



OFFICE OF EXTERNAL CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 13, 2025

In Reply Refer to:

EPA Complaint No: 01D-25-R3

Donald "Blue" Jenkins
President, Washington Gas
blue.jenkins@washgas.com

Re: Acknowledgement and Rejection of Administrative Complaint

Dear President Jenkins:

This letter is to notify you that on November 18, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of External Civil Rights Compliance (OECRC) received a complaint involving Washington Gas. The Complaint alleges Washington Gas violated Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 by improperly re-installing a gas meter at a private residence without the knowledge or consent of the homeowner. For the reasons described below, OECRC is rejecting the complaint for investigation because it does not meet the jurisdictional requirements in EPA's regulation at 40 C.F.R Part 7.¹

Pursuant to EPA's nondiscrimination regulation, OECRC conducts a preliminary review of administrative complaints to determine acceptance, rejection, or referral to the appropriate Federal agency. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(d)(1). To be accepted for investigation, a complaint must meet the jurisdictional requirements described in EPA's nondiscrimination regulation. First, the complaint must be in writing. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(b)(1). Second, it must describe an alleged discriminatory act that, if true, may violate EPA's nondiscrimination regulation (*i.e.*, an alleged discriminatory act based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability). *Id.* Third, it must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(b)(2). Finally, the complaint must be filed against an applicant for, or recipient of, EPA financial assistance that allegedly committed the discriminatory act. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 7.15.


In general, OECRC will accept, reject, or refer a complaint after considering the jurisdictional requirements. After careful consideration, OECRC is rejecting the Complaint because Washington Gas is not a recipient of EPA federal financial assistance. Accordingly, OECRC is closing this Complaint as of the date of this letter.

¹ 40 C.F.R. 7.120; *See e.g.*, Case Resolution Manual, Section 1.5, https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-01/case-resolution-manual-update_final_jan-2025.pdf

EPA's regulation prohibits applicants, recipients, and other persons from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or engaging in other discriminatory conduct against anyone because they have either taken action or participated in an action to secure rights protected by the civil rights requirements that we enforce. See 40 C.F.R. § 7.100. Any individual or group believing they were subjected to such harassment or intimidation may file a complaint with OECRC.

If you have any questions, please contact Kurt Temple by email at Temple.Kurt@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Theresa Segovia
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights

cc: Angelia Talbert-Duarte
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