



## OFFICE OF EXTERNAL CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

April 30, 2025

### **Return Receipt Requested**

Certified Mail No. (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy

### **In Reply Refer to:**

EPA File No: 01X-25-RX

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

Woodstock, ON  
N4S 0A2  
CANADA

### **Re: Acknowledgement and Rejection of Administrative Correspondence**

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

This letter is to notify you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of External Civil Rights Compliance (OECRC), received your correspondence on April 4, 2025, indicating that you had been exposed to hydrogen sulfide gas since approximately April 2022, and that as a result, you have experienced various negative health effects.

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.)

Our Case Resolution Manual (CRM) governs how OECRC analyzes correspondence. Please see CRM sections 1.1 and 1.5 – at the following link: [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-01/case-resolution-manual-update\\_final\\_jan-2025.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-01/case-resolution-manual-update_final_jan-2025.pdf)

Based on the above, this correspondence does not constitute a complaint that we can accept for investigation. Although it is in writing, you have not indicated who or what has caused your exposure to the hydrogen sulfide or indicated that your exposure is a result of a discriminatory act. Accordingly,

as of the date of this letter, we are rejecting this correspondence as a complaint and will take no further action on this matter.

More information on hydrogen sulfide, including on how to evaluate and protect workers from exposure, is available from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration at <https://www.osha.gov/hydrogen-sulfide/evaluating-controlling-exposure>. EPA has additional information available about hydrogen sulfide through the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) at [https://iris.epa.gov/ChemicalLanding/&substance\\_nmbr=61](https://iris.epa.gov/ChemicalLanding/&substance_nmbr=61).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kurt Temple, Senior Advisor, by email at [temple.kurt@epa.gov](mailto:temple.kurt@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

**SUSAN PARK** Digitally signed by SUSAN PARK  
Date: 2025.04.30 10:03:15  
-04'00'

Susan Park  
Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights

cc: Angelia Talbert-Duarte  
Associate General Counsel  
Civil Rights & Finance Law Office