## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY  PROJECT  1000 Vermont Ave NW, Suite 1100  Washington, DC 20005, and  SIERRA CLUB  1202 San Antonio St.  Austin, TX 78701	Case No. 14-1196
Plaintiffs, )	
v. )	
GINA MCCARTHY, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building, Mail Code 1101A 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, DC 20460 )	
Defendant. )	

#### **COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND DECLATORY RELIEF**

#### I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

- 1. This is a civil action for declaratory and injunctive relief, with costs and fees under the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et. seq. and the declaratory judgment statute, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.
- 2. Environmental Integrity Project and Sierra Club (collectively, "Plaintiffs") seek an order declaring that the Defendant, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("Administrator"), is required, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2), to grant or deny

three petitions filed by Plaintiffs requesting that the Administrator object to three Title V operating permits issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to Luminant Generating Company ("Luminant"). Plaintiffs also seek an order requiring the Administrator to perform her non-discretionary duty to grant or deny these petitions.

#### II. JURISDICTION, VENUE AND NOTICE

- 3. This is a Clean Air Act citizen suit. Thus, this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the claims set forth in this complaint pursuant to the citizen suit provision of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a), and has the authority to award attorneys' fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 7604(d). The Clean Air Act is a federal statute. The Defendant is an agent of the United States government. Thus, this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the claims set forth in this complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 (federal question) and 1346 (United States as defendant). This case does not concern federal taxes, is not a proceeding under 11 U.S.C. §§ 505 or 1146, nor does it involve the Tariff Act of 1930. Thus, this Court has authority to order the declaratory relief requested under 28 U.S.C. § 2201. If the Court orders such relief, 28 U.S.C. § 2202 authorizes this Court to issue injunctive relief and 28 U.S.C. § 2412 authorizes this Court to award Plaintiffs their costs and attorneys' fees.
- 4. A substantial part of the alleged events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims occurred in the District of Columbia. In addition, this suit is being brought against the Administrator in her official capacity as an officer or employee of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, residing in the District of Columbia. Thus, venue is proper in this Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e).

5. As required by 42 U.S.C. § 7604(b)(1)(A), Plaintiffs notified the Administrator of the EPA, the U.S. Attorney General, the EPA Administrator for Region 6, and the Deputy Director of the TCEQ's Office of Air of the violations alleged in this complaint and of Plaintiffs' intent to sue, via certified first-class mail on May 9, 2012. See Exhibit A (Notice of Intent to Sue Administrator McCarthy for her Failure to Timely Grant or Deny a Petition to Object to Part 70 Operating Permit No. O53 for Luminant's Martin Lake Plant); Exhibit B (Notice of Intent to Sue Administrator McCarthy for her Failure to Timely Grant or Deny a Petition to Object to Part 70 Operating Permit No. O64 for Luminant's Monticello Plant); and Exhibit C (Notice of Intent to Sue Administrator McCarthy for her Failure to Timely Grant or Deny a Petition to Object to Part 70 Operating Permit No. O65 for Luminant's Big Brown Plant). More than 60 days have passed since Defendant received these notice of intent to sue letters. Defendant has not acted to remedy the violations alleged in this complaint. Therefore, an actual controversy exists between the parties.

#### III. PARTIES

- 6. Plaintiff ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY PROJECT ("EIP") is a national non-profit corporation founded to advocate for the effective enforcement of state and federal environmental laws, with a specific focus on the Clean Air Act and large stationary sources of air pollution, like Luminant's power plants. EIP's ability to enforce Clean Air Act requirements is improperly burdened when EPA fails to meet its mandatory deadlines to respond to Title V petitions.
- 7. Plaintiff SIERRA CLUB is one of the Nation's largest and oldest grassroots nonprofit membership organizations. Sierra Club's Texas chapter was formed more than forty years ago and has a long history of working to reduce power plant emissions that adversely affect air

quality in Texas. Sierra Club petitioned the Administrator to object to Luminant's Title V operating permits, because the permits fail to comply with applicable Clean Air Act requirements. The Administrator's failure to perform her non-discretionary duty to grant or deny Plaintiffs' petitions injures the organizational interests of Sierra Club and its members.

