

U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

Final Rule: Arizona's Regional Haze Federal Implementation Plan (FIP)

June 27, 2014

Summary:

The Clean Air Act (CAA) establishes as a national goal the prevention of any future, and the remedying of any existing man-made impairment of visibility in 156 treasured national parks and wilderness areas, designated as Class I areas.

Today, EPA is finalizing a federal plan, also known as a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP), to reduce harmful emissions from six facilities in Arizona. The federal plan is estimated to reduce 2,900 tons of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and 29,300 tons of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) per year and help improve visibility at 17 protected national parks and wilderness areas in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and California. See map.

The six facilities that are subject to today's action are:

Tucson Electric Power Sundt Generating Station Unit 4
Lhoist North America Nelson Lime Plant Kilns 1 and 2
ASARCO Incorporated Hayden Smelter
Freeport-McMoran Incorporated Miami Smelter
Phoenix Cement Company (PCC) Clarkdale Plant Kiln 4
CalPortland Cement (CPC) Rillito Plant Kiln 4

EPA is taking this action because the State's plan was partially approved and partially disapproved on July 30, 2013, for not meeting the requirements of the CAA and EPA's Regional Haze Rule.

Background:

Today's federal plan will ensure that progress is made toward natural visibility conditions at these national treasures, as Congress intended when it directed EPA to improve visibility in national parks and wilderness areas.

Regional haze refers to haze that impairs visibility. The distance that can be seen is limited because of tiny particles in the air absorbing and scattering sunlight by reducing the color, contrast, and clarity of the view.

EPA has acted on Arizona's Regional Haze in three phases.

The Phase 1 final rule was published on December 5, 2012. That action approved in part and disapproved in part Arizona's Regional Haze Plan to control air pollution on units at three coal-fired power plants (Apache, Cholla and Coronado). EPA also promulgated a FIP that included emissions limits for NO_x at these sources.

In Phase 2, EPA addressed the remainder of the State plan. On July 30, 2013 some elements of the State's plan were approved and certain elements were disapproved for not meeting the requirements of the Clean Air Act and EPA's Regional Haze Rule.

In Phase 3, which is the subject of today's action, EPA is promulgating a FIP to address those elements of the State's Regional Haze Plan that were disapproved on July 30, 2013.

In this rule, EPA conducted BART analyses for Tucson Electric Power Sundt Generating Station Unit 4, Lhoist North America Nelson Lime Plant Kilns 1 and 2, ASARCO Incorporated Hayden Smelter, and Freeport-McMoran Incorporated Miami Smelter. In addition, EPA evaluated Phoenix Cement Company (PCC) Clarkdale Plant Kiln 4 and CalPortland Cement (CPC) Rillito Plant Kiln 4 and other sources under the Reasonable Progress criteria.

Reducing Pollution and Improving Visibility:

EPA estimates that today's FIP would reduce 2,900 tons of NO_x and 29,300 tons SO₂ per year. These are visibility-impairing pollutants that also impact public health. The actions EPA has taken under the Regional Haze program will help improve visibility.

Cumulatively, visibility improvements will range from 0.6 to 10.2 deciviews. Visibility impact is measured in "deciviews". Generally a 1.0 deciview change in visibility is perceptible to a person.

Next Steps:

Today's rule will be published in the Federal Register in approximately two to three weeks.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/az.html>

Arizona Regional Haze FIP Facilities and Affected Class I Areas Within 300 km

