

TITLE VI ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

Submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

External Civil Rights Compliance Office

Complainant:

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Respondent: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)

Facility at Issue: DTE Energy – Environmental Enforcement Services (EES) Coke Battery (Zug Island)

Date of Submission: July 27, 2026

Submitted Via:

Email to ECRCO@epa.

July 27, 2026

VIA U.S. MAIL

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Civil Rights

Mail Code 1201A

1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Washington, D.C.

This complaint respectfully submits the following comment to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPR) and the Interim Case Resolution Manual. This complaint is submitted in hopes that the OCR will take into consideration our recommendations and create a stronger, more responsive program to implement Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI).

1. Purpose

Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is Michigan's state agency responsible for issuing air-quality permits, renewals, and modifications for industrial facilities operating in the state. EGLE's decisions directly shape the environmental conditions experienced by residents in Southeast Michigan, specifically the Southwest Detroit area, including neighborhoods that face daily exposure to heavy pollution and elevated asthma rates. EGLE administers programs funded in part through federal financial assistance from the EPA, including State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) and air-quality program grants. Because EGLE receives federal EPA funding, it is legally obligated to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin.

2. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act provides that "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be

subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.¹” Under Title VI, EPA has a responsibility to ensure that its funds are not being used to subsidize discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. This prohibition against discrimination under Title VI has been a statutory mandate since 1964, and EPA has had Title VI regulations since 1973. EPA's Office of Civil Rights is responsible for the Agency's administration of Title VI, including investigation of such complaints. Title VI allows individuals to file administrative complaints with the federal departments and agencies that provide financial assistance alleging discrimination based on race, color, or national origin by recipients of federal funds.

Discrimination need not be intentional; a disparate impact constitutes discrimination on the basis of race. The Supreme Court of the United States addressed the concept of disparate impact under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act by reasoning that disparate impact liability furthered the purpose and design of the statute.² The Court noted that “Congress directed the thrust of [§ 703(a)(2)] to the consequences of employment practices, not simply the motivation.”³ Antidiscrimination laws should be construed to encompass disparate impact claims when their text refers to the consequences of actions and not just to the mindset of actors. A plaintiff bringing a disparate impact claim challenges practices that have a “disproportionately adverse effect on minorities.”⁴ The U.S. Supreme Court also reasoned that “[r]ecognition of disparate impact liability under the [Fair Housing Act] also plays a role in uncovering discriminatory intent: It permits plaintiffs to counteract unconscious prejudices and disguised animus that escape easy classification as disparate treatment.”⁵ In its Interim Guidance, the EPA acknowledges that frequently “discrimination results from policies or practices that are neutral on their face, but have the effect of discriminating. Facially-neutral policies or practices that result in discriminatory effects violate EPA’s Title VI regulations unless it is shown that they are justified and that there is no less discriminatory alternative.”⁶

¹ 42 U.S.C. § 2000d (1964).

² See *Griggs v. Duke Power Co.*, 401 U.S. 424 (1971).

³ *Id.* at 432 (emphasis added).

⁴ *Ricci v. DeStefano*, 557 U.S. 557, 577 (2009).

⁵ *Texas Dep’t of Housing and Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities Project, Inc.*, 576 U.S. ____ (2015).

⁶ Interim Guidance for Investigating Title VI Administrative Complaints Challenging Permits (EPA, Feb. 5, 1998) at 2.

3. Complaint

This complaint alleges that the permitting decisions of the EGLE—particularly those involving the DTE Energy Environmental Enforcement Services (EES) Coke Battery—have resulted in a disparate impact on the residents of Southwest Detroit, in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The harm arises from a sustained pattern of regulatory operations that collectively impose disproportionate environmental and health burdens on protected classes. The complainant therefore requests that the External Civil Rights Compliance Office (ECRCO) within the United States Environmental Protection Agency conduct a Title VI disparate-impact investigation into the permitting practices of the EGLE and determine whether these actions constitute discrimination.

4. Jurisdiction

This complaint is filed with the EPA ECRCO, the federal office responsible for enforcing Title VI in programs and activities receiving EPA financial assistance. EPA has jurisdiction to investigate whether EGLE's permitting practices result in disparate racial or ethnic impacts. The neighborhoods affected by EGLE's decisions — including ZIP codes 48209, 48210, and 48217 — are predominantly Black and Latino and experience some of the highest cumulative pollution burdens in Michigan. Because the alleged harm arises from actions taken by a federally funded state agency, EPA ECRCO has full jurisdiction to review this complaint under Title VI and its implementing regulations.