- 8. Plaintiffs have an interest in ensuring that Luminant's Title V operating permits comply with all federally applicable requirements. Members and employees of Plaintiff organizations live, work, and recreate in areas that are affected by air pollution from the Big Brown Steam Electric Station, the Monticello Steam Electric Station, and the Martin Lake Steam Electric Station. These members and employees will be adversely affected if EPA fails to object to these permits.
- 9. Defendant GINA MCCARTHY is the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Administrator is responsible for implementing and enforcing the Clean Air Act. As described below, the Clean Air Act assigns to the Administrator a non-discretionary duty to grant or deny timely filed Title V petitions within 60 days.
- 10. For the foregoing reasons, the Administrator's failure to respond to Plaintiffs' petitions has caused, is causing, and unless this Court grants the requested relief, will continue to cause Plaintiffs concrete injuries that the Court can redress through this case.

#### IV. LEGAL AUTHORITY

11. The Clean Air Act is designed to protect and enhance the quality of the nation's air so as to promote the public health and welfare and productive capacity of its population. 42 U.S.C. § 7401(b)(1). To advance this goal, Congress amended the Act in 1990 to establish the Title V

operating permit program. See 42 U.S.C. §§ 7661-7661f. Title V of the Clean Air Act provides that "[a]fter the effective date of any permit program approved or promulgated under this subchapter, it shall be unlawful for any person to violate any requirement of a permit issued under this subchapter, or to operate . . . a major source . . . except in compliance with a permit issued by a permitting authority under this subchapter. 42 U.S.C. § 7661a(a). Luminant's Martin Lake Steam Electric Station, Monticello Steam Electric Station, and Big Brown Steam Electric Station are each major sources subject to Title V permitting requirements.

- 12. The Clean Air Act provides that the Administrator may approve a state's program to administer the Title V operating permit program with respect to sources within its borders.

  42 U.S.C. § 7661a(d). The Administrator approved Texas's administration of its Title V operating permit program. 61 Fed. Reg. 32693 (June 25, 1996); 66 Fed. Reg. 66318 (December 6, 2001). Thus, the TCEQ is responsible for issuing Title V operating permits in Texas.
- 13. Before the TCEQ may issue or renew a Title V permit, it must forward the proposed permit to EPA for review. 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(a)(1)(B). The Administrator then has 45 days to review the proposed permit. The Administrator must object to the permit if she finds that the proposed permit does not comply with all applicable provisions of the Clean Air Act. 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(1). If the Administrator does not object to the permit during EPA's 45-day review period, "any person may petition the Administrator within 60 days" to object to the permit. 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2).
- 14. If a petition is timely filed, the Administrator has a non-discretionary duty to grant or deny it within 60 days. <u>Id.</u>; <u>New York Public Interest Research Group v. Whitman</u>, 214 F.Supp.2d 1, 2 (D.D.C. 2002).

15. The Clean Air Act authorizes citizen suits "against the Administrator where there is alleged a failure of the Administrator to perform any act or duty under this chapter which is not discretionary with the Administrator." 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a)(2).

#### V. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

#### Martin Lake Steam Electric Station

16. Luminant applied to the TCEQ to renew Title V operating permit No. O53 for the Martin Lake Steam Electric Station on May 3, 2009. The Executive Director of the TCEQ issued a draft renewal operating permit ("Martin Lake Draft Permit"), notice of which was published on August 24, 2011. The public comment period for the Martin Lake Draft Permit ended on September 23, 2011.

17. On September 23, 2011, Plaintiffs submitted written comments to the TCEQ during the public comment period. The comments identified specific deficiencies contained in the Martin Lake Draft Permit.

18. EPA's 45-day review period for the proposed permit ended on December 27, 2013. EPA did not object to the permit.

19. On February 24, 2014, Plaintiffs timely filed with EPA a petition to object to the Martin Lake Title V operating permit ("Martin Lake Petition"). 42. U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2). The Martin Lake Petition was based on (1) objections to the Martin Lake Draft Permit that were raised with reasonable specificity during the public comment period and (2) objections to the permit that arose after the close of the public comment period, as required by 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2).

- 20. Though the Administrator was required to grant or deny the Martin Lake Petition within 60 days, she has not yet done so. 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2).
- 21. On May 9, 2014, Plaintiffs sent Defendant notice of their intent to sue the Administrator for her failure to grant or deny the Martin Lake Petition within 60 days.

