Good Day,

I would like to request that the EPA investigate the Baltimore Department of Public Works for numerous violations of West Baltimorian’s civil rights. There are numerous violations that were committed in Baltimore between September 3, 2022, and September 5th, 2022, regarding E Coli.

On September 3rd Baltimore Department of Public Works conducted an Ecoli test on the drinking water in Baltimore, E-Coli was detected in the water. The Department of Public Works ran another test on September 4th at 11 am and once again, E-Coli was detected.

The Department of Public Works did not inform the public until September 5th at 7:00 a.m. This is not the appropriate timeframe for informing the public according to the EPA’s standards, this is considered a Tier-one immediate notice response.

"Anytime a situation occurs where there is a potential for human health to be immediately impacted, water suppliers have 24 hours to notify people who may drink the water about the situation."

The first test came back on September 3rd indicating E-Coli in the water. Under this rationale, this was close to 48 hours of delayed notice to the city of Baltimore. There were 10 required elements in a public notice. These elements are required to be given to the public in light of a Tier-one situation.

"When the violation or situation occurred."
This strict requirement on Public Notices is what the department of Public Works violated. They were not truthful about the time in which they knew the water was contaminated.

This situation involved West Baltimore. And there have been many disputes within the County about how this was handled. Yet, we did not hear from the EPA nor did we hear from any other government agency addressing the governance of our water quality until two days after The Department of Public Works was aware. There is verified proof and email evidence that they were aware of these facts.

The Department of Public Works gets funding from the EPA. This is a civil rights issue because West Baltimore is a primarily black County, and historically has been economically deprived of funds to help restore the eco-balance of the surrounding Wildlife as well as economic discrimination in the form of resources. This can be proven in the historic redlining of black businesses and redlining that has defined the community.

In 2021 the board of estimates had to pay $158,298 to a former Department of Public Works manager who alleges in court documents that the 200 million upgrades of the city’s water meter system were beset by fraud gross waste and misuse of public funds. These actions alone are an example of discrimination against an economically deprived class. Fraud in Billing, double billing, straining an underprivileged class.

The water meter issue still has not been resolved. And also needs to be investigated as a civil rights violation based on class. These violations are from 2017 to the present. Baltimore residents have filed numerous complaints against several different government agencies citing civil rights violations as reasons for discrimination and redlining of funding.

Thank you for your time and consideration,