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

JAN 14 2013

OFFICE OF
CIVIL RIGHTS

Return Receipt Requested
Certified Mail#: 7004-1160-0002-3622-6260

In Reply Refer to:
EPA File No.: 12R-12-R4

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 August 14, 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights (OCR) received a complaint, which was amended September 24, 2012, from an inmate at the Easterling Correctional Facility. The complaint alleged that operations at the Easterling Correctional Facility, which is managed by the Alabama Department of Corrections and Barbour County, the municipal entity responsible for drinking water supply and wastewater treatment at the Easterling Correctional Facility, have subjected the inmates to dangerous environmental conditions. Easterling Correctional Facility, the Alabama Department of Corrections, and Barbour County are not recipients of EPA financial assistance. Therefore, the complaint is not within EPA OCR jurisdiction to investigate and OCR must reject the complaint for investigation.

However, because the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) may have a federal financial assistance link to the Alabama Department of Corrections and subject matter expertise over the allegations in this complaint, the complaint is being referred to DOJ to review and investigate as you deem appropriate. We have notified the complainant that his complaint has been forwarded to DOJ and provided him with 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,

Rafael DeLeon

Rafael DeLeon
Director

Enclosure(s)

cc: [redacted] Complainant

Ms. Naima Halim-Chestnut, Title VI Contact
EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Mail Code: 9T25
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Stephen G. Pressman, Associate General Counsel
Civil Rights and Finance Law Office (MC 2399A)