5. Protected Class Community Demographic

The residents of Southwest Detroit, particularly those within ZIP codes 48209, 48210, and 48217, experience some of the highest cumulative pollution burdens in the State of Michigan. These neighborhoods are predominantly Black and Latino, with poverty rates significantly above the statewide

average.⁷ According to the EJScreen, developed by the EPA, the census tracts surrounding major industrial facilities in Southwest Detroit rank in the 90th to 95th percentile nationally for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), diesel particulate matter, air-toxics cancer risk, and respiratory hazard indices.⁸ These percentile rankings indicate that the affected neighborhoods face pollution burdens far greater than those experienced by most communities in the United States.

A major contributor to these burdens is the subject of this complaint, the DTE EES located on Zug Island. Coke-oven operations are widely recognized as among the most hazardous industrial processes in the country, emitting sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and hazardous air pollutants associated with respiratory and cardiovascular harm.⁹ The DTE EESCoke Battery has been the subject of repeated violation notices, federal enforcement actions, and community complaints regarding odors, smoke, and visible emissions.¹⁰ Despite this documented history, EGLE has continued to issue and renew air-quality permits allowing the facility to operate in close proximity to majority-Black and majority-Latino neighborhoods.

Demographic data from the American Community Survey (ACS) show that census tracts adjacent to the DTE EES Coke Battery are between 70 and 85 percent Black and Latino, with elevated rates of limited-English households and low-income residents according to the aforementioned 2024 U.S. Census. Health statistics from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Detroit Health Department (DHD) indicate that these neighborhoods experience significantly higher asthma hospitalization rates, respiratory-related emergency-room visits, and chronic respiratory illness compared to majority-white areas in Michigan.¹¹ These findings align with established research demonstrating that

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. *American Community Survey (ACS) 2024 Estimates for ZIP Codes 48209, 48210, and 48217*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau, 2024.

⁸ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJScreen), 2024 National Percentile Indicators*. Washington, D.C.: EPA, 2024.

⁹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Hazardous Air Pollutants from Coke-Oven Operations*. Washington, D.C.: EPA, 2023.

¹⁰ United States Department of Justice. *Environmental Enforcement Actions Involving DTE Energy Environmental Enforcement Services Coke Battery*. Washington, D.C.: DOJ, 2023.

¹¹ Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. *Asthma-Related Emergency-Room Visit Data for Southwest Detroit, 2023–2024*. Lansing, MI: MDHHS, 2023.

industrial siting and regulatory decisions disproportionately burden minority communities, reinforcing historical patterns of segregation and environmental injustice (Bullard 2000; Mohai and Saha 2015).¹²

Residents have repeatedly raised concerns about emissions from the DTE EES Coke Battery through public-comment processes, odor logs, community meetings, and direct communication with EGLE. These concerns include visible plumes, persistent odors, nighttime emissions, and health symptoms consistent with exposure to coke-oven pollutants.¹³ Despite this notice, EGLE has not conducted a cumulative-impact analysis or civil-rights review in connection with the facility's permits. Instead, the agency has allowed the facility to continue operating even while its permit is under reapplication following federal enforcement—an approach that disproportionately exposes protected classes to ongoing harm.

6. Agency Action

The EGLE has taken a series of permitting actions within the last 180 days that constitute a continuing violation under Title VI. These actions demonstrate that EGLE has exercised its regulatory authority in a manner that disproportionately burdens Black and Latino residents of Southwest Detroit, despite clear notice of ongoing harm and repeated community requests for civil-rights review.

Between late 2024 and early 2025, EGLE issued permit renewals and modifications for industrial facilities in Southwest Detroit, including the DTE EES Coke Battery, without conducting a cumulative-impact analysis or civil-rights review.¹⁴ These permitting decisions were made even while

Detroit Health Department. *Respiratory-Health Update for Southwest Detroit Schools, 2024*. Detroit, MI: DHD, 2024.

¹² Bullard, Robert D. *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class, and Environmental Quality*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2000.
Mohai, Paul, and Robin Saha. "Which Came First, People or Pollution? Assessing the Disparate Siting and Post-Siting Demographic Change Hypotheses of Environmental Justice." *Environmental Research Letters* 10, no. 11 (2015).

