



**OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND ADJUDICATION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

February 27, 2026

Office of Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590  
**via email:** [phmsa.civilrights@dot.gov](mailto:phmsa.civilrights@dot.gov)

**RE: Referral of EPA Complaint No. 03-26-R3**

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights and Adjudication (OCRA), External Civil Rights Division (ECRD) received an external civil rights complaint alleging the Maryland Public Service Commission (MPSC) violated a 2019 Informal Resolution Agreement (IRA) between the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and EPA.<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to EPA's non-discrimination regulations, EPA is closing the complaint because it lacks jurisdiction. See 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(d).

However, due to the subject matter of the allegations, DOT PHMSA may have jurisdiction over the alleged claims. Therefore, ECRD is referring this complaint to DOT PHMSA to make a determination regarding ECRD's referral. See attached.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Case Manager Nell Cormack by email at [Cormack.Nell@epa.gov](mailto:Cormack.Nell@epa.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juan Carlos Hunt".

JuanCarlos M. Hunt, Director  
U.S. EPA, Office of Civil Rights and Adjudication

Enclosures: Administrative Complaint and Recipient Rejection Letter

cc: Catherine Libertz, Deputy Regional Administrator/Deputy Civil Rights Official  
Allison Gardner, Regional Counsel  
U.S. EPA, Region 3

---

<sup>1</sup> Complainant filed a joint complaint (EPA Complaint No. 29R-16-R3) against MDE and MPSC with ECRD and the United States Department of Transportation (DOT PHMSA) in 2016. Since ECRD closed the IRA for EPA Complaint No. 29R-16-R3 in [2020](#) (signed January 21, 2019 and monitoring closed December 15, 2020), the alleged actions against MPSC in this current matter cannot violate the former agreement. Furthermore, the current complaint [alleges violations of provisions regarding](#) the CPCN pre-application process that are part of the [IRA \(signed January 28, 2019\) between the MPSC and](#) DOT PHMSA. Since the complaint alleges violations of the IRA with DOT PHMSA, referral to DOT PHMSA is appropriate.