Refusal to okay a $3 million housing project in a primarily white neighborhood could prompt a discrimination complaint against the East Baton Rouge Housing Authority, a contractor says.

McGhee, director of R&R Contractors, said the company would probably file a complaint with the Department of Housing and Urban Development if it feels the project is rejected.

Three sites R&R proposed for the 58-unit project, HUD has rejected because of its proximity to a highway and in a poor neighborhood. But it said the others were acceptable.

“They’re preponderantly white, so they said all of the sites would be rejected by the city-parish council. But board member Sam Livers said those sites would be rejected by the city-parish council,” he said.

“Livers said, ‘I’ve never seen anything like this. We’re not going to accept, and we’re going to reject it. We’re going to reject it because we’re not going to accept it.’”

“No one speaks for me.” City Councilman Johnny Dykes, who represents the area where the sites are located, said Sunday night.

“I think we’re just going to make a decision based on the proposed sites and I think that’s the way it should be,” he said.

Dykes said he would not delay a decision. He said the federal government would not delay the project.

“I think the federal government would not delay the project. They’re not going to delay the project,” he said.

But the Housing Authority decided to wait until July 24 to make its recommendation. If one of the R&R proposals is approved, it would recommend it first time. The city council is going to do the waiting on history.”