#### Monticello Steam Electric Station

- 22. Luminant applied to the TCEQ to renew its Title V operating permit No. O64 for the Monticello Steam Electric Station on November 23, 2009. The Executive Director of the TCEQ issued a draft renewal operating permit ("Monticello Draft Permit"), notice of which was published on August 10, 2011. The public comment period for the Monticello Draft Permit ended on September 9, 2011.
- 23. On September 8, 2011, Plaintiffs submitted written comments to the TCEQ during the public comment period. The comments identified specific deficiencies contained in the Monticello Draft Permit.
- 24. EPA's 45-day review period for the proposed permit ended on January 3, 2014. EPA did not object to the permit.
- 25. On March 3, 2014, Plaintiffs timely filed with EPA a petition to object to the Monticello Title V operating permit ("Monticello Petition"). 42. U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2). The Monticello Petition was based on (1) objections to the Monticello Draft Permit that were raised with reasonable specificity during the public comment period and (2) objections to the permit that arose after the close of the public comment period, as required by 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2).

- 26. Though the Administrator was required to grant or deny the Monticello Petition within 60 days, she has not yet done so. 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2).
- 27. On May 9, 2014, Plaintiffs sent Defendant notice of their intent to sue the Administrator for her failure to grant or deny the Monticello Petition within 60 days.

#### Big Brown Steam Electric Station

- 28. Luminant applied to the TCEQ to renew its Title V operating permit No. O65 for the Big Brown Generating Station on May 10, 2010. The Executive Director of the TCEQ issued a draft renewal operating permit ("Big Brown Draft Permit"), notice of which was published on September 22, 2011. The public comment period for the Big Brown Draft Permit ended on October 24, 2011.
- 29. On October 24, 2011, Plaintiffs submitted written comments to the TCEQ during the public comment period. The comments identified specific deficiencies contained in the Big Brown Draft Permit.
- 30. EPA's 45-day review period for the proposed permit ended on January 1, 2014. EPA did not object to the permit.
- 31. On March 3, 2014, Plaintiffs timely filed with EPA a petition to object the Big Brown Title V operating permit ("Big Brown Petition"). 42. U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2). The Big Brown Petition was based on (1) objections to the Big Brown Draft Permit that were raised with reasonable specificity during the public comment period and (2) objections to the permit that arose after the close of the public comment period, as required by 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2).

- 32. Though the Administrator was required to grant or deny the Big Brown Petition within 60 days, she has not yet done so. 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2).
- 33. On May 9, 2014, Plaintiffs sent Defendant notice of their intent to sue the Administrator for her failure to grant or deny the Big Brown Petition within 60 days.

#### VI. CAUSES OF ACTION

#### FAILURE TO RESPOND TO PLAINTIFFS' MARTIN LAKE PETITION

[42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2)]

- 34. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1-33.
- 35. The Clean Air Act required Defendant to act on the Martin Lake Petition within 60 days of its filing. 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2) (stating that "[t]he Administrator shall grant or deny such a petition within 60 days after the petition is filed.") (emphasis added). This is a non-discretionary duty. New York Public Interest Research Group v. Whitman, 214 F.Supp.2d 1, 3 (D.D.C. 2002).
- 36. It has been more than 60 days since Defendant received the Martin Lake Petition. Defendant's failure to grant or deny the Martin Lake Petition constitutes a failure to perform an act or duty that is not discretionary. 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a)(2).

#### FAILURE TO RESPOND TO PLAINTIFFS' MONTICELLO PETITION

[42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2)]

37. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1-33.

38. The Clean Air Act required Defendant to act on the Monticello Petition within 60 days of its filing. 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2) (stating that "[t]he Administrator shall grant or deny such a petition within 60 days after the petition is filed.") (emphasis added). This is a non-discretionary duty. New York Public Interest Research Group v. Whitman, 214 F.Supp.2d 1, 3 (D.D.C. 2002).

39. It has been more than 60 days since Defendant received the Monticello Petition. Defendant's failure to grant or deny the Monticello Petition constitutes a failure to perform an act or duty that is not discretionary. 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a)(2).

#### FAILURE TO RESPOND TO PLAINTIFFS' BIG BROWN PETITION

[42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2)]

- 40. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1-33.
- 41. The Clean Air Act required Defendant to act on the Big Brown Petition within 60 days of its filing. 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2) (stating that "[t]he Administrator shall grant or deny such a petition within 60 days after the petition is filed.") (emphasis added). This is a non-discretionary duty. New York Public Interest Research Group v. Whitman, 214 F.Supp.2d 1, 3 (D.D.C. 2002).
- 42. It has been more than 60 days since Defendant received the Big Brown Petition. Defendant's failure to grant or deny the Monticello Petition constitutes a failure to perform an act or duty that is not discretionary. 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a)(2).

