(b) (6) Privacy, (b) (7)(C) Enforcement Priva
[redacted] Austin TX 78729

Via electronic mail and, fax, post mail Delivery

Date April 5, 2019

Mike Hardison, Chief Auditor TCEQ
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087

David Gray, Cheryl Seager, US EPA Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202

U.S. EPA Office of General Counsel External Civil Rights Compliance Office,
Mail Code (2310A)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, D.C. 20460

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Inspector General Hotline
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Mail code 2431T
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Whistleblower Disclosure

Dear EPA, General Consul and Commission 'Members

This is a hard letter for me to write because I have been a dedicated TCEQ employee for over twenty years and love our mission and need my job. I make this report because I respectfully believe that the law is being violated. I am not a lawyer, of course, but I respectfully believe, in good faith, that the following statute and laws are being violated: 40 CFR §130.4(b) Clean Water Act (CWA) §106(e); 2 CFR § 1500.11; 40 CFR §300.430(e)(2); as I explain below.

I believe that the geo-spatial data agreement for EPA water quality assurance was violated. If the persons or offices at EPA are not the proper part of the agency to make this report to, please immediately forward this to the appropriate part of the agency governing EPA -TCEQ Water Pollution Controls and Monitoring agreement to EPA inspector general and TCEQ commissioner members. I am copying TCEQ on this report because I do care about this agency and water quality in Texas.

I began working for TCEQ in 1988, on continuous basis at Office of Water Division's program, I have worked for 20 years for the Groundwater Planning & Assessment Unit and I served in a capacity of System Analyst ("0257'), acting as Spatial Data Manager(senior Data Analyst to TCEQ Management under Clean Water Section 106, 33 US Code 1256). Before TCEQ, I worked several years in the government sectors, computer architecture systems, engineering firms and water data research for watershed protection. I am proud of joining TCEQ and from day one, I proudly work at TCEQ assisting the State's Sole Source Aquifer Program, Water Supply Systems and Texas Groundwater Protection

Committee (TGPC) activities. My Spatial Data Analyst role was for carrying out plans to ensure water quality, water source protection and environmental priority activities in partnership grant funded by US EPA to clean water and safety drinking water. I appreciate our valuable time working together for Clean Water Acts. I want to disclose problems that TCEQ has to report ground water ambient monitoring study, which I identified grossly errors on data quality, misleading the water quality data collected in the system. I have been retaliated against as a result of my having reported these errors to Management, who are responsible for managing current TCEQ grant Section 106(e) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Acts(FWPCA), portion of 305(b) Integrated Report. I believe that TCEQ is not properly reporting water quality in Texas and the levels of pollution.

I have tried to get the agency to properly count and report such information and recounted the inorganics chemicals under 305(b), which did not properly reflect or report in arsenic contamination. I also reported to my supervisor the absence of TCEQ pesticides data collected to ground water public wells supplies in the 10 -years period which EPA paid to monitor pesticides and to include quantification of Atrazine contamination. I refused to obey the directives of supervisor to omit the data to EPA, but eventually my supervisor did not let me do so under the 106 grant. He intimidated me with reprisal, and TCEQ water sampled for pesticides ambient monitoring which was agreed to CWA (106), was not properly entered in the EPA National Water Quality Database System, as required to CWA section 106 portion of"305(b) reports.

The TGPC received federal funds from EPA Clean Water Acts on biennial basis. As April 3, 2019 I am still denied and excluded to report the TGPC historical geo-spatial data analysis of the ground water wells where chemical (e.g. Arsenic) and other inorganic chemical has been historically discharged possibly from known monitored facilities. Because the affected land and ground are minority in landowners, I believe that TGPC illegally did not comply with the laws related to notifications to land owners, including minority owners, allowing the ground water contamination spreading in minority water community systems.

My report of improper conduct and retaliation under 42 U.S.C VI and Tex. GOV'T § 554.002 include the following:

- On February 28, 2019, I was denied the ability to evaluate the data analysis researched to EPA 305(b) Reports. As today, the draft portion of TCEQ Groundwater Assessment on 305(b) was omitted from TCEQ website for public to comments. Instead, I was reassigned to other TGPC web tasks, and unrelated to water quality data reporting.

- Between February 2019 to April 2019, my supervisor promised To Be Announced ("TBA") the 305(b) data correction I could make to EPA before April 2019. I was denied the ability to speak out and email communication to about this my work to EPA. I was intimated to lose my job for my complaints.

- On March 6, 2019 I was not allowed to participate in the TGPC meeting activities, at the time when the **Arsenic** data research federally funded by EPA contract were presented to TGPC. I was prohibited from communicating to relevant persons and isolated from the Arsenic data research

projects presented to TGPC. EPA funded the Arsenic project, but my supervisor denied my participation. I have been complained against TGPC historically discrimination against minority in TCEQ groundwater geo-spatial data for chemicals contamination, especially blacks and minority situated in our region 6, as result having reported TGPC discrimination. On March 6, 2019, I was also retaliated against involving my participation on TGPC Public Outreach Education for Arsenic contamination monitoring effort, a federally funded education activities to State of Texas.

- I have requested, to participate in other EPA 305(b) related efforts in National Monitoring. Training Education/EPA Conference outside Texas. On March 25- March 29, 2019, my supervisor travel was approved to EPA 305(b) training conference in Colorado and I was disapproved to travel, but it was not clear, what, if any portion of 305(b) pesticide ambient monitoring was properly entered at EPA Water Quality Exchange (WQX) Database System.

- Management has intentionally 'singled 'me at my team, and excluded for better job classification salary classification in order to retaliate against my salary promotion. Under the TCEQ Groundwater Assessment, section 106 grant funds management to EPA activities, I have been treated differently than other of the other employees in my team.

- On or about April 1, 2019 my supervisor, returned from EPA National Monitoring Meeting in Colorado, he quickly gave me verbal warning on earlier in the morning, that I should not instruct anyone or guide others on groundwater contamination of TGPC issues. I was not selected to present the 305-report data upcoming TCEQ public presentation and was excluded from disclosing my work and data to EPA 305b report. On April 1, 2019, I complained to TCEQ Chief Auditor about Supervisor's actions on data quality . Once again, I was told that he would refer the matter to (b) (6) Privacy . Despite TCEQ's Auditor frequent assertions that he would refer the matter to Office of Water Consul and (b) (6) Privacy never contacted me because of these referrals. Accordingly, I believe that Office of Water ignored my complaints on groundwater contamination for the public health.

- I believe that this important pollution data is not being properly reported and that because I have spoken up about these issues, I have been subjected to retaliation treatment for reporting violation under federal laws and regulations as well TCEQ Section 106 of the Clean Water Act funds to Groundwater Assessment.

Sincerely,

(b) (6) Privacy, (b) (7)(C) Enforcement Privacy

Cc: David Timberger, Legal Counsel TCEQ,
Ombudsman, Office of Inspector General, EPA