[redacted] on 08/26/2000 02:24:43 PM

To: Group Civilrights
cc:

Subject: Re: Draft Revised Guidance for Investigating Title VI Administrative Complaints

Rahman Shabazz

President

Community Coalition for Change

P.

O. Box 59027

Los Angeles, CA 90059

August 26, 2000

Title VI Guidance Comments
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Civil Rights (1201A)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20460

To Whom It May Concern:

According to the EPA's Mission Statement, one of its purposes if to ensure that:

> All Americans are protected from significant risk to human health and the environment where they live, learn and work.

It also states:

> Federal laws protecting human health and the environment are enforced fairly and effectively.

However, the EPA has failed to protect the rights of all Americans and to enforce federal law by instituting guidelines that violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

First, the EPA guidelines do not readily provide for due process and equal protection of the law as required by the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. Accordilng to EPA guidelines, informal methods will initially be used to solve a compliant prior to an investigation being conducted. This is in sharp contrast to the way that other department and agencies handle Title VI compliants. Yet, EPA guidelines put "the cart before the horse" by initially using informal methods. One can understand the EPA's policy given its budgetary constraints. However, budgetary constraints should never take precedence over the rights of the people. The EPA guidelines in effect prevents evidence from being gathered by stopping an investigation that should take place before it is initiated. This helps to perpetuate discrimination.