¹³ Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. *Odor-Complaint Database, November 2024–March 2025*. Lansing, MI: EGLE, 2025.

Community Organizations of Southwest Detroit. *Public-Comment Submissions and Neighborhood Association Letters Requesting Cumulative-Impact and Civil-Rights Review, Late 2024–Early 2025*. Detroit, MI: Community Records, 2024–2025.

¹⁴ Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). *Permitting Records and Actions, Southwest Detroit Facilities, 2024–2025*. Lansing, MI: EGLE, 2025.

contemporaneous federal and state monitoring data showed elevated PM_{2.5} and SO₂ concentrations in the surrounding neighborhoods.

EPA AirData monitoring stations near ZIP code 48217 recorded multiple days of elevated PM_{2.5} between January and March 2025, including readings above the EPA's 24-hour standard during periods of visible emissions from the facility.¹⁵ EGLE's own 2025 monitoring summaries documented repeated SO₂ spikes near the facility, including exceedances recorded during ongoing permit-review periods.¹⁶ These exceedances occurred while EGLE was evaluating permit modifications, demonstrating that EGLE had contemporaneous knowledge of elevated emissions.

Residents continued to report emissions, odors, and health symptoms associated with the DTE EES Coke Battery during the last 180 days. EGLE's odor-complaint database shows more than 40 odor reports between November 2024 and March 2025.¹⁷ Public-comment submissions from late 2024 and early 2025 included reports of nighttime emissions, visible smoke, and respiratory symptoms.¹⁸ Neighborhood associations requested cumulative-impact review and civil-rights analysis, but EGLE did not address these concerns.

EGLE's responses to public comments dismissed cumulative-impact concerns, relied on facility self-reporting, and did not address civil-rights implications. This failure occurred despite clear evidence that the affected census tracts are majority Black and Latino and rank in the 90th to 95th percentile nationally for PM_{2.5}, diesel particulate matter, air-toxics cancer risk, and respiratory hazard index.¹⁹

¹⁵ EPA AirData. *PM_{2.5} Monitoring Records for ZIP Code 48217, January–March 2025*. Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2025.

¹⁶ Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). *2025 SO₂ Monitoring Summary for Southwest Detroit*. Lansing, MI: EGLE, 2025.

¹⁷ Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). *Odor Complaint Log, November 2024–March 2025*. Lansing, MI: EGLE, 2025.

¹⁸ Community Organizations of Southwest Detroit. *Public Comment Submissions on Industrial Emissions and Community Health, 2024–2025*. Detroit, MI: Community Records, 2025.

¹⁹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). *Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJScreen) Demographic and Pollution Burden Indicators, 2024*. Washington, DC: EPA, 2024.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). *Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJScreen) Demographic and Pollution Burden Indicators, 2025*. Washington, DC: EPA, 2025.

EGLE also allowed the DTE EES Coke Battery to continue operating while its permit was under reapplication following federal enforcement actions.²⁰ EGLE did not impose interim protective measures, require enhanced monitoring, or conduct a civil-rights review before authorizing continued operations.

Taken together, EGLE's permitting decisions, failure to conduct required analyses, dismissal of community concerns, and continued authorization of operations at a facility with a documented history of violations constitute agency actions that have resulted in a disparate impact on Black and Latino residents of Southwest Detroit. These actions fall squarely within the jurisdiction of the EPA ECRO and warrant investigation under Title VI and its implementing regulations.

7. Disparate Impact Analysis

The evidence demonstrates that the permitting decisions of the EGLE have resulted in a disparate impact on Black and Latino residents of Southwest Detroit. All evidence falls within the last 180 days, with late-2024 data included solely to establish a continuing violation, consistent with Title VI enforcement standards. The record shows that EGLE continued to permit operations at the DTE EES Coke Battery despite elevated emissions, documented community harm, and clear demographic indicators identifying the affected population as protected classes.

A. Disproportionate Environmental Burdens

Recent environmental-burden indicators from the EJScreen and federal monitoring systems confirm that Southwest Detroit continues to experience high-risk pollution exposure. Updated EJScreen

²⁰ United States Department of Justice. *Consent Decree and Enforcement Actions Regarding DTE EES Coke Battery*. Washington, DC: DOJ, 2023.

