



OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND ADJUDICATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

January 6, 2026

Jim Macy, Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, KS 66219
via email: macy.jim@epa.gov

Re: **Rejection of EPA Complaint No. 05U-25-R7**

Dear Regional Administrator Macy:

As you are aware, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights and Adjudication (OCRA), External Civil Rights Division (ECRD) received the above-referenced complaint against EPA Region 7. The complaint raises allegations of discrimination by EPA Region 7 against Johnson County residents in “flight path communities” by “failing to act on known lead hazards” and “refusing to monitor exposures, warn residents, or provide mitigation,” leading to “disproportionate health risks [and] burdens [that] fall especially on children and, in certain census tracts, minority residents.”¹

This letter serves to notify you that ECRD is rejecting the complaint.

Pursuant to EPA’s nondiscrimination regulation, ECRD conducts a preliminary jurisdictional review of external civil rights complaints to determine whether to accept, reject, or refer it to an 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.

¹ See EPA Complaint No. 05U-25-R7

First, the complainant must submit a complaint in writing. See 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(b)(1). Second, the entity that the complainant identifies as allegedly engaging in discrimination must be an applicant for, or recipient of, EPA financial assistance. See 40 C.F.R. § 7.15.

Third, the complainant must describe an alleged discriminatory act that, if true, may violate EPA's nondiscrimination regulation. See 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(b)(1). An alleged discriminatory act is one based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Fourth, a complainant must file the complaint within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act. See 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(b)(2).

After careful consideration, ECRD must reject this complaint for investigation. Although the complaint is in writing, EPA Region 7 is a federal agency component and cannot be an applicant or recipient of EPA federal financial assistance, and as such, ECRD lacks jurisdiction pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 7. Furthermore, the complaint does not allege a discriminatory act on the basis of a protected class that, if true, may violate of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000(d) et seq. and/or EPA's nondiscrimination regulation at 40 C.F.R. Part 7. Additionally, the complaint does not specify a discriminatory incident that occurred within 180 days of filing a complaint with ECRD. Accordingly, ECRD must reject this complaint for lack of jurisdiction.

Finally, EPA's nondiscrimination regulation prohibits applicants, recipients, and other persons from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or engaging in other discriminatory conduct against anyone because they have acted or participated in an action to secure rights protected by the civil rights requirements EPA enforces. See 40 C.F.R. § 7.100. Any individual that opines a recipient has engaged in such misconduct can file a complaint with EPA.

If you have questions, please contact Case Manager Rebecca Gillman by email at
Gillman.Rebecca@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juan Carlos Hunt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Juan" and "Carlos" stacked vertically and "Hunt" written horizontally to the right.

JuanCarlos M. Hunt, Director
Office of Civil Rights and Adjudication
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

cc: David Cozad, Deputy Regional Administrator/Deputy Civil Rights Official
Leslie Humphrey, Acting Regional Counsel, U.S. EPA, Region 7