



OFFICE OF EXTERNAL CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

August 20, 2024

In Reply Refer to:

EPA Complaint No: 02RNO-24-R3

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor
City of Baltimore
City Hall Room 250
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Khalil Zaied
Director
Baltimore City Department of Public Works
City Hall Room 250
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: Informal Resolution/Tolling of Preliminary Findings Timeframe

Dear Mayor Scott and Director Zaied:

This letter concerns U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) Complaint No. 02RNO-24-R3 involving the City of Baltimore and Baltimore City Department of Public Works (hereinafter collectively “the City”). On July 12, 2024, the Office of External Civil Rights Compliance (“OECRC”) accepted the complaint for investigation. OECRC is required by regulation to attempt to resolve complaints informally whenever possible,¹ and OECRC representatives described the available informal resolution processes to the City’s Deputy Solicitor Stephen Salsbury and other officials representing the city of Baltimore during a conversation on July 29, 2024. On August 13, 2024, the City’s Deputy Solicitor informed OECRC of the City’s interest in engaging in informal resolution.

¹ See 40 C.F.R. § 7.105 (EPA “shall seek the cooperation of applicants and recipients in securing compliance with” 40 C.F.R. Part 7); and 7.120(d)(2) (EPA “shall attempt to resolve complaints informally whenever possible.”).

Accordingly, as of August 20, 2024, OECRC will suspend its 180-day timeframe for investigation for the duration of any informal resolution process.² OECRC will ensure that this process occurs without undue delay.

The goal of the informal resolution process is to reach an agreement that resolves the issues accepted for investigation. If no such agreement can be reached, OECRC will notify the City and the Complainant of that fact and resume the investigation.³ To facilitate the informal resolution process, OECRC may continue to engage with the City, as well as the Complainant, to gather the necessary facts and information to reach an agreement as soon as possible.

OECRC will be in contact with the City to discuss next steps in the informal resolution process. If you have questions about this letter, please feel free to contact Nell Cormack, Case Manager, by at (202) 565-2242 or by email at cormack.nell@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Adam Wilson
Acting Deputy Director
Office of External Civil Rights Compliance
Office of Environmental Justice and External
Civil Rights

cc: Ariadne Goerke
Deputy Associate General Counsel
Civil Rights & Finance Law Office
U.S. EPA

Catherine A. Libertz
Deputy Regional Administrator
Deputy Civil Rights Official
U.S. EPA Region 3

Donna Travia
Acting Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA Region 3

² See 40 C.F.R. § 7.115(c). Within 180 calendar days from the start of the complaint investigation, OECRC will issue preliminary findings. Preliminary findings may include preliminary findings of fact and law, including a finding of insufficient evidence, on one or more issues under investigation.

³ If a resolution agreement cannot be reached, OECRC will resume its 180-day investigation period, excluding the time spent in the informal resolution agreement process.