



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

JUL 08 2015

Return Receipt Requested

Certified Mail #: 7009 2820 0002 1759 1681

In Reply Refer to:

EPA File No. 10U-15-R8

OFFICE OF
CIVIL RIGHTS

Carl-Martin Ruiz
Director, Office of Adjudication
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Agriculture
541 Reporter's Building, Mail Stop 9410
300 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Re: Notification and Referral of Correspondence

Dear Mr. Ruiz:

This letter is to notify you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Civil Rights (OCR) received correspondence on April 13, 2015, from (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy relating to North Dakota Department of Agriculture's (NDDOA) mediation services. OCR construed the (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy correspondence as a complaint.

Since the EPA does not have jurisdiction over complaints related to NDDOA's mediation services, the EPA is referring this matter to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication for appropriate action. We have notified the Complainants that their correspondence has been forwarded to the USDA and have provided them with your contact information. The Complainants' correspondence is enclosed.

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,

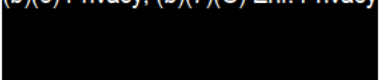
Velveta Golightly-Howell
Director, EPA Office of Civil Rights

Enclosures (1)

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

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

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

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Mooreton, North Dakota 58061

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