From: Golightly-Howell, Velveta
To: Khan, Zahra; Peterson, Samuel; Covington, Jeryl; Temple, Kurt
Cc: Dorka, Lilian
Subject: FW: Update on GA EPD/Relevant to OCR Complaint
Date: Monday, March 14, 2016 1:51:29 PM

FYI.

Velveta

Velveta Golightly-Howell
Director, Office of Civil Rights
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code 1201A
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-7272

From: Golightly-Howell, Velveta
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 1:50 PM
To: (b) (6) Privacy [redacted]
Cc: jgill@gainesvilletimes.com; Dorka, Lilian <Dorka.Lilian@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Update on GA EPD/Relevant to OCR Complaint

(b) (6) Privacy [redacted] Thank you for this information. Lilian has been out of the office. However, she returned today. I'm copying her to share your message.

Velveta

Velveta Golightly-Howell
Director, Office of Civil Rights
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code 1201A
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-7272

From: (b) (6) Privacy [redacted]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 11:38 AM
To: Golightly-Howell, Velveta <Golightly-Howell.Velveta@epa.gov>
Cc: jgill@gainesvilletimes.com
Subject: Update on GA EPD/Relevant to OCR Complaint

Dear Velveta:

Please see the most recent update on GA EPD below that is relevant to my discrimination fluoridation complaint. GA EPD continues to intentionally contaminate municipal water supplies with chemical compounds to fluoridate, and promote expansion of these corrosive neurotoxic agents that stress already crumbling water infrastructures and remain persistent in the environment. Even as we are now in a post Flint declared national public health crisis from water lead poisoning, Georgia EPD's unilateral move in August 2015 through GA EPD/Board of Natural Resources to eliminate minimum flow requirements in the Chattahoochee will disproportionately impact the poorest minority communities who are known to be overburdened from environmental stressors. No study was done by GA EPD to calculate this impact, or if it has, it remains withheld from the public. As a water poisoned victim while residing in an EJ community in GA, the agencies secretly negotiated with the perpetrators without removing us from the major environmental chemical hazards that resulted in our water poisoning. This ongoing discrimination of GA EPD should cease.

Please note this in my complaint. I never heard back from Lilian, Samuel, or anyone in OCR.

Thank you,

(b) (6) Pr [redacted]

Florida stewing over missing Georgia emails in water wars case
Despite rift, states moving toward settlement

Jeff Gill
jgill@gainesvilletimes.com
March 13, 2016

Although moving toward a possible settlement, Florida is taking Georgia to task for missing emails it considers relevant as part of the two states' ongoing water wars.
"The failure to preserve these emails may have legal implications as this continues," Florida states in a March 4 filing in the U.S. Supreme Court case.
In 2015, as part of the states' gathering of documents to build their respective cases, Georgia disclosed that the email accounts of at least three personnel, including one former Environmental Protection Division director, "had been deleted or otherwise destroyed," Florida said.
In response, Florida filed a notice seeking further information as to whether any emails could be retrieved. At the time, Georgia didn't refer specifically to missing emails but said it was "assessing" Florida's request for a status of email records for past EPD directors.

Later, Georgia refused “to make a witness available for … topics related to the issue of deleted data,” according to court filings.

“Florida believes the missing emails are likely to be highly relevant to proving Georgia’s inequitable conduct in this case,” the Sunshine State said.

In the latest in what has been two decades of court battles over water, Florida has charged that Georgia’s “overconsumption” of water in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin, which includes Lake Lanier, is creating economic hardship, particularly on the oyster industry in Apalachicola Bay.

Georgia has denied the allegations.

In a separate court filing, Georgia said it objected to producing a witness on the issue because it feels requests for “the email accounts of three former EPD Directors who departed EPD at various points over the past 15 years … were overbroad, not relevant, substantially burdensome and unrelated to the merits of this case.”

On Jan. 14, Ralph I. Lancaster, a Maine lawyer appointed by the Supreme Court to oversee the case, sided with Georgia.

“There is no allegation that Georgia has acted in bad faith,” Lancaster said, noting that the emails weren’t moved to the state’s new server in 2013.

“Further, Georgia represents that it has taken numerous steps to find alternative sources for the emails that resided on the old server.”

Despite the acrimony, the two states said in their March 4 status reports they’re moving forward on mediation.

However, Lancaster scolded lawyers in a phone conference last week for not devoting more time and energy to settling the case.

“In its November progress report, Georgia suggested mediation and Florida agreed,” he said. “Four months have gone by and the most you can tell me is … the mediation process is underway.

“If you had invested up to 10 percent of the effort and time and expense you have used in (gathering information) on mediation, we would not be here spinning our wheels.

“At the next call, I expect to have reports that show actual mediation progress.”

http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/section/6/article/115668/

Sent from my iPhone