



OFFICE OF EXTERNAL CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

February 5, 2025

In Reply Refer to:

EPA Complaint No. 08NO-24-R9

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Inspector General (2410T)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20460
[\(202\) 250-8800](tel:(202)250-8800)

Re: Referral of Administrative Complaint

Dear EPA Office of Inspector General:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights Compliance (OEJECR), Office of External Civil Rights Compliance (OECRC), is referring the referenced complaint, received on August 27, 2024, involving the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA), raising allegations of discrimination on the basis of national origin, in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq., 40 C.F.R. Part 7. Specifically, the Complaint alleges that ASPA is discriminating against native residents on the basis of national origin, by bribing Village Chiefs and leaders to illegally obtain a land use permit and land registration to enable a foreign developer (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy to develop an area of land (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy as a windfarm.

OECRC must reject the Complaint and close it as the date of this letter because the Complaint does not meet OECRC's jurisdictional requirement to describe a timely discriminatory act or omission that, if true, may violate the EPA's nondiscrimination regulation. However, the complaint alleges waste, fraud, and abuse by a recipient of EPA funding; therefore, OECRC is referring this Complaint to your office for appropriate action. OECRC has notified the Complainant of the referral and provided your contact information. Finally, copies of the Rejection Letter and the Administrative Complaint are enclosed in this letter.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Anhthu Hoang, Acting Director, at (212) 637-5033, or by e-mail at Hoang.Anhthu@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Anhthu Hoang
Acting Director
Office of External Civil Rights Compliance
Office of Environmental Justice and
External Civil Rights

Enclosure: Administrative Complaint and Rejection Letter

cc:

Ariadne Goerke
Deputy Associate General Counsel
Civil Rights & Finance Law Office

Cheree Peterson
Deputy Regional Administrator
Deputy Civil Rights Official
U.S. EPA Region 9

Suzanne Andrews
Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA Region 9