



## OFFICE OF EXTERNAL CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

July 18, 2024

**Return Receipt Requested**

Certified Mail #: 7015 3010 0001 1267 3269

**In Reply Refer to:**

EPA Complaint No: 03RSr-24-R4

Marian McDaniel  
Fire Chief  
Rockdale County Fire & Rescue Department  
1496 Rockbridge Road, NW  
Conyers, GA 30012

**Re: Acknowledgement and Rejection of Administrative Complaint**

Dear Chief Marian McDaniel:

This letter is to notify you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights, Office of External Civil Rights Compliance (OECRC), received correspondence on November 27, 2023, involving the Rockdale County Fire & Rescue Department, alleging discrimination based on race, sex and retaliation in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Pursuant to EPA's nondiscrimination regulation, OECRC conducts a preliminary review of administrative complaints to determine acceptance, rejection, or referral to the appropriate Federal agency. See 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(d)(1). To be accepted for investigation, a complaint must meet the jurisdictional requirements described in EPA's nondiscrimination regulation. First, the complaint must be in writing. See 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(b)(1). Second, it must describe an alleged discriminatory act that, if true, may violate EPA's nondiscrimination regulation (i.e., an alleged discriminatory act based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability). Id. Third, it must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act. See 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(b)(2). Finally, the complaint must be filed against an applicant for, or recipient of, EPA financial assistance that allegedly committed the discriminatory act. See 40 C.F.R. § 7.15.)

Based on the above, this correspondence does not constitute a complaint that we can accept for investigation. As the Rockdale County Fire & Rescue Department is not an EPA recipient, OECRC does not have jurisdiction over the Rockdale County Fire & Rescue Department. Accordingly, as of the date of this letter, we are rejecting this complaint for lack of jurisdiction and will take no further action on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Wilson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Wilson  
Acting Deputy Director  
Office of External Civil Rights Compliance  
Office of Environmental Justice &  
External Civil Rights

cc: Ariadne Goerke  
Deputy Associate General Counsel  
Civil Rights & Finance Law Office

César Zapata  
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator  
Acting Deputy Civil Rights Official  
U.S. EPA Region 4

Leif Palmer  
Regional Counsel  
U.S. EPA Region 4