

## U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

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### **Final Rule: Partial Approval, Partial Disapproval and Partial FIP of Arizona's Regional Haze Plan**

**November 15, 2012**

#### **Summary:**

Today, EPA is approving in part and disapproving in part Arizona's Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP) to control air pollution at certain units at three coal-fired power plants (Apache Units 1, 2, and 3, Cholla Units 2, 3 and 4, and Coronado Units 1 and 2). These pollutants contribute to visibility impairment in protected national parks and wilderness areas, known as Class 1 areas, in Arizona and neighboring States.

- For sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter (PM), EPA is approving Arizona's determination that these units at the three power plants are subject to emissions limits, along with the specific emission limits Arizona has set for these facilities.
- For nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), EPA is disapproving Arizona's emissions limits at all of the units at the three power plants, except Apache Unit 1.
- In this same action, EPA is promulgating a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) that includes emissions limits, based on additional cost-effective control measures, for NO<sub>x</sub> on most units and compliance requirements for all the units.

This action will improve visibility by reducing NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from the three power plants by about 22,700 tons per year.

#### **Background:**

The proposed rule was signed on July 2, 2012, and published in the Federal Register on July 20, 2012.

Based on strong public interest, EPA held 3 public hearings in Arizona and extended the comment period to 60 days. Over 300 comments were received.

Based on the comments and additional information received, EPA revised a number of elements in the final action, including certain emissions limits and compliance dates. The final rule includes the responses to comments.

#### **Regional Haze:**

Congress directed EPA to reduce emissions that impair visibility at protected national parks and wilderness areas, known as Class I areas.

SO<sub>2</sub>, PM, and NO<sub>x</sub> cause or contribute to visible haze in national parks and wilderness areas. These pollutants are also harmful to human health.

These three power plants impact eighteen Class I areas in four states. Twelve Class I areas in Arizona, and six additional Class I areas in neighboring states, are affected by emissions from these facilities. See attached map.

Visibility improvements are measured in deciviews. A difference of 0.5 - 1.0 deciviews is generally a perceptible change. The total estimated cumulative visibility improvement from reduced NO<sub>x</sub> emissions at all three plants is about 16 deciviews. Six areas will have benefits of over 1 deciview, and twelve areas will have benefits of over 0.5 deciview.

**Next Steps:**

EPA will propose action on remaining elements of the State's Regional Haze State Plan, not a Federal Implementation Plan, by December 8, 2012.

**For More Information:** <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/az.html#all>