



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-First Legislature, First Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.C.R. 1012

EPA actions; haze

Purpose

Expresses the Legislature's opposition to the Federal Implementation Plan and support for the State Implementation Plan.

Background

Federal air quality standards are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator for criteria pollutants considered harmful to the public health and environment. When the EPA establishes a new national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) or revises an existing NAAQS, the Clean Air Act (CAA) requires states to develop a general plan to attain and maintain those standards (attainment) and a specific plan to attain the standards for each area designated as not meeting (nonattainment) for a NAAQS. These plans, known as State Implementation Plans or SIPs, are developed by state and local air quality management agencies and are submitted to the EPA for approval.

The SIP must contain a number of elements required by the CAA and must be developed and adopted through a process allowing public input. Once adopted by the state the EPA must review and act to approve or disapprove each element. As the NAAQS change, states must submit revisions to the SIP to demonstrate attainment and maintenance of those new or revised NAAQS and to meet other statutory requirements.

Congress directed the EPA to reduce emissions that impair visibility at protected national parks and wilderness areas, known as Class 1 areas. According to the EPA, the three power plants in Arizona cause or contribute to haze in 18 Class I areas, 12 of which are in Arizona. Regional haze is defined as visibility impairment caused by the emission of air pollutants from numerous sources located over a wide geographic area. The proposed air pollution limits, according to the EPA, are achievable by installing pollution control technology known as Selective Catalytic Reduction, a technology intended to reduce certain oxide emissions.

The EPA took final action to approve in part and disapprove in part a portion of Arizona's SIP submittal for its regional haze program and to promulgate a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for the disapproved elements of the SIP. The State and Federal plans are to implement the regional haze program in Arizona for the first planning period through 2018. This final rule addresses only the portion of the SIP related to Arizona's determination of Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) to control emissions from eight units at three electric generating stations: Apache Generating Station, Cholla Power Plant and Coronado Generating Station. The EPA approved in this final rule the State's determination that the three sources are subject to

BART, and approves the State's emissions limits for sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and particulate matter less than or equal to 10 micrometers (PM₁₀) at all the units, but disapproves Arizona's BART emissions limits for nitrogen oxides (NOX) at the coal-fired units of the three power plants. The EPA, under the FIP, contains new emissions limits for NOX at these coal-fired units and compliance schedules for implementation of BART as well as requirements for equipment maintenance, monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting for all units and all pollutants at the three sources (EPA.gov).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Expresses the Legislature's opposition to the Federal Implementation Plan and support for the State Implementation Plan as a viable solution to address and reduce regional haze.

Prepared by Senate Research

February 7, 2013

SLL/YP/ly