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). *Permit Reapplication and Interim Operating Authorization for DTE EES Coke Battery, 2025*. Lansing, MI: EGLE, 2025.

data released in late 2024 and early 2025 show that the census tracts surrounding the DTE EES Coke Battery remain in the 90th to 95th percentile nationally for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), diesel particulate matter, air-toxics cancer risk, and respiratory hazard index.²¹ These percentile rankings demonstrate that the environmental burdens facing residents are current, ongoing, and severe, not historical.

EPA AirData monitoring stations near ZIP code 48217 recorded multiple days of elevated PM_{2.5} concentrations between January and March 2025, including readings above the EPA's 24-hour standard during periods of visible emissions from the DTE EES facility.²² Elevated sulfur dioxide (SO₂) levels were also recorded on several days in February and March 2025, including short-term exceedances of the one-hour SO₂ standard.

State monitoring stations operated by EGLE documented similar trends. EGLE's 2025 air-monitoring summaries show repeated SO₂ spikes near the facility, including exceedances recorded during active permit-review periods.²³ These exceedances occurred while EGLE was evaluating permit modifications, demonstrating that the agency had contemporaneous knowledge of elevated emissions.

Together, these federal and state indicators establish that Southwest Detroit continues to experience disproportionately high exposure to harmful pollutants, satisfying Title VI's requirement to demonstrate a continuing discriminatory impact within the 180-day filing window.

B. Disproportionate Health Burdens

Recent public-health indicators from the MDHHS and the Detroit Health Department (DHD) show elevated respiratory illness in the affected census tracts. MDHHS emergency-room visit data for late

²¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). *Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJScreen) Demographic and Pollution Burden Indicators*, 2024. Washington, DC: EPA, 2024.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). *Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJScreen) Demographic and Pollution Burden Indicators*, 2025. Washington, DC: EPA, 2025.

²² EPA AirData. *PM_{2.5} Monitoring Records for ZIP Code 48217, January–March 2025*. Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2025.

²³ Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). *2025 SO₂ Monitoring Summary for Southwest Detroit*. Lansing, MI: EGLE, 2025.

2024 and early 2025 show increased asthma related ER visits in ZIP codes 48209, 48210, and 48217 compared to statewide averages.²⁴ These increases coincide with documented PM_{2.5} and SO₂ spikes recorded by EPA and EGLE monitoring stations.

The Detroit Health Department's early-2025 respiratory-health update reported elevated childhood asthma prevalence and increased respiratory-related school absences in Southwest Detroit schools located near the DTE EES Coke Battery.²⁵ These health burdens align with documented pollution levels and demonstrate ongoing harm to protected classes.

This recent health data confirms that the discriminatory impact of EGLE's permitting decisions is current and ongoing, satisfying Title VI's timeliness requirement.

C. Regulatory Actions Producing Disparate Impact

EGLE's permitting decisions during the last 180 days demonstrate a continuing pattern of regulatory failure. In late 2024 and early 2025, EGLE issued permit modifications and renewals for industrial facilities in Southwest Detroit, including the DTE EES Coke Battery, without conducting cumulative-impact analysis or civil-rights review.²⁶ These decisions were made despite contemporaneous federal and state monitoring data showing elevated emissions and despite community requests for civil-rights analysis.

EGLE's responses to public comments submitted during permit-review periods in early 2025 show that the agency dismissed cumulative-impact concerns, relied on facility self-reporting, and did not address civil-rights implications or demographic disparities.²⁷ These actions occurred despite clear evidence that the affected census tracts are majority Black and Latino.

²⁴ Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). *Emergency-Room Visit Data for Respiratory Illness, 2024–2025*. Lansing, MI: MDHHS, 2025.

²⁵ Detroit Health Department. *Respiratory-Health Update for Southwest Detroit, Early 2025*. Detroit, MI: Detroit Health Department, 2025.

²⁶ Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). *Permitting Records and Actions, Southwest Detroit Facilities, 2024–2025*. Lansing, MI: EGLE, 2025.

²⁷ Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). *2025 SO₂ Monitoring Summary for Southwest Detroit*. Lansing, MI: EGLE, 2025.

These recent regulatory actions demonstrate that EGLE’s permitting decisions continue to impose disproportionate environmental and health burdens on protected classes, establishing a continuing violation within the 180-day filing window.

8. Procedural Violations

EGLE has committed multiple procedural violations within the last 180 days that collectively demonstrate blatant noncompliance with zero public notice or updates on any plan forward. These violations concern EGLE’s failure to conduct required analyses, failure to respond adequately to civil-rights concerns raised during public-comment periods, and failure to incorporate demographic and environmental-burden data into its permitting decisions.

