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

SEP 12 2014

Return Receipt Requested
Certified Mail#: 7004-1160-0002-3622-9056

In Reply Refer to:
EPA File No. 11R-14-R4

Marianne Engleman Lado
and Jocelyn D'Ambrosio
Earthjustice
48 Wall Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10005-2967

Re: Notification of Receipt of Administrative Complaint

Dear Ms. Lado and Ms. D'Ambrosio:

This is to notify you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights (OCR), received your complaint on September 4, 2014. Your correspondence alleges that the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-7, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's implementing regulations, 40 C.F.R. Part 7.

OCR is responsible for processing and investigating complaints alleging discrimination by programs or activities that receive financial assistance from EPA. Pursuant to EPA's nondiscrimination regulations, OCR reviews the complaint for acceptance, rejection, or referral to another Federal agency. 40 C.F.R. §7.120(d)(1). Once this jurisdictional review is complete, OCR will notify you about its decision.

If your complaint is accepted for investigation, it may become necessary for OCR to reveal your identity to the entities listed above. Please read the enclosed consent/ release form, as well as the information about your rights and protections. Please complete the consent/release form and return the form to the address below within ten (10) calendar days after your receipt of this letter.

EPA's nondiscrimination regulations also provide that OCR must attempt to resolve complaints informally whenever possible (40 C.F.R. §7.120(d)(2). Accordingly, if your complaint is accepted for investigation, OCR may discuss offers to informally resolve the complaint, and may, to the extent appropriate, facilitate an informal resolution process with the involvement of affected stakeholders.

In the interim, if you have any questions about the status of this complaint, please contact Ericka Farrell of my staff at (202) 564-0717 or via e-mail at farrell.ericka@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Helena Wooden-Aguilar
Acting Deputy Director
Office of Civil Rights

Enclosures

cc: Kevin Redden, Assistant General Counsel
Civil Rights & Finance Law Office (MC 2399A)

Ken LaPierre, Deputy Civil Rights Official
EPA Region IV

Naima Halim-Chestnut, EEO Officer
EPA Region IV

Beverly Banister, Title VI Contact
EPA Region IV