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, based upon the allegations set forth above, Plaintiffs respectfully request

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that this Court:

A. Declare that Defendant's failure to grant or deny the Plaintiffs' Martin Lake Petition,

Monticello Petition, and Big Brown Petition within 60 days constitutes a failure to

perform acts or duties that are not discretionary within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. §

7604(a)(2);

B. Order the Defendant to grant or deny the Martin Lake Petition, Monticello Petition,

and Big Brown Petition within sixty (60) days;

C. Retain jurisdiction over this action to ensure compliance with the Court's Order;

D. Award Plaintiffs their costs and fees related to this action; and

E. Grant such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DATED: July 15, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jennifer Duggan

Jennifer Duggan

D.C. Bar No. 978352

**Environmental Integrity Project** 

1000 Vermont Ave. N.W. #1100

Washington, D.C. 20005

Phone: (802) 225-6774

jduggan@environmentalintegrity.org

Gabriel Clark-Leach

Texas Bar No. 24069516

**Environmental Integrity Project** 

1002 West Ave., Ste. 305

Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: (512) 637-9478

Fax: (512) 584-8019

gclark-leach@environmentalintegrity.org

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## **EXHIBIT A**

Notice of Intent to Bring Suit Against Administrator McCarthy for Failure to Grant or Deny Plaintiffs' Petition to Object to Part 70 Operating Permit No. O53



1002 West Avenue Austin TX, 78701 p: (512) 637-9477 f: (512) 584-8019 www.environmentalintegrity.org

May 7, 2014

Administrator Gina McCarthy U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Ariel Rios Building, Mail Code 1101A 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20460 Fax number (202) 501-1450 via certified mail

RE: Notice of Intent to Sue Administrator McCarthy for her Failure to Timely Grant or Deny a Petition to Object to Part 70 Operating Permit No. O53 Issued to Luminant Generation Company for Operation of the Martin Lake Steam Electric Station in Rusk County, Texas

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

I am writing on behalf of the Environmental Integrity Project, and Sierra Club ("Petitioners") to provide you with notice that we intend to bring suit against you in your official capacity as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). This suit will seek redress for your failure to timely grant or deny our Petition to Object to the Part 70 Operating Permit No. 53 ("Proposed Permit") issued to Luminant Generation Company ("Luminant") for operation of the Martin Lake Steam Electric Station ("Martin Lake") in Rusk County, Texas ("Petition").

This Petition was timely filed on February 24, 2014, within 60 days following the end of EPA's 45-day review period for the Proposed Permit. Your failure to act on the Petition within 60 days is a violation of 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2). Unless you promptly respond to our Petition as required by law, Petitioners intend to file suit 60 days after you receive this notice letter to compel your response.

#### **Authority to Bring Suit**

Clean Air Act section 304(a)(2) authorizes citizen suits "against the Administrator where there is alleged a failure of the Administrator to perform any act or duty under this chapter which is not discretionary with the Administrator." 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a)(2). The Administrator has a nondiscretionary duty to grant or deny petitions filed by citizens that object to the issuance of a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Petition is attached to this notice letter as Attachment A.

federal operating permit on the basis that it contains provisions not in compliance with the Clean Air Act. 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2). In the event that the Administrator fails to perform this nondiscretionary duty, citizens may bring suit to compel such action. The district courts have jurisdiction over these suits. 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a).

The Clean Air Act requires citizens to give the Administrator notice 60 days before bringing an action under section 304(a)(2). 42 U.S.C. § 7604(b)(2). Petitioners are hereby giving you notice of their intent to file suit against you in your official capacity as Administrator of the EPA, under Clean Air Act section 304(a)(2), for failing to perform a non-discretionary duty. Petitioners may commence this suit at any time 60 days after you receive this notice.

#### Relief Requested

Petitioners will seek the following relief:

- 1. An order compelling you to grant or deny the Petition within 60 days from the date of the order:
- 2. Attorney's fees and other litigation costs; and
- 3. Other appropriate relief as allowed.

