

U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

Proposed Rule: Apache Generating Station “Better than BART” Alternative

September 5, 2014

Summary of Action:

EPA is proposing to approve a State Implementation Plan (SIP) submitted by the State of Arizona to replace parts of EPA’s federal plan, also known as a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP).

EPA’s FIP, published on December 5, 2012, established requirements for Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) for Arizona Electric Power Cooperative’s (AEPCO) Apache Generating Station Steam Units 2 and 3.

To replace portions of the FIP, today’s action proposes to:

Establish a “better than BART” alternative which will result in overall greater visibility improvement than EPA’s previous BART determination.

Include a revision to the emission limit for Apache Steam Unit 1 when operated in combined-cycle mode with Gas Turbine 1.

Background:

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 national parks and wilderness areas designated as Class I areas. It also directs states to require use of BART at certain larger, older stationary sources in order to address visibility impacts from these sources.

The main feature of today’s proposed BART alternative is a conversion from coal to pipeline natural gas combustion at Unit 2, and a NO_x emission limit based on selective non-catalytic reduction at Unit 3, which would remain a coal-fired unit.

EPA’s has determined that the proposed BART alternative would result in greater visibility improvement on average across all affected Class I areas compared to the FIP. AEPCO has also stated that the alternative would come at lower cost to its customers than the FIP.

According to visibility modeling submitted by Arizona, Apache Generating Station currently causes visibility impairment at four Class I areas (Chiricahua National Monument, Chiricahua

Wilderness Area, Galiuro Wilderness Area and Saguaro National Park), contributes to impairment at an additional two areas (Superstition Wilderness Area and Gila Wilderness Area), and impacts three other Class I areas.

Visibility impacts are measured in deciviews. A source with an impact of 0.5 deciviews is considered to contribute to visibility impairment, while a source with an impact of 1.0 deciviews or more is considered to cause visibility impairment.

Next Steps

The Federal Register notice will be published in approximately 2 – 3 weeks. There will be a 45 day public comment period on this action.

More Information: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/az/haze/index.html>