



## REGIONAL HAZE FACTSHEET

# GEORGIA

### CLEARING THE AIR

Air pollution remains one of the most serious problems facing national parks. It is threatening the health of park visitors, wildlife and neighboring communities, driving the climate crisis and compromising our views with hazy skies. In fact, nearly 90 percent of our more than 400 national parks are plagued by haze pollution caused mostly by coal plants, vehicles and other industrial sources, as well as oil and gas development and operations.

Fortunately, certain national parks and wilderness areas, labeled “Class I” areas, have the strongest clean air protections in the country, mandated by the Clean Air Act (CAA). The Regional Haze Rule is the CAA’s time-tested, effective program that requires federal and state agencies as well as stakeholders to work together to restore clear skies at Class I areas around the country. In Georgia, those places include Okefenokee, Wolf Island and Cohutta Wilderness Areas.

The state of Georgia has submitted its regional haze plan to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Unfortunately, the proposed haze plan fails to reduce pollution, falling short of the state’s obligation to improve air quality for our parks and wilderness areas. The state has improperly concluded that almost no new reductions in pollution are warranted. Georgia used a [flawed methodology](#) to justify ignoring nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter (PM) emissions, and exempt multiple large polluting facilities from review. Under the current plan, over 65,000 tons of uncontrolled haze-causing pollution will continue to be released into the air each year. EPA must now decide whether to approve, partially approve, or disapprove the state’s plan.



## 37

Industrial facilities in Georgia potentially affecting visibility in 24 regional Class I Areas.



## 251

Industrial facilities from any state potentially affecting visibility in Georgia's 3 Class I Areas.

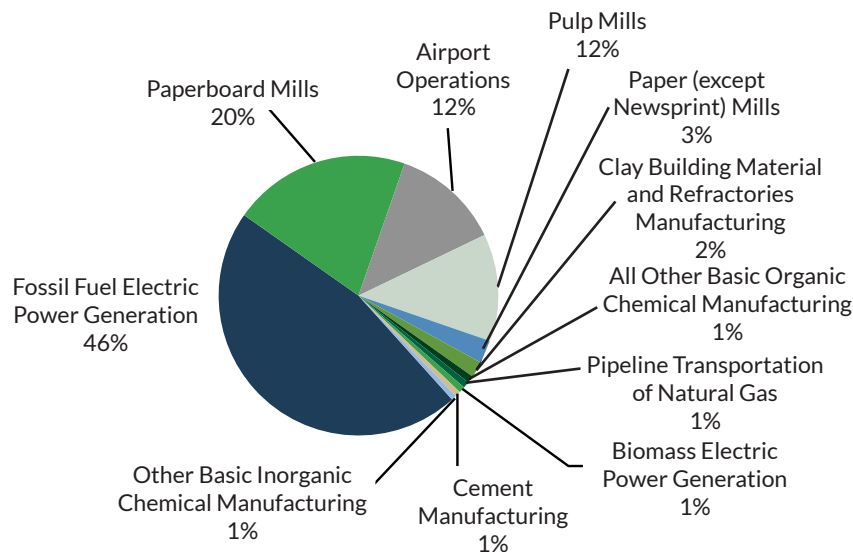
Views of a lone cypress tree and across the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia. Credit ©John Wollwerth | Dreamstime.com

NPCA analysis of impact of industrial facilities based on publicly available emissions data from the EPA's 2017 National Emissions Inventory (NEI) and the 2019 Air Markets Program Data (AMPD). Note that data regarding emission numbers and sources of pollution may have changed since the creation of this fact sheet. Please contact [dorozco@npca.org](mailto:dorozco@npca.org) for updated data information.

### GEORGIA'S INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF HAZE POLLUTION

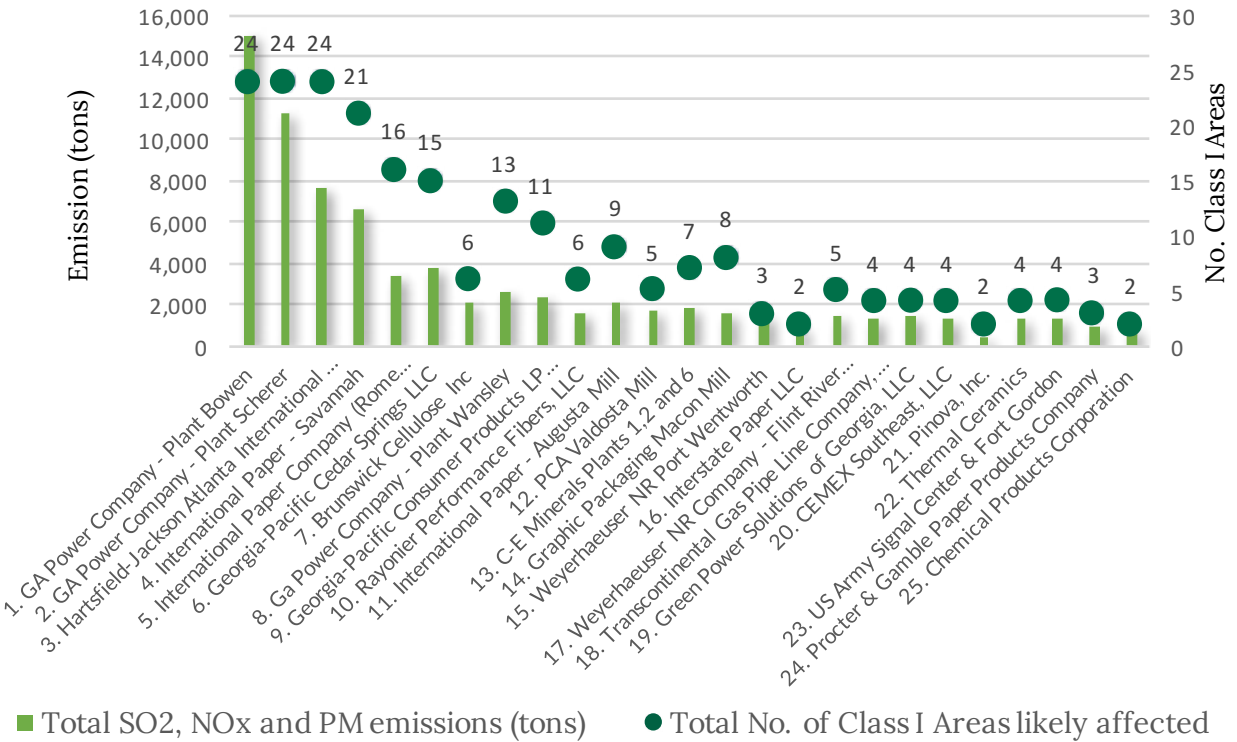
NPCA analyzed publicly available data to identify the worst sources and industrial sectors of haze pollution potentially affecting Class I Areas. We evaluated these emