



OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND ADJUDICATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

September 2, 2026

John R. Dunn, Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Health
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243
via email: John.Dunn@tn.gov

Re: Referral of EPA Complaint No. 28-26-R4

Dear Commissioner Dunn:

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 Tennessee Department of Health (TDH). The complaint raises allegations of discrimination by TDH on the basis of disability by:

- Failing to provide targeted health guidance addressing uranium-related risks for medically vulnerable or disabled residents;
- Failing to offer emergency-planning coordination for homebound residents and evacuation or shelter-in-place planning for individuals with disabilities; and
- Only offering limited public health framing regarding potential health impacts to vulnerable populations.

Pursuant to EPA's nondiscrimination regulation, ECRD 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).

After careful consideration, ECRD is referring the complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as the appropriate federal agency to address complaints of state and local public health guidance. ECRD is closing this complaint as of the date of this letter.

Below is HHS' contact information should you wish to follow up with HHS on this referral:

Centralized Case Management Operations
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201
OCRComplaint@hhs.gov

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