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

NOV 9 2011

OFFICE OF
CIVIL RIGHTS

Return Receipt Requested
Certified Mail# 7004-2510-0004-2241-5162

In Reply Refer To:
EPA OCR File No: 03R-11-R4

[redacted]
P.O. Box 275
Winterville, GA 30683-0275

Re: Administrative Closure

Dear [redacted]:

This letter is in response to your letter to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) dated December 5, 2010, which was referred and received by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Civil Rights (OCR) on April 15, 2011. DOJ also referred your letter to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Your letter concerns alleged hazardous waste contamination that you assert EPA Region IV and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division allowed to continue at your former residence.

Your letter asks that DOJ complete an investigation into your allegations. In addition, in that email you also requested the following: 1) For EPA to contact ATSDR and to request a complete Public Health Assessment that was initially promised to you and; 2) for EPA to hold a meeting to take place in Athens, Georgia with the agencies who did not fully disclose the full impact of the known health risks from contaminants of concern that were responsible for your son's [redacted]

EPA's OCR is responsible for enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and EPA's implementing regulations at 40 CFR Part 7, which prohibit discrimination based on race, color and national origin by recipients of EPA assistance. OCR was in contact with you on multiple occasions between May and July 2011 to seek clarification on your allegations. As a result of those conversations, OCR has concluded that you do not wish to submit a complaint alleging violations of Title VI. Therefore, OCR is administratively closing this matter. It should be noted that Title VI does not apply to the conduct of federal agencies.

In addition, OCR has learned that EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) sent you a letter on March 29, 2011, addressing some of your concerns. This letter also provided the contact information of individuals in the Spartanburg Regional Office of South Carolina's Department of Health and

Environmental Control and EPA's Region IV. A copy of that letter has been enclosed for your convenience.

If you have any questions, please contact Brittany Martinez of OCR's External Compliance Program, by telephone at (202) 564-0727, via e-mail at martinez.brittany@epa.gov, or by mail at U.S. EPA, Office of Civil Rights (Mail Code 1201A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC, 20460-1000.

Sincerely,

Rafael DeLeon
Director

Enclosure

cc: Kenda Layne, Acting Deputy Director
Office of Administration & Policy (MC 2231A)

Rhonda Bailey, EEO Officer
Region IV

Katherin E. Hall, Assistant General Counsel
Civil Rights and Finance Law Office (MC 2399A)

Georgina Verdugo
Director, Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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