If you have any questions regarding the allegations in this notice, believe any of the foregoing information to be in error, wish to discuss the exchange of information, or would otherwise like to discuss a settlement of this matter prior to the initiation of litigation, please contact us at the address below.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Clark-Leach

Ilan Levin

**Environmental Integrity Project** 

1002 West Avenue

Austin, TX 78701

(512) 637-9477 (phone)

(512) 584-8019 (fax)

gclark-leach@environmentalintegrity.org

ilevin@environmentalintegrity.org

Attachment

cc:

Eric Holder, Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001

Ron Curry, Regional Administrator U.S. EPA Region 6 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200 Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Steve Hagle, P.E., Office of Air Deputy Director, MC-122 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality P.O Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087

### **EXHIBIT B**

Notice of Intent to Bring Suit Against Administrator McCarthy for Failure to Grant or Deny Plaintiffs' Petition to Object to Part 70 Operating Permit No. O64



1002 West Avenue Austin TX, 78701 p: 512-637-9477 f: 512-584-8019 www.environmentalintegrity.org

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May 7, 2014

Administrator Gina McCarthy U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Ariel Rios Building, Mail Code 1101A 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20460 Fax number (202) 501-1450 via certified mail

RE: Notice of Intent to Sue Administrator McCarthy for her Failure to Timely Grant or Deny a Petition to Object to Part 70 Operating Permit No. O64 Issued to Luminant Generation Company for Operation of the Monticello Steam Electric Station in Titus County, Texas

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

I am writing on behalf of the Environmental Integrity Project, and Sierra Club ("Petitioners") to provide you with notice that we intend to bring suit against the you in your official capacity as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). This suit will seek redress for your failure to timely grant or deny our Petition to Object to the Part 70 Operating Permit No. O64 ("Proposed Permit") issued to Luminant Generation Company ("Luminant") for operation of the Monticello Steam Electric Station ("Monticello") in Titus County, Texas ("Petition").

Our Petition was timely filed on March 3, 2014, within 60 days following the end of EPA's 45-day review period for the Proposed Permit. Your failure to act on the Petition within 60 days is a violation of 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2). Unless you promptly respond to our Petition as required by law, Petitioners intend to file suit 60 days after you receive this notice letter to compel your response.

#### Authority to Bring Suit

Clean Air Act section 304(a)(2) authorizes citizen suits "against the Administrator where there is alleged a failure of the Administrator to perform any act or duty under this chapter which is not discretionary with the Administrator." 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a)(2). The Administrator has a nondiscretionary duty to grant or deny petitions filed by citizens that object to the issuance of a federal operating permit on the basis that it contains provisions not in compliance with the Clean

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Petition is attached to this notice letter as Attachment A.

Air Act. 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2). In the event that the Administrator fails to perform this nondiscretionary duty, citizens may bring suit to compel such action. The district courts have jurisdiction over these suits. 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a).

The Clean Air Act requires citizens to give the Administrator notice 60 days before bringing an action under section 304(a)(2). 42 U.S.C. § 7604(b)(2). Petitioners are hereby giving you notice of their intent to file suit against you in your official capacity as Administrator of the EPA, under Clean Air Act section 304(a)(2), for failing to perform a non-discretionary duty. Petitioners may commence this suit at any time 60 days after you receive this notice.

#### **Relief Requested**

Petitioners will seek the following relief:

- 1. An order compelling you to grant or deny our Petition within 60 days from the date of the order:
- 2. Attorney's fees and other litigation costs; and
- 3. Other appropriate relief as allowed.

If you have any questions regarding the allegations in this notice, believe any of the foregoing information to be in error, wish to discuss the exchange of information, or would otherwise like to discuss a settlement of this matter prior to the initiation of litigation, please contact us at the address below.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Clark-Leach

Ilan Levin

**Environmental Integrity Project** 

1002 West Avenue

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(512) 637-9477 (phone)

(512) 584-8019 (fax)

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ilevin@environmentalintegrity.org

Attachment

cc:

Eric Holder, Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001

Ron Curry, Regional Administrator U.S. EPA Region 6 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200 Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Steve Hagle, P.E., Office of Air Deputy Director, MC-122 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality P.O Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087

## **EXHIBIT C**

Notice of Intent to Bring Suit Against Administrator McCarthy for Failure to Grant or Deny Plaintiffs' Petition to Object to Part 70 Operating Permit No. O65



1002 West Avenue Austin TX, 78701 p: 512-637-9477 f: 512-584-8019 www.environmentalintegrity.org ٠.

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May 7, 2014

Administrator Gina McCarthy U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Ariel Rios Building, Mail Code 1101A 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20460 Fax number (202) 501-1450 via certified mail

