

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy

Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 2:35 PM

To: Dorka, Lilian <Dorka.Lilian@epa.gov>

Subject: Violation

(b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy Mansura, LA 71350 (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy December 13, 2022 Certified Mail  
Ms. Lilian Sotolonga Dorka, Director External Civil Rights Compliance Office of General Counsel Environmental  
Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20460 dorka.lilian@epa.gov

RE: Violations of Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964 Dear Ms. Dorka:

(b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy am filing this complaint against Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ),  
Mr. Chuck Carr Brown, PhD, Secretary, Ms. Brenda Rankins, Office of Management and Finance, Ms. Rhonda  
McCormick, Regional Manager, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Ms. Courtney N. Phillips, Secretary, Mr.  
Anthony Soileau, Avoyelles Parish Health Unit Manager, and Ms. Jeanne Deaeyzer, Rapides Parish Water Tester,  
for violating Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and The Executive Order 12892, Federal Actions to Address  
Environmental Justice (EJ) in Minority and Low\_Income Populations.

1. Facts Avoyelles Parish Police Jury Illegal Dump Site (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy For over a decade LDEQ failure to enforce the  
Louisiana Environmental Laws, have in my opinion contributed and supported the municipalities, (Avoyelles Police  
Parish Police Jury (APPJ), The Town of Mansura) and Avoyelles LDH Health in discriminatory practices.

1) APPJ is operating an illegal open dump site in a black community in Mansura, LA. According to LDEQ data base  
an Interoffice Correspondence from the Solid Waste Divisions dated December 2, 1987, addressed the closures of all  
ten (10) Avoyelles Open Dump Sites, operated by APPJ. I feel the Black Community is being discriminated by APPJ  
operating at this time, one illegal dump site located on approximately twenty three (23) acres, serving all residents in  
Avoyelles Parish. Included are all cities and towns which total fourteen (14)). I am confident, this type of illegal  
activity/operation would not occur nor tolerated in the Wealthy White communities in any town or cities in Avoyelles  
Parish.

It is my belief that APPJ is intentionally creating racist acts of discrimination on a poor Black Community, The Wall  
St. on September 13, 2022, reported Mansura as America Poorest Town.

2)

Complaints were filed in reference to the illegal open dump site on:

4-13-10 ID #122667 10-26-12 # ?

10-30-15 ID#T167053

3-2-16 ID#RG-8039

9-27-17 ID# RG-8039 T178045

Burying tires and using grease from restaurant to burn trees.

Facility is requesting approval for staging and open burning of vegetative debris. I made facility aware of our DEQ  
regulations for burning of vegetative debris. The site is 1000 ft away from from the nearest structure and away from  
traffic. Photo included.

Complaintee states that Avoyelles Police jury is dumping tires at this location. Complaintee states that police jury  
has been dumping tires here for over a year and location has more than 3,000 tires at location. Photo included.

Complaint waste tire dump site. Investigator confirmed tires are being dumped at the parish barn solid waste dump

site. Multiple tires are kept on site and not covered..... "In process of obtaining a solid waste transporter permit

as well as as a truck.” Also, stated they are in the process of building a covered area to store waste tires. Approx 1000 waste tires are stored on site. Photos included.

Complaint concerning oil or petroleum products and drums being dumped and burned. Facility operates as a transfer station collecting and segregating household appliance, metals, waste tires and vegetable debris. Any waste oil is only collected from facility’s equipment and is disposed of by (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy last done On 3-30-17. Visual inspection of the facility’s grounds revealed no evidence of oil being disposed or burned on site.

The following was observed during a site visit involving complaints T186741 and T186745. Evidence of burned debris was observed in the dumpster containing debris from complaint T186741. (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy from (b)(6) Privacy

(b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy  
Complaint T186745 was discussed with (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy Facility only accepts individual waste from Avoyelles Parish residents. Facility does not accept waste from business.

