

**EPA NEGOTIATES AGREEMENT WITH
THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
TO PROTECT CIVIL RIGHTS**

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of External Civil Rights Compliance (OECRC) announced that it has entered into an Informal Resolution Agreement (the “Agreement”) with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), which builds upon DNREC’s ongoing actions to strengthen its nondiscrimination program. Under this Agreement, DNREC will implement new procedures for individuals or organizations to file civil rights complaints with DNREC. DNREC will also apply their new language access plan to ensure meaningful access to its programs and activities for people with limited English proficiency. Read the Informal Resolution Agreement [here](#).

“The EPA extends appreciation to the organizations that brought this issue forward and celebrates this agreement with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control as an important step to protect and advance the civil rights of people living in Delaware,” said **EPA Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator Theresa Segovia**. “This agreement, which is the result of EPA’s collaboration with DNREC and the complainants, reflects the EPA’s continuing commitment to justice for communities across the country.”

The underlying complaint, brought by the Socially Responsible Agriculture Project, Sussex Health and Environmental Network, the American Civil Liberties Union of Delaware, the Delaware Poor People’s Campaign, and the Delaware State Conference of Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, alleges discrimination by DNREC under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Agreement resolves allegations that DNREC’s permit application review process for the Bioenergy Development Company’s Bioenergy Innovation Center project, including its public participation process, discriminated against individuals living near the facility. It is entered into by DNREC voluntarily and does not constitute an admission by DNREC of any violation, or a finding by EPA of compliance or noncompliance with applicable federal non-discrimination laws and regulations.

This Agreement follows on other recent actions by the EPA to protect civil rights through resolution agreements with recipients of federal financial assistance – including, for example, an agreement entered into on December 10, 2024, with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to implement a Public Participation Manual and ensure that a Public Engagement Plan is developed for certain permitting actions. Other EPA resolution agreements from 2014 to present are available to review on the public docket [here](#).

Within the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, OECRC enforces several federal civil rights laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which together, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin (including limited-English proficiency), disability, sex and age, including intimidation and retaliation, by applicants for and recipients of

financial assistance from EPA. People who believe they are the victims of discrimination should contact OECRC [here](#) or at (202) 564-3316.

Additional information is available at <https://www.epa.gov/external-civil-rights>.

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