971 to form Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Co., Inc., MGC was notified by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in August 2000, and since then, has fully cooperated with this municipal study.

The surveyors encountered many difficulties due to the fact that the land in question was sold in 1967. Since that time, many of the individuals involved have retired or passed away, and several important documents, such as the commercial register of the Regional Legal Affairs Bureau, have been discarded. However, the surveyors worked hard to trace the registration of the land, question the few parties still living, and examine the remaining documents. MGC has actively contributed by providing information to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and will continue cooperating with the investigation in order to promote an even more thorough understanding of the situation.

According to the survey, during the early 1950s JGC leased the land from the founders of Kyoei Kasei Industries Ltd., a manufacturer of phthalic anhydride. In 1960, JGC provided business support to Kyoei Kasei in the form of investment capital, and in 1962, following a request from Kyoei Kasei, JGC purchased the rights to the land and leased it back to Kyoei Kasei, which continued its operations. In 1964, Kyoei Kasei went bankrupt, and the land was cleared and sold to a third party in 1967.

MGC is extremely concerned about the possibility that it may be responsible for the high levels of dioxin found in the soil. For reference, the survey conducted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government found that "because soil pollution was discovered under concrete but not on the surface, it posed no threat to the surrounding environment. In addition, a survey conducted in 2000 found no evidence of air or groundwater pollution in the neighboring area."

MGC is committed to alleviating the concerns of local residents, and will continue to cooperate with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in order to clarify and resolve this issue as soon as possible.

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