Public Hearing/Public Comments

Another man, who did not identify himself, said the tax has to pass because the alternative is that an already bad illegal dumping problem “will get 10 times worse.”

I personally filed identical complaints directly with the APPJ representatives, Apparently, they did not feel obligated to log my complaints and inform LDEQ as required.

However, I have maintained my records including photos.

9-12-18 ID#RT8039 T186741

T186745

8-29-18 Newspaper

2017 to Present

4-10-22

5-5-22 T 208437 5-10-22 T208317

5-12-22

SUMMARY 5-10-22 T208317

edms.deq.louisiana.gov

A contact with LDEQ (Baton Rouge Office), resulted in the online complaint of APPJ illegal dump activities in a Black residential community.

DEQ employees conducted a complaint investigation regarding sewage overflows around (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy Street.

DEQ employees conducted a complaint investigation regarding oil being disposed of at the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury Maintenance Unit. The complaint stated oil was being disposed of in the general area of (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy and behind (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy

DEQ employees informed us of the incident findings.

Thirteen Violations 05-10-22

Photos included

I encourage you to please go to the website:

AI number 13525 is needed to search.

Although, it is confirmed APPJ is not permitted, license or registered by the state to manage Municipal or Industrial waste, the illegal operation continue to date. DEQ response is mute.

On October 27, 2022, a fatal accident occurred at the APPJ illegal dump site. The loss of the employee is disturbing, because it is my understanding the purposes of regulations are to protect the health and well being of the people.

This entail LDEQ enforcing the State of Louisiana Board Certification for Solid Waste Disposal System Operators.

The photos of employees working at the APPJ DUMP SITE, risking their health and perhaps, paid minimal wages under these unacceptable conditions.

The APPJ Civil Works Director, on November 4, 2022 in responding to the May 10, 2022 inspection of APPJ stated, “We were told by DEQ personnel in October that the case has been closed.”

2. Facts Town of Mansura ID #19419

According to information in the LDEQ-EDMS, LDEQ was aware of the Waste Water Treatment Facility since March 1, 2005.

3-1-05 #9380144

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CS229019-01

Purpose and Need was to serve the area of (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy Streets. Approximately 22 households served by septic tanks and ..... pose a significant health and environmental hazard in the town. There are three households on (b)(6) Privacy

Street that do not have sewer service. Raw sewage is being discharged into roadside ditches.

7-15-09

12-24-09 6152291

11-1-12

### Summary

In 2003 a smoke test was performed by the Louisiana Rural Water Association (LWRA) and it was determined that infiltration exists through out 27% of the system and approximately 88 leaks in the system were detected. LWRA recommends that the leaks be repaired and that an Infiltration and Inflow program be made a priority.

Rainy seasons can trigger an occasional flow that is more than twice the designed capacity of the plant.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTINGS:

The aquifers in the Mansura area are high in iron and manganese and are very difficult to treat. The project was coordinated with EPA Region 6, Source Water Protection Branch, concerning the protection of ground water resources.

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

The project will serve all populations equally and will be constructed to ensure that no persons or populations will be discriminated against or denied the benefits of the project because of their race, income level or national origin.

### PUBLIC NOTICE:

#### TOWN OF MANSURA

Project #CS221019-1

AI #19419

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Project Cost not to exceed \$1,270,000 Total Disbursement \$1,309,553.45 Project #CS 221019-01 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) AI #19419 Total Disbursement \$1,359,751.80 Project #CS221020-01 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) AI#19419 Loan amount approved \$1,010,000.00 Total Disbursement ?  
Grant and Loans Total \$3,679,305.20 +

Since 2009 the areas identified and fundings received by the Town of Mansura to address the needs is unaccountable. Statement from #865713, Page 4 of 63, "As a result, (Funding by ARRA Program 2009) the majority of the Town's collection system was upgraded and is in good condition." As late as 12-13-22 I can attest to the system is not in good condition, when I have supporting photo of what is happening inside my home when heavy rain occurs in Mansura.

