

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



EXTERNAL CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE OFFICE
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

March 8, 2017

Return Receipt Requested

Certified Mail#: 7015 3010 0001 1267 5461

In Reply Refer to:

EPA File No.: 11R-14-R4

Mr. Michael S. Regan
Secretary
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
1622 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1611

Re: **Suspension of Complaint Investigation (Alternative Dispute Resolution)**

Dear Secretary Regan:

On January 30, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) External Civil Rights Compliance Office (ECRCO) was informed that the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ) and the Complainants, the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network, Rural Empowerment Association for Community Help (REACH) and the Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc., represented by Earthjustice, agreed to engage in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). On March 2, 2017, NC DEQ and the Complainants agreed upon the selection of a mediator. In light of this information, ECRCO has suspended its investigation of the subject Complaint for the duration of the ADR process. ECRCO will resume its investigation if the parties do not reach resolution through ADR. More information about EPA's complaint procedures and the ADR process can be found in ECRCO's Case Resolution Manual at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-01/documents/final_epa_ogc_ecrco_crm_january_11_2017.pdf.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 564-9649, dorka.lilian@epa.gov or Ericka Farrell, Case Manager, at (202) 564-0717, farrell.ericka@epa.gov, or U.S. EPA, External Civil Rights Compliance Office, (Mail Code 1201A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460-1000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L.S. Dorka".

Lilian S. Dorka
Director
External Civil Rights Compliance Office

cc: Kenneth Redden
Acting Associate General Counsel
Civil Rights & Finance Law Office

Vicki Tellis
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator
Acting Deputy Civil Rights Official,
U.S. EPA Region 4