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

APR 16 2013

OFFICE OF
CIVIL RIGHTS

Return Receipt Requested
Certified Mail#: 7004-1160-0002-3622-7274

In Reply Refer to:
EPA File No.: 18R-12-R4

Chris Herron
Chief, Voting Section, Civil Rights Division
Room 7254 – NWB, Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20530-0009

Re: Referral of Administrative Complaint

Dear Mr. Herron,

On August 15, 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights (OCR), received a complaint from a resident of Jones County and the Town of Trenton in North Carolina. The complaint alleged that the Town of Trenton and the County of Jones discriminated against African Americans because there has never been an African American elected or appointed to the Town Board of Trenton or the Board of County Commissioners of Jones County. Neither the Town of Trenton nor Jones County are 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 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,

Vicki Simons
Acting Director

Enclosure(s)

cc: Stephen G. Pressman, Associate General Counsel

Civil Rights and Finance Law Office (MC 2399A)

Emmitt Fleming and Daniel Willis, Complainants
Jones County Improvement Association
P.O. Box 397
Trenton, NC 28585-0397

Zack Koonce III
Chairman, Jones County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 340
418 Hwy 58 N.
Trenton, NC 28585-0340

Naima Halim-Chestnut
USEPA REGION 4
Mail Code: 9T25