UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

EXTERNAL CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE OFFICE
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

October 30, 2019

Return Receipt Requested
Certified Mail#: 7015 3010 0001 1267 1760

In Reply Refer to:
EPA File No: 01U-20-R3

Steven Rosenbaum
Chief
U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Special Litigation Section
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Referral of Administrative Complaint

Dear Mr. Rosenbaum:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), External Civil Rights Compliance Office (ECRCO) is referring a complaint received October 29, 2019 from Complainant [redacted] a prisoner incarcerated at the William G. McConnell Unit under the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Correctional Institutions Division. [redacted] alleges that the hazardous and unhealthy living conditions in the prison is jeopardize their lives and well-being. ECRCO cannot accept his complaint for investigation, because the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Correctional Institutions Division is not a recipient of EPA financial assistance. As this complaint does not fall within the ECRCO's jurisdiction, ECRCO must reject the complaint and close it as the date of this letter.

As the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) may have jurisdiction over the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Correctional Institutions Division, ECRCO is referring this complaint to your office for appropriate action. We have notified [redacted] that his complaint is being forwarded to DOJ and provided your contact information. A copy of our rejection letter as well as [redacted] original complaint are enclosed.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Dale Rhines, Deputy Director, at (202) 564-4174, by e-mail at rhines.dale@epa.gov or by mail at U.S. EPA External Civil Rights Compliance Office, (Mail Code 2310A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

Sincerely,

Lilian S. Dorka
Director
External Civil Rights Compliance Office
Office of General Counsel

Enclosures

cc: Angelia Talbert-Duarte
Deputy Associate General Counsel
Civil Rights & Finance Law Office

David Gray
Deputy Regional Administrator
Deputy Civil Rights Official
EPA Region 6

Patricia Welton
Regional Counsel
EPA Region 6