It is my sincere belief, the issue was never to address the raw sewage in the black community, the issue was to address economic development. To support Forbes Millionaires and Billionaires and other businesses by providing sewer services to the north side of the Town and using demographic of the black community to qualify for funding. For example, the CWSRF Loan \$1,010,000.00, was misleading, misrepresented.....as a Gravity Sewer System Improvements. Nonetheless, Document 9680991, Page 2, Project Description: New gravity systems and pump. New force main that ties into Pump 9. Extensions of existing gravity sewer. Reroute industrial park pond to new hwy. 1 pump station.

Category Percent New Collector Sewers 70 New Interceptors 30 Total 100 Amount  
707,000 303,000

1,010,000

Additionally, the Marksville Weekly News September 30, 2013, captured a photo of Former Governor Bobby Jindal and Mayor Kenneth Pickett, Sr.

Jindal announces \$1 million loan to Mansura. Funds will go toward vital water infrastructure improvements.

Since April 2022, we have been inquiring about why we are still having problems with the infrastructure, because Governor Jindal announcement of the \$1 million was back in 2013. Finally, this month DEQ informed us that the \$1 million loan was for the Highway 1.

The following are comments from the Mayor and Engineer in DEQ 2014 Annual Report which support the \$1 million was for community development.

1. 2. 3.
- 4.
5. 6.

"The project included a gravity sewer system and pump station along the town's northern limits. A \$1,010,000 Clean State Revolving Fund loan helped pay for the work.

"The project will be finished by Oct. 1, Mansura Mayor K. Pickett, Sr. said. "We are installing it (now), "he said.

"What sort of kicked into high gear for the town is this nursing home they just constructed. So that was one of our primary goals, was to meet their opening date. That's (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy

"The project is still under construction. We're 95 percent complete, but we had to have lift station up and running by April so they could open and start using the water." (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) said, The Mayor and the engineer refer to the area of

the project as the “Highway 1 Corridor, It’s an area of great growth potential because where Mansura ends, Marksville begins.

“It’s for economic growth and development. That’s the main benefit. That’s prime real estate for the (la. corridor).” Pickett said of the sewer improvements. “On the east side of that (La1) we have a force main sewer. We’re trying to develop that too.” Pickett said.

7. Mansura’s leaders saw an opportunity. They didn’t see how to pay for it.

8.”We first went to the resident to increase the rate. We had two or three public hearings to raise the rates. The majority (of Mansura’s population) is low income. The feedback from them we got that it would be a strain on them. Some of them said, why do we in town have to fund commercial development?” (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7) said, “I know that, overall, it would benefit the the town to have tax revenues from this, but a lot of the residents were like, “why are we paying?”

We tried to raise the rates first,” (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7) said, “then we looked at trying to fund it with town funds. There is only so much funding available. DEQ offered this low-interest rate.”

“The town knew in the big picture, they wanted to have this industry, these commercial developments in town.”

“It’ll bring a lot of jobs,” Pickett added.

“Right now, there is no sewage treatment plant in Mansura. The town instead uses an oxidation pond,” said Pickett. The action by the Town of Mansura in handling the \$1 million loan is typical of Environmental Injustice in Louisiana. Mansura poor will not receive any benefits. As stated in the DEQ Report, we rejected paying for a loan for commercial development. Yet, we are paying for the loan. It is grossly unethical to take from the poor to support millionaires and billionaires. They are financially capable of getting loans and paying loans.

When do LDEQ hold the Town of Mansura responsible for the million of dollars allocated to serve the poor? When is remediation performed? Two LWRA reports found pipe leaks (88 +

11) and to date LDEQ has no records of the leak repairs to assure the resident’s health and safety has been addressed. We are exposed to pollutants daily from the APPJ illegal dump site and pipe leaks and it is impossible to get answers.

