

U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

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

February 27, 2015

Summary of Action:

EPA is taking final action to approve a State Implementation Plan (SIP) submitted by the State of Arizona to replace part of EPA’s Federal Implementation Plan (FIP).

EPA’s proposal to take this action was published on September 19, 2014, for review and comment. The comments are addressed in the final rule. EPA’s Arizona Regional Haze FIP, published on December 5, 2012, established requirements for Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) controls for Arizona Electric Power Cooperative’s (AEP) Apache Generating Station Steam Units 2 and 3. To replace portions of the FIP, today’s final action will:

- Establish a “better than BART” alternative which will result in overall greater visibility improvement than EPA’s previous BART determination;
- Establish enforceable emission limits for nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and large particulate matter (PM₁₀);
- Establish compliance requirements for all three units; and
- 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 approval of the 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 has determined that the BART alternative would result in greater visibility improvement on average across all affected Class I areas compared to the BART requirement in the FIP. AEP has also stated that the alternative would come at a 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 two areas (Superstition Wilderness Area and Gila Wilderness Area), and impacts visibility at 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:

This final rule will be effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

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