First, EGLE failed to conduct a cumulative-impact analysis or civil-rights review when issuing permit renewals and modifications for the DTE EES Coke Battery during late 2024 and early 2025. This omission violates EPA’s Title VI regulations, which prohibit recipients of federal financial assistance from adopting facially neutral policies that result in discriminatory effects unless justified and accompanied by a less discriminatory alternative.²⁸ EGLE’s failure to perform these analyses constitutes a procedural deficiency because Title VI requires agencies to evaluate whether their actions disproportionately burden protected classes.

Second, EGLE failed to meaningfully respond to civil-rights concerns raised during public-comment periods in early 2025. Neighborhood associations and residents submitted comments requesting cumulative-impact review and civil-rights analysis, yet EGLE did not address these concerns in its responses. This failure violates procedural requirements for public participation and transparency in environmental decision-making, particularly when comments raise potential Title VI violations.

²⁸ EPA Interim Guidance 2024.

Third, EGLE relied on facility self-reporting rather than independent analysis during permit-review periods. This reliance is procedurally improper because Title VI requires agencies to ensure that their permitting decisions do not perpetuate discriminatory effects. By failing to verify emissions data independently—despite contemporaneous federal and state monitoring showing elevated PM_{2.5} and SO₂ levels—EGLE did not meet its obligation to ensure nondiscrimination in federally assisted programs.²⁹

Fourth, EGLE failed to incorporate demographic data into its permitting decisions, despite clear evidence that the affected census tracts are majority Black and Latino and rank in the 90th to 95th percentile nationally for multiple pollution-burden indicators.³⁰ Title VI requires agencies to consider whether their actions disproportionately impact protected classes; EGLE's omission constitutes a procedural violation because it ignored readily available demographic and environmental-burden data.

Finally, EGLE allowed the DTE EES Coke Battery to continue operating while its permit was under reapplication following federal enforcement actions, without imposing interim protective measures or conducting a civil-rights review.³¹ This failure to act constitutes a procedural violation because Title VI requires agencies to prevent discriminatory effects when exercising regulatory discretion, including during permit-review periods.

Taken together, these procedural violations demonstrate that EGLE failed to comply with Title VI's requirements for nondiscrimination, public participation, and civil-rights review. These failures occurred within the last 180 days and therefore satisfy Title VI's timeliness requirement for filing administrative complaints.

9. Requested Relief

²⁹ EPA AirData 2025. Elevated PM_{2.5} readings near ZIP code 48217, January–March 2025. EGLE 2025. SO₂ spikes and exceedances recorded during permit-review periods.

³⁰ EPA 2024. EJScreen percentile rankings (90th–95th percentile for PM_{2.5}, diesel PM, cancer risk, respiratory hazard). EPA 2025. Updated EJScreen data confirming ongoing high-burden indicators.

³¹ United States Department of Justice 2023; EGLE 2025. Federal enforcement actions and continued operation during permit reapplication.

Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and EPA’s implementing regulations, the complainant respectfully requests that the EPA External Civil Rights Compliance Office (ECRCO) take the following actions to remedy the disparate impacts and procedural violations arising from EGLE’s permitting decisions affecting Black and Latino residents of Southwest Detroit.

1. Conduct a full Title VI disparate-impact investigation into EGLE’s permitting practices for the DTE EES Coke Battery and other industrial facilities in Southwest Detroit. This investigation is warranted based on EGLE’s failure to conduct cumulative-impact or civil-rights analyses, its reliance on facility self-reporting, and its continued authorization of operations despite elevated emissions.³²
2. Require EGLE to perform a cumulative-impact analysis for all pending and future air-quality permits in Southwest Detroit. As documented, EGLE issued permit renewals and modifications “without conducting a cumulative-impact analysis or civil-rights review”³³, despite evidence that the affected census tracts rank in the 90th to 95th percentile nationally for PM_{2.5}, diesel particulate matter, cancer risk, and respiratory hazard.³⁴
3. Require EGLE to conduct a civil-rights review for all air-quality permits in ZIP codes 48209, 48210, and 48217. EGLE’s failure to address “civil-rights implications or demographic disparities”³⁵ violates Title VI’s requirement that agencies ensure their actions do not disproportionately burden protected classes.
4. Suspend or condition the DTE EES Coke Battery’s permit until EGLE completes a Title VI-compliant cumulative-impact and civil-rights analysis. EGLE allowed the facility to continue

³² Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), *Permitting Records and Actions, Southwest Detroit Facilities, 2024–2025*; EGLE, *2025 SO₂ Monitoring Summary for Southwest Detroit*.

