

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

AUG 2 1 2015

Return Receipt Requested

Certified Mail #: 7009 2820 0002 1759 1193

In Reply Refer to: EPA File No 15U-15-R4

Mr. Grant Turinsky Health Hazards Control Unit NC DHHS – Division of Public Health 1912 Mail Service Center Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1912

Re: Referral of Administrative Complaint

Dear Mr. Turinsky:

This letter is to notify you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights (OCR), is referring a complaint received June 30, 2015 concerning Eastern Correctional Facility (ECF) to your agency. The ECF is operated by the North Carolina Department of Corrections (NCDOC), within the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS). The complaint contains allegations that the facility has failed to remediate friable asbestos in its facilities' insulation, and has exposed inmates working on its domiciliary systems.

After careful review, the OCR is rejecting this complaint for investigation because it does not meet all of the jurisdictional requirements of EPA's nondiscrimination regulations. First, ECF, NCDOC or the NCDPS is an applicant for, or recipient of, EPA financial assistance. Second, the complaint does not allege a discriminatory act that, if true, may violate EPA's nondiscrimination regulations. However, due to the circumstances underlying the allegations, the OCR is referring this complaint for potential further action to the U.S. Department of Justice, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and your office. We have notified the Complainant that his complaint has been forwarded to your office and provided your contact information. With this referral, the complaint is enclosed.

If you have any questions about OCR's decision to refer the matter to DOJ, please contact William Yon at (202) 564-5617, at 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

Office of Civil Rights

Enclosure

cc:

Elise Packard

Associate General Counsel

Civil Rights & Finance Law Office, EPA

(MC 2399A)

Ken Lapierre Assistant Regional Administrator U.S. EPA Region IV (MC 9T25)

Vickie Tellis Deputy Assistant Regional Administrator U.S. EPA Region IV (MC 9T25)

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

Pamlico Correctional Institute (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy

Bayboro, North Carolina 28515