DEQ accepts information from the Town of Mansura even if the information is inaccurate or misrepresented documents presented.... Therefore, the Complaints just goes to DEQ to die.

It is difficult to understand if a conflict of interest exist between the Town of Mansura, DEQ and EPA. According to the Town of Mansura Financial Statement payments were made to EPA and a Health Sanitarian.

APPJ is responsible for the parish roads/drain and for decades it appears Mansura has been ignored. I bought my home in 1987 and APPJ has been non responsive in addressing the drain problems in my area. A problem was identified in my area in August and to date the Parish Maintenance crew has not cleared the drainage ditch.

However, in 2019 APPJ responded by authorizing spending \$12,400 to replace a sewer pump in Tricia Park a new subdivision. The jurors also authorized the Parish Maintenance crew to clear a drainage ditch serving Tricia Park.

It is time for someone to take the issues in Mansura serious and act. We cannot continue to accept being discriminated by our government. Did someone fail to get the message to the municipalities?

3) Facts Avoyelles Health Sanitarian Unit

For months I have sought assistance for assessing the water quality and remediation for the residents, that have been exposed for decades to leaking pipes and illegal dumping in The Town of Mansura. Despite all the efforts identifying services from Avoyelles LDH Sanitarian Unit to date has failed.

In 2017, I filed a complaint with the Avoyelles LDH Unit in reference to sewage backup in my home. I was referred to an employee with Rapides LDH Department by the Town of Mansura.

This employee role or employer was never clarified. At times, it appeared as if he was handling the role of The Town of Mansura Mayor. Rapides LDH states, they only serve Rapides parish, yet, this employee was referred by the Mayor of Avoyelles Parish. The Town of Mansura Annual Financial Statement shows an expense for Health Sanitarian. He said LDH did not have a Complaint Data System and he would see what complaints records he had maintained for Mansura. I followed up with an email but no response to my request.

On May 10, 2022, LWRA performed a smoke test and confirmed heavy cracks in the pipes, manhole.....The Town of Mansura is not transparent in sharing the LWRA report. Based on the information in the report and my observation of what is occurring to the soil when it rain, my concern at this time is the risk exposures in the community.

April 2022, a resident reported contacting Avoyelles LDH, and was informed, “We don’t serve Mansura, you need to go back to Mansura.” A phone call to the Baton Rouge Customer Service confirmed Avoyelles was the correct Health Unit to provide services to Mansura. The resident stated, having a conversation with the Sanitarian Manager in reference to raw sewage in the community. She was assigned his assistant as the contact person. Email sent to the

assistant in May and no response received to date.

July 22, was my last conversation with the Sanitarian Manager. He informed me that he was the Sanitarian Manager for LDH Avoyelles Parish and part of his responsibility was to insure that that if compliances were not followed by the Town or Police Jury, he would intervene and make sure that compliance was adhered to. He informed me that his department didn't do water testing in Avoyelles Parish. He provided the employee from Rapides name and contact number that has taken over the water testing in Avoyelles Parish. To date I have not received a return call from the tester.

On August 19,2022, I reached out to Ms. Courtney N. Phillips, Ph.D Secretary LDH by certified mail for assistance. To date no response from the Secretary of LDH, very disappointing.

By race, nationally African American have the highest rate of cancer, yet it is discriminatory to not provide services to a needed population. The statement, "We don't serve Mansura, go back to Mansura." in my opinion is discriminatory and should not be tolerated in any programs or projects that are Federally funded.

The current data in the E. J. Indexes reveals that three (3) numbers are above 80th Percentile: Census Block Group (71350) 1. Particulate Matter 2.5 83 2. Air Toxics Cancer Risk 84 3. Air Toxics Respiratory Hazard Index 85

We are concern about certain toxic chemicals that may pose a threat to our health and the environment. LDEQ appears not to be concern for the Poor Black Community and left us with only one option and that is to seek assistance from you. We thank you in advance for any guidance or support you may provide.

Sincerely,

(b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy