



OFFICE OF EXTERNAL CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

September 10, 2024

In Reply Refer to:

08RNO-24-R4

Steve Davis
City Manager
City of Port Wentworth City Hall
7224 GA Highway 21
Port Wentworth, GA 31407
stevedavis@cityofportwentworth.com

Re: Rejection of Administrative Complaint

Dear Mr. Davis:

This letter is to notify you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, Office of External Civil Rights Compliance (OECRC), is rejecting for investigation an administrative complaint, involving the City of Port Wentworth, GA, that alleged discrimination based on race 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.)

OECRC's preliminary review found that we cannot accept the complaint for investigation because the City of Port Wentworth is not an applicant for, or recipient of, EPA federal financial assistance. Accordingly, as of the date of this letter, we are rejecting the complaint for lack of jurisdiction and will take no further action on this matter.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 564-3357, or by email at wilson.adam@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

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