



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

OFFICE OF
CIVIL RIGHTS

JUL 08 2015

Return Receipt Requested

Certified Mail# 7009 2820 0002 1759 1612

In Reply Refer to:

EPA File No. 10U-15-R8

North Dakota Mediation Service
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
600 E Boulevard Avenue
Department 602
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0020

Re: Notification and Referral of Correspondence

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to notify you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights (OCR), received correspondence relating to a resident's experience with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture Mediation Service (NDDOA) on April 13, 2015.

The EPA does not have jurisdiction over complaints related to NDDOA's mediation services. It appears that this matter may fall within the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) OCR. For these reasons, the EPA/OCR has referred the matter to the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication for appropriate action. A copy of this referral letter is enclosed.

The USDA contact is Carl-Martin Ruiz, and his contact information is USDA/OASCR, 541 Reporter's Building, Mail Stop 9410, 300 7th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20250. For information on the discrimination complaint process, contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Information Research Service, at (202) 260-1026 or (866) 632-9992 (toll free) or send an email to the Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at CR-INFO@ascr.usda.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact William Yon at (202) 564-5617, yon.william@epa.gov or via mail at U.S. EPA, Office of Civil Rights (Mail Code 1201A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20460.

Sincerely,



Velveta Golightly-Howell
Director, EPA Office of Civil Rights

cc: Elise Packard
Associate General Counsel
Civil Rights & Finance Law Office, EPA
(MC 2399A)

Howard Cantor
Deputy Civil Rights Official
U.S. EPA Region VIII
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129
(MC 8RA)