RE: Notice of Intent to Sue Administrator McCarthy for her Failure to Timely Grant or Deny a Petition to Object to Part 70 Operating Permit No. O65 Issued to Luminant Generation Company for Operation of the Big Brown Steam Electric Station in Freestone County, Texas

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

I am writing on behalf of the Environmental Integrity Project, and Sierra Club ("Petitioners") to provide you with notice that we intend to bring suit against you in your official capacity as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). This suit will seek redress for your failure to timely grant or deny our Petition to Object to the Part 70 Operating Permit No. O65 ("Proposed Permit") issued to Luminant Generation Company ("Luminant") for operation of the Big Brown Steam Electric Station ("Big Brown") in Freestone County, Texas ("Petition").

This Petition was timely filed on March 3, 2014, within 60 days following the end of EPA's 45-day review period for the Proposed Permit. Your failure to act on the Petition within 60 days is a violation of 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2). Unless you promptly respond to our Petition as required by law, Petitioners intend to file suit 60 days after you receive this notice letter to compel your response.

#### **Authority to Bring Suit**

Clean Air Act section 304(a)(2) authorizes citizen suits "against the Administrator where there is alleged a failure of the Administrator to perform any act or duty under this chapter which is not discretionary with the Administrator." 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a)(2). The Administrator has a nondiscretionary duty to grant or deny petitions filed by citizens that object to the issuance of a federal operating permit on the basis that it contains provisions not in compliance with the Clean

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Petition is attached to this notice letter as Attachment A.

Air Act. 42 U.S.C. § 7661d(b)(2). In the event that the Administrator fails to perform this nondiscretionary duty, citizens may bring suit to compel such action. The district courts have jurisdiction over these suits. 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a).

The Clean Air Act requires citizens to give the Administrator notice 60 days before bringing an action under section 304(a)(2). 42 U.S.C. § 7604(b)(2). Petitioners are hereby giving you notice of their intent to file suit against you in your official capacity as Administrator of the EPA, under Clean Air Act section 304(a)(2), for failing to perform a non-discretionary duty. Petitioners may commence this suit at any time 60 days after you receive this notice.

#### Relief Requested

Petitioners will seek the following relief:

- 1. An order compelling you to grant or deny the Petition within 60 days from the date of the order;
- 2. Attorney's fees and other litigation costs; and
- 3. Other appropriate relief as allowed.

If you have any questions regarding the allegations in this notice, believe any of the foregoing information to be in error, wish to discuss the exchange of information, or would otherwise like to discuss a settlement of this matter prior to the initiation of litigation, please contact us at the address below.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Clark-Leach

Ilan Levin

**Environmental Integrity Project** 

1002 West Avenue Austin, TX 78701

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Attachment

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cc:

Eric Holder, Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001

Ron Curry, Regional Administrator U.S. EPA Region 6 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200 Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Steve Hagle, P.E., Office of Air Deputy Director, MC-122 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality P.O Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087

#### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

JS-44 (Rev. 7/13 DC)									
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDA	NTS					
Environmental Integrity Proje		Gina McCarthy in her official capacity as Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency							
`	PLAINTIFF CASES)				(1N U.S	. PLAIN	STED DEFENDANT	AND INVOLV	/ED
(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRES	•		ATTORNEYS	(IF KNOW	N)				
Jennifer Duggan, Environme Vermont Ave N.W., Suite 110 (802) 225-6774//Gabriel Clar Suite 305, Austin, Texas 787	00, Washington, D.C. 2 k-Leach, EIP, 1002 We	0005,							
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (PLACE AN x IN ONE BOX ONLY)				FOR DEF	ENDANT		ES (PLACE AN x IN ONE IVERSITY CASES ONLY!		
	ederal Question J.S. Government Not a Party)	Citizen of t	his State	O 1	O i		orated or Principal Place iness in This State	O 4	O 4
Defendant (I	viversity Indicate Citizenship of	Citizen of A	Another State	<b>O</b> 2	<b>O</b> 2		orated and Principal of Business in Another Sta	<b>O</b> 5	<b>O</b> 5
P	arties in item III)	Citizen or S Foreign Co	Subject of a untry	<b>O</b> 3	<b>O</b> <sub>3</sub>		n Nation	<b>O</b> 6	<b>O</b> 6
(Place an X in one cat	IV. CASE ASSIC						esponding Nature of S	Suit)	
O A. Antitrust O B. P	ersonal Injury/ [alpractice	_	C. Adminis Review				O D. Temporary Order/Prel	y Restra	
310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle		Social 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88	Social Security  861 H1A (1395ff)  862 Black Lung (923)  Any nature of suit may be selected for assignment.			Injunction  Any nature of suit from the selected for the assignment.  *(If Antitrust, then A g	rom any category this category of case		
355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Medical Malpractice 365 Product Liability 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Product Liability			Other Statutes  891 Agricultural Acts  893 Environmental Matters  890 Other Statutory Actions (If  Administrative Agency is  Involved)						
O E. General Civil (Other)	OR		<b>F</b> . <i>Pro</i>	Se Gene	eral Ci	vil			
Real Property   210 Land Condemnation   220 Foreclosure   422 Appeal 27 USC 158   423 Withdrawal 28 USC   423 Torts to Land   245 Tort Product Liability   290 All Other Real Property   370 Other Fraud   371 Truth in Lending   380 Other Personal Property Damage   385 Property Damage   Product Liability   820 Copyrights   830 Patent   840 Trademark   Federal Tax Suits   870 Taxes (US plaintiff of defendant)		C 157 er onditions	Other Sts 375 400 430 450 460 462 465	Drug Rela Property Other	ims Act apportio Banking e/ICC on ation on migratio	nment	480 Consumer C 490 Cable/Satell 850 Securities/C Exchange 896 Arbitration 899 Administrat Act/Review Agency Deci 950 Constitution Statutes 890 Other Statu (if not admireview or Pro-	ite TV ommoditi tive Proce or Appea ision aality of S tory Action	dure l of tate ons agency

O G. Habeas Corpus/ 2255	O H. Employment Discrimination	O I. FOIA/Privacy Act	O J. Student Loan		
530 Habeas Corpus – General 510 Motion/Vacate Sentence 463 Habeas Corpus – Alien Detainee	442 Civil Rights – Employment (criteria: race, gender/sex, national origin, discrimination, disability, age, religion, retaliation)	895 Freedom of Information Act 890 Other Statutory Actions (if Privacy Act)	152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (excluding veterans)		
	*(If pro se, select this deck)*	*(If pro se, select this deck)*			
O K. Labor/ERISA (non-employment)  710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 740 Labor Railway Act 751 Family and Medical Leave Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	■ L. Other Civil Rights (non-employment)  441 Voting (if not Voting Rights Act)  443 Housing/Accommodations  440 Other Civil Rights  445 Americans w/Disabilities – Employment  446 Americans w/Disabilities – Other  448 Education	M. Contract  110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholder's Suits 190 Other Contracts 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise	O N. Three-Judge Court  441 Civil Rights – Voting (if Voting Rights Act)		
V. ORIGIN					
O 1 Original Proceeding from State Appellate Court Reopened Specify)  O 2 Removed from State Appellate Court Reopened (specify)  O 3 Remanded from Reopened another district (specify)  O 6 Multi-district O 7 Appeal to District Judge from Mag. Judge					
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE.) 42 U.S.C. 7604(a)(2)—citizen suit under CAA for EPA Administrator's failure to conduct non-discretionary duty.					
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23  DEMAND JU	Check YES	YES only if demanded in complaint		
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY	(See instruction) YES		olease complete related case form		
DATE:July 14, 2014	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF REG	CORD & Mylir Den	ggan		

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET JS-44 Authority for Civil Cover Sheet

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and services of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. Listed below are tips for completing the civil cover sheet. These tips coincide with the Roman Numerals on the cover sheet.

- I. COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF/DEFENDANT (b) County of residence: Use 11001 to indicate plaintiff if resident of Washington, DC, 88888 if plaintiff is resident of United States but not Washington, DC, and 99999 if plaintiff is outside the United States.
- III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES: This section is completed only if diversity of citizenship was selected as the Basis of Jurisdiction under Section II.
- IV. CASE ASSIGNMENT AND NATURE OF SUIT: The assignment of a judge to your case will depend on the category you select that best represents the <u>primary</u> cause of action found in your complaint. You may select only <u>one</u> category. You <u>must</u> also select <u>one</u> corresponding nature of suit found under the category of the case.
- VI. CAUSE OF ACTION: Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of the primary cause.
- VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY: If you indicated that there is a related case, you must complete a related case form, which may be obtained from the Clerk's Office.

