

U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

Proposed Rule: Arizona's Regional Haze Federal Implementation Plan

January 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 national parks and wilderness areas designated as Class I areas. Arizona has a wealth of such areas.

EPA is proposing a federal plan to reduce harmful emissions from six facilities in Arizona. These pollutants contribute to visibility impairment in 17 protected national parks and wilderness areas in Arizona and neighboring States. See map.

This FIP 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.

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 Clean Air Act and EPA's Regional Haze Rule.

Today's proposed federal plan, known as a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP), addresses the disapproved aspects of the State's plan, including Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART), Reasonable Progress (RP), and Long-term Strategy.

Background:

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

The phase one 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 nitrogen oxides (NO_x) at these sources.

In phase two, EPA addressed the remainder of the 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 three, which is the subject of today's action, EPA is proposing a FIP to address those elements of the State's Regional Haze Plan that were disapproved on July 30, 2013. Under the terms of the consent decree, the FIP must be proposed by January 27, 2014, and finalized by June 27, 2014.

In this FIP, EPA conducted BART analyses for TEP Sundt Unit 4, Chemical Lime Nelson Kilns 1 and 2, the Hayden Smelter (NO_x and sulfur dioxide (SO₂)) and the Miami smelter (NO_x and SO₂). In addition, EPA evaluated Phoenix Cement and CalPortland Cement and other sources under the Reasonable Progress criteria.

Reducing Pollution:

EPA estimates that this proposed FIP would reduce 3,133 tons of NO_x and 29,613 tons SO₂ per year. These are visibility-impairing pollutants that also impact public health.

Regional Haze:

The Clean Air Act established a national goal of improving visibility in 156 national parks and wilderness, designated as Class 1 areas, by reducing emissions that cause regional haze.

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.

Next Steps:

EPA will hold public hearings on February 25, 2014, in Phoenix and on February 26, 2014, in Tucson and will accept comments for 45 days after publication in the Federal Register. A final determination will be made by June 27, 2014.

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

