



OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND ADJUDICATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

September 3, 2026

Sam Lindley, Chair
c/o Allyson L. Wilkinson, County Attorney
Washington County Regional Planning Commission
100 E Main Street
Jonesborough, TN 37659
via email: AWilkinson@washingtoncountyttn.org

Re: Rejection of EPA Complaint No. 26-26-R4

Dear Chair Lindley:

As you are aware, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights and Adjudication (OCRA), External Civil Rights Division (ECD) received the above-referenced complaint against Washington County Regional Planning Commission (Washington County RPC). The complaint raises allegations of discrimination by Washington County RPC on the basis of disability by denying access to public meetings and creating barriers to meaningful participation. The alleged barriers include inadequate public notice, inaccessible meetings conditions, and unequal treatment of people using mobility devices.

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

Pursuant to EPA's nondiscrimination regulation, ECD must conduct a preliminary jurisdictional review of administrative 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.

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) and 7.100. An alleged discriminatory act is one based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or engaging in

or opposing protected activity. Fourth, a complainant must file the complaint within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act. *See* 7.120(b)(2).

After careful consideration, ECRD is rejecting this complaint because Washington County RPC is not a recipient of EPA financial assistance.

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 believes a recipient has engaged in such misconduct can file a complaint with EPA.

If you have any questions, please contact Case Manager Trinita Mason by email at mason.trinita@epa.gov or by phone at 202-564-9652.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juan Carlos Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JuanCarlos M. Hunt, Director
U.S. EPA, Office of Civil Rights and Adjudication

cc: Kristi Eubanks, Deputy Regional Administrator/Deputy Civil Rights Official
Suzanne Rubini, Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region 4