

US EPA FACT SHEET
REGIONAL HAZE FEDERAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
FOR HAWAII
SEPTEMBER 15, 2012

Summary of Action

- EPA is finalizing action on a Regional Haze Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for Hawaii. The plan is designed to reduce human-caused visibility impairment at the Haleakala National Park and the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. EPA developed this plan as part of a national consent decree due to the absence of Regional Haze State Implementation Plans (SIPs) from a number of States, including Hawaii. Nonetheless, the State of Hawaii worked closely with us to develop the FIP and has agreed to be responsible for its implementation.
- While the Kilauea Volcano is obviously the overwhelming cause of regional haze in Hawaii, the plan shows that human-caused visibility impairment is being reduced and that reasonable progress is being made toward eliminating human-caused haze.
- EPA is finalizing an emissions cap of 3,500 tons per year of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) from three power plants on the Island of Hawaii: Kanoelehua Hill, Shipman and Puna. This cap is necessary to make certain that human-caused visibility impairment does not worsen on the best days.
- EPA anticipates that the Hawaiian Electric Light Company (HELCO) will meet the SO₂ cap by using these power plants less and increasing reliance on alternative energy sources as required by the Hawaii Clean Energy Bill.

Background

- Regional Haze is visibility impairment caused by fine particle pollution. This haze obscures the view of objects at a distance, reducing the beauty of our protected natural areas.
- Congress set the goal of the “prevention of any future, and the remedying of any existing, impairment of visibility in mandatory Class I Federal areas which impairment results from manmade air pollution.” These Class I areas include national parks, national seashores and national wilderness areas.
- The EPA’s Regional Haze Rule sets a goal to restore Class I areas to natural levels of visibility by 2064. It also requires the installation of Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) at some stationary sources that went into operation between 1962 and 1977 and are causing or contributing to visibility impairment at Class I areas.
- We proposed this plan on May 29, 2012. We held two public meetings in Hawaii to hear testimony about the proposed plan. Our notice of final rulemaking includes responses to the major comments received.