Because of the need for accurate and complete information, you should ensure the accuracy of the information provided prior to signing the form.

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT for the

District of 0	Columbia			
Environmental Integrity Project and Sierra Club  Plaintiff(s)  v.  Gina McCarthy in her official capacity as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  Defendant(s)	) ) ) ) () ) () () () () () () () () ()			
	CIVIL ACTION			
To: (Defendant's name and address)  Gina McCarthy, Administrato U.S. Environmental Protectio Ariel Rios Building, Mail Code 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, D.C. 20460	or on Agency e 1101A			
A lawsuit has been filed against you.  Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:  Jennifer Duggan Environmental Integrity Project 1000 Vermont Ave NW, Suite 1100 Washington, D.C. 20005				
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.				
	CLERK OF COURT			
Date:				
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk			

Civil Action No.

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

	This summons for (nan	ne of individual and title, if any)		
was re	ceived by me on (date)			
	☐ I personally served	the summons on the individual at	(place)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I left the summons	at the individual's residence or us	sual place of abode with (name)	
		, a person	of suitable age and discretion who res	sides there,
	on (date)	, and mailed a copy to the	ne individual's last known address; or	
	☐ I served the summo	ns on (name of individual)		, who is
	designated by law to a	accept service of process on behal	f of (name of organization)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I returned the sumn	nons unexecuted because		; or
	☐ Other (specify):			
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00
	I declare under penalty	of perjury that this information i	s true.	
Date:			Server's signature	
			Printed name and title	
			Server's address	
Additi	onal information regardi	ng attempted service, etc:		

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT for the

District of	of Columbia				
Plaintiff(s)  V.  Gina McCarthy in her official capacity as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  Defendant(s)	) ) ) (Civil Action No. ) ) ) ) )				
SUMMONS IN	A CIVIL ACTION				
To: (Defendant's name and address)  Eric H. Holder Jr.  Attorney General of the Ur U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Ave N.V Washington, D.C. 20530-0	e V.				
A lawsuit has been filed against you.  Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:  Jennifer Duggan  Environmental Integrity Project 1000 Vermont Ave N.W., Suite 1100 Washington, D.C. 20005					
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.					
	CLERK OF COURT				
Date:					
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk				

Civil Action No.

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

	This summons for (name of	individual and title, if any)		
was re	ceived by me on (date)			
	☐ I personally served the	summons on the individual a	at (place)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I left the summons at the	ne individual's residence or u	usual place of abode with (name)	
		, a perso	n of suitable age and discretion who res	sides there,
	on (date)	, and mailed a copy to	the individual's last known address; or	
	☐ I served the summons	on (name of individual)		, who is
	designated by law to acce	ept service of process on beha	alf of (name of organization)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I returned the summon	s unexecuted because		; or
	☐ Other (specify):			
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00
	I declare under penalty of	perjury that this information	is true.	
_				
Date:			Server's signature	
			Printed name and title	
			Server's address	
Additi	onal information regarding	attempted service, etc:		

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT for the

District	of Columbia				
Plaintiff(s)  V.  Gina McCarthy in her official capacity as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  Defendant(s)	) ) ) ) (Civil Action No. ) ) ) )				
SUMMONS I	N A CIVIL ACTION				
To: (Defendant's name and address) Ronald C. Machen Jr., U Office of the U.S. Attorne 555 4th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20530	.S. Attorney by for the District of Columbia				
A lawsuit has been filed against you.					
Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:  Jennifer Duggan Environmental Integrity Project 1000 Vermont Ave N.W., Suite 1100 Washington, D.C. 20005					
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will I You also must file your answer or motion with the court	be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.				
	CLERK OF COURT				
Date:	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk				

Civil Action No.

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

	This summons for (name of	individual and title, if any)		
was re	ceived by me on (date)			
	☐ I personally served the	summons on the individual a	at (place)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I left the summons at the	ne individual's residence or u	usual place of abode with (name)	
		, a perso	n of suitable age and discretion who res	sides there,
	on (date)	, and mailed a copy to	the individual's last known address; or	
	☐ I served the summons	on (name of individual)		, who is
	designated by law to acce	ept service of process on beha	alf of (name of organization)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I returned the summon	s unexecuted because		; or
	☐ Other (specify):			
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00
	I declare under penalty of	perjury that this information	is true.	
_				
Date:			Server's signature	
			Printed name and title	
			Server's address	
Additi	onal information regarding	attempted service, etc:		