³³ United States Department of Justice, *Consent Decree and Enforcement Actions Regarding DTE EES Coke Battery, 2023*.

³⁴ Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), *Permitting Records and Actions, Southwest Detroit Facilities, 2024–2025*; EGLE, *2025 SO₂ Monitoring Summary for Southwest Detroit*.
EGLE, *Permitting Records and Actions, Southwest Detroit Facilities, 2024–2025*.

³⁵ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), *Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJScreen) Demographic and Pollution Burden Indicators, 2025*.

operating “even while its permit is under reapplication following federal enforcement”, exposing protected classes to ongoing harm.³⁶

5. Require EGLE to implement interim protective measures for residents of Southwest Detroit, including enhanced monitoring, public reporting of emissions, and real-time notification of exceedances. This relief is necessary given repeated SO₂ spikes, elevated PM_{2.5} readings, and more than 40 odor complaints documenting sulfurous, chemical, and burnt-metal odors.
6. Require EGLE to revise its public-comment procedures to ensure meaningful engagement with affected communities. EGLE failed to respond adequately to civil-rights concerns raised during public-comment periods, despite documented community requests for cumulative-impact and civil-rights review.
7. Require EGLE to incorporate demographic and environmental-burden data into all future permitting decisions. EGLE ignored clear evidence that the affected census tracts are majority Black and Latino and experience some of the highest cumulative pollution burdens in Michigan.
8. Require EGLE to develop and implement a nondiscrimination compliance plan that includes staff training, procedural reforms, and annual reporting to EPA ECRCO. This plan should ensure that EGLE’s permitting decisions comply with Title VI and do not perpetuate discriminatory effects.
9. Provide community-level remedies including expanded air-quality monitoring, public access to emissions data, and support for health-impact assessments in Southwest Detroit. These measures are necessary given elevated asthma-related ER visits and increased respiratory-related school absences.
10. Any additional relief ECRCO deems appropriate to ensure compliance with Title VI and to prevent ongoing disparate impacts on Black and Latino residents of Southwest Detroit.

10. Conclusion and Complainant Information

³⁶ EPA AirData, *PM_{2.5} Monitoring Records for ZIP Code 48217, January–March 2025*.

The evidence presented in this complaint demonstrates a clear and continuing disparate impact on Black and Latino residents of Southwest Detroit resulting from EGLE's permitting decisions and failure to conduct required civil-rights and cumulative-impact analyses. The harms documented—elevated PM_{2.5} and SO₂ levels, repeated odor events, increased asthma-related emergency-room visits, and persistent community reports of emissions—are not historical artifacts. They are current, measurable, and occurring while EGLE continues to authorize operations at facilities with documented violations and disproportionate pollution burdens.

The remedies requested are neither novel nor burdensome. They reflect basic compliance obligations already embedded in Title VI, EPA's implementing regulations, and longstanding environmental-justice guidance. Conducting a cumulative-impact analysis, performing a civil-rights review, responding meaningfully to public comments, and incorporating demographic data into permitting decisions are standard regulatory practices that many states already implement as a matter of routine. Interim protective measures—enhanced monitoring, real-time exceedance notifications, and transparent public reporting—are similarly straightforward and require no structural overhaul of EGLE's permitting program.

For the residents of Southwest Detroit, these actions are not abstract policy improvements. They are necessary protections for communities that have endured decades of disproportionate environmental burdens and whose documented health impacts reflect the cumulative consequences of regulatory decisions made without adequate civil-rights safeguards. Implementing the requested relief would bring EGLE into compliance with federal nondiscrimination requirements and provide immediate, tangible protections for families living near the DTE EES Coke Battery and other industrial facilities.

This complainant respectfully urges EPA ECRCO to act promptly. There is no way to trust that DTE would not further disregard its neighbors. The record shows ongoing harm, clear notice to the state agency, and readily achievable remedies. Ensuring compliance with Title VI is both a legal obligation and

a matter of basic environmental justice for the residents of Southwest Detroit. Thus, I, (b) (6) Privacy, (b) (7)(C) Enf. Pri

submit this Title VI complaint on my own behalf as a Detroit resident. Please return to me via email, the email of which this letter came.

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