

U.S. EPA Fact Sheet

Proposed Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Arizona's Regional Haze Plan and Proposed Federal Plan

Updated on July 27, 2012

Summary: On July 2, 2012, EPA proposed to approve partially and disapprove partially Arizona's plan to reduce air pollution at three coal-fired power plants (Apache, Cholla, and Coronado). EPA is promulgating its own plan to replace part of Arizona's plan for which we are proposing disapproval. Sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter (PM₁₀), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) cause or contribute to visible haze in national parks and wilderness areas, known as Class 1 areas, in Arizona and neighboring states. See the proposed rule published in the Federal Register on July 20, 2012, at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0021-0010>.

- For SO₂ and PM₁₀, EPA proposes to approve Arizona's determination that the three power plants are subject to specific emissions limits proposed by Arizona for these facilities.
- For NO_x, EPA proposes to disapprove Arizona's recommended emissions limits at the three power plants, and propose new cost-effective measures to limit NO_x emissions.

EPA is seeking comment on our proposal by September 18, 2012.

Background: Congress declared as a national goal the prevention of any future, and the remedying of any existing, impairment of visibility in protected national parks and wilderness areas caused by man-made air pollution. The three power plants cause or contribute to haze in 18 Class I areas, 12 of which are in Arizona, including the Grand Canyon, Saguaro National Park and the Petrified Forest. See map on reverse.

Visibility improvements are measured in deciviews. A difference of 0.5 deciviews is generally considered a perceptible change. EPA's action today will improve visibility by at least 0.5 deciviews at 13 Class I areas.

The pollutants that contribute to haze are the same emissions that impair human health, form smog, damage forest and crops, and contaminate lakes and streams.

EPA is preparing a federal plan since Arizona's submittal did not fully address issues raised by EPA and the Federal Land Managers (e.g., visibility benefits, cost analyses, determinations of best available control technology (BART), and enforceable emissions limits).

We encourage the State to submit a revised SIP to replace all portions of the federal plan. EPA is ready to work with the State, and shares responsibility with the State to ensure that plans are in place to improve visibility as required by the Clean Air Act.

Next Steps: EPA will hold three public hearings on our proposal:

- July 31, 2012 at the Sandra Day O'Connor Federal Courthouse in downtown Phoenix at 6 PM;
- August 14, 2012 at Northland Pioneer College, Painted Desert Campus in Holbrook at 6 PM; and
- August 15, 2012 at Cochise College, Benson Center in Benson at 6 PM.

EPA will take final action on this proposal by November 15, 2012. EPA will propose action on the remaining elements of the Arizona Regional Haze State Plan by December 8, 2012.

For More Information: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/az.htm>

