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

December 29, 2015

OFFICE OF
CIVIL RIGHTS

Return Receipt Requested
Certified Mail#: 7015 0640 0006 0305 7077

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

Donald R. van der Vaart, Secretary
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
1611 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1611

Re: **Alternative Dispute Resolution**

Dear Secretary van der Vaart:

As you are aware on March 6, 2015, when Earthjustice on behalf of North Carolina Environmental Justice Network, Rural Empowerment Association for Community Help (REACH), and the Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc. and North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ) agreed to engage in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). As a result, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights (OCR) suspended its investigation of the subject complaint for the duration of the ADR process. OCR will resume its investigation if the parties do not reach resolution through ADR. More information about the ADR process can be found at http://www.epa.gov/civilrights/faq-adrt6.htm.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ericka Farrell at (202) 564-0717, by e-mail at farrell.ericka@epa.gov or via U.S. mail at U.S. EPA, Office of Civil Rights, (Mail Code 1201A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460-1000. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Velveta Golightly-Howell, Director
Office of Civil Rights

cc: Elise B. Packard
Associate General Counsel, Civil Rights & Finance Law Office, U.S. EPA

Kenneth LaPierre,
Assistant Regional Administrator, Deputy Civil Rights Official, U.S. EPA, Region IV

John Evans
Deputy Secretary, N.C. Department of Environmental Quality

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