UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 16 2013

OFFICE OF
CIVIL RIGHTS

Return Receipt Requested
Certified Mail#: 7004-1160-0002-3622-7953

In Reply Refer to:
EPA File No.: 01R-13-R5

Michael Alston
Director, Office of Civil Rights
Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice
810 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20531-3718

Re: Referral of Administrative Complaint

Dear Mr. Alston,

On January 16, 2013, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights (OCR), received a complaint from a prisoner at the Saginaw Correctional Facility making allegations that there are insufficient wastewater treatment services at the facility. Because EPA OCR has responsibility for processing complaints alleging a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and EPA's nondiscrimination regulations found at 40 C.F.R. Part 7, we assumed for purposes of processing the correspondence that the complaint was made under Title VI. None of the entities involved in providing wastewater treatment services to the Saginaw Correctional Facility are recipients of EPA financial assistance. Therefore, the complaint is not within EPA OCR's jurisdiction to investigate, and OCR must reject the complaint for investigation. 40 C.F.R. § 7.15.

However, because the Department of Justice may have subject matter expertise over the allegations in this complaint, the complaint is being referred to the Department of Justice to review and investigate as you deem appropriate. We have notified the complainant that the complaint has been forwarded to the Department of Justice and provided your contact information. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Helena Wooden-Aguilar at (202) 564-0792, via email at wooden-aguilar.helena@epa.gov, or via mail at U.S. EPA, Office of Civil Rights, (Mail Code 1201A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC, 20460.

Sincerely,

Vicki Simons
Acting Director

Enclosure(s)

cc: Stephen G. Pressman, Associate General Counsel
Civil Rights and Finance Law Office (MC 2399A)

[redacted]
Saginaw Correctional Facility
9625 Pierce Road
Freeland, MI 48623-8102

Diana Embril
EPA Region 5
MC C-14J