



OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND ADJUDICATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

September 2, 2026

Merrily Friedlander
Chief of the Federal Coordination and Compliance
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201
via email: Merrily.Friedlander@hhs.gov

RE: Referral of EPA Complaint No. 28-26-R4

Dear Chief Friedlander:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights and Adjudication (OCRA), External Civil Rights Division (ECD) received the above-referenced complaint against Tennessee Department of Health (TDH). The complaint raises allegations of discrimination by TDH on the basis of disability by:

- Failing to provide targeted health guidance addressing uranium-related risks for medically vulnerable or disabled residents;
- Failing to offer emergency-planning coordination for homebound residents and evacuation or shelter-in-place planning for individuals with disabilities; and
- Only offering limited public health framing regarding potential health impacts to vulnerable populations.

ECD is referring the complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the appropriate federal agency to address complaints of state and local public health guidance. Copies of ECD's letters to TDH and Complainant are enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact Case Manager Trinita Mason by email at mason.trinita@epa.gov or by phone at 202-564-9652.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juan Carlos Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Enclosures: Administrative Complaint
 Referral Letter to Complainant
 Referral Letter to Recipient

cc: Kristi Eubanks, Deputy Regional Administrator/Deputy Civil Rights Official
 Suzanne Rubini, Regional Counsel
 U.S. EPA, Region 4