



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 24 2014

OFFICE OF
CIVIL RIGHTS

Return Receipt Requested

Certified Mail#: (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy

In Reply Refer to:

EPA File No.: 02R-14-R4

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

Sebastian, FL 32958 (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy

RE: Notification and Rejection of Administrative Complaint

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

This letter is in response to your administrative complaint that was received by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights (OCR) on January 13, 2014. Your complaint alleges that you are being harassed and that (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy a research professor at the Florida Atlantic University, is defrauding the Federal government and perhaps violating the EPA nondiscrimination regulations.


Pursuant to the EPA's nondiscrimination regulations, the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) conducts a preliminary review of discrimination complaints to determine acceptance, rejection, or referral (See 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(d) (1)). For a complaint to be accepted for investigation, the complaint must meet the jurisdictional requirements described in the EPA's Part 7 regulations (nondiscrimination regulations).

First, the complaint must be in writing. Second, the complaint must describe an alleged discriminatory act that, if true, would violate the EPA's nondiscrimination regulations (*i.e.*, an alleged discriminatory act based on race, color, national origin, sex, or disability). Third, the complaint must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act. Finally, the complaint must be filed against an applicant for, or recipient of, EPA assistance that allegedly committed the discriminatory act. For your reference, a copy of the EPA's nondiscrimination regulations is enclosed.

After careful consideration by OCR, the EPA cannot accept your allegations for investigation because they do not meet the jurisdictional requirements described in the EPA's nondiscrimination regulations. The EPA has concluded that Florida Atlantic University is not a recipient of the EPA's financial assistance. Moreover, you must describe a discriminatory act that, if true, would violate the EPA's nondiscrimination regulations. You do not state a specific discriminatory act in your letter, other than alleging you are being harassed. Further, you do not specifically identify the entity harassing you.

Pursuant to our nondiscrimination regulations, the EPA finds that it lacks legal jurisdiction to investigate your complaint further and is rejecting the complaint on such grounds. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Ericka Farrell of the OCR External Compliance Program at (202) 564-0717, or via electronic mail at farrell.ericka@epa.gov.

Sincerely,


Velveta Golightly-Howell
Director

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Redden, Assistant General Counsel
Civil Rights & Finance Law Office (MC 2399A)

Ken LaPierre, Deputy Civil Rights Official
EPA Region 4

Naima Halim-Chestnut, EEO Officer
EPA Region IV