



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D C. 20460

Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights  
Office of External Civil Rights Compliance

March 8, 2023

**In Reply Refer to:**

EPA Complaint No. 02X-23-R

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

**Re: Referral of Administrative Complaint**

Dear Mr. Rosenbaum:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of External Civil Rights Compliance (OECRC) is referring the referenced complaint, which was received on February 22, 2023. The complaint involves the Northwest Correctional Complex in Tiptonville, Tennessee and alleges lack of clean air causing complainant breathing difficulties.

This complaint does not fall within the OECRC's jurisdiction; therefore, OECRC must reject the complaint and close it as the date of this letter. Because the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) may have jurisdiction over the Northwest Correction Complex, OECRC is referring this complaint to your office for appropriate action. We have notified the complainant that we are forwarding the complaint to DOJ and provided your contact information to complainant. A copy of our rejection letter as well as the complaint are enclosed. If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Anhthu Hoang, Acting Director, at (202) 809-3297, by e-mail at [hoang.anhthu@epa.gov](mailto:hoang.anhthu@epa.gov) or by mail at U.S. EPA Office of External Civil Rights Compliance, (Mail Code 2310A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

Sincerely,

Anhthu Hoang, Acting Director  
Office of External Civil Rights Compliance  
Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil  
Rights

Enclosures: Complaint and rejection letter

cc: Ariadne Goerke  
Deputy Associate General Counsel  
Civil Rights & Finance Law Office

Jeaneanne Gettle  
Deputy Regional Administrator  
Deputy Civil Rights Official  
US EPA Region 4

Leif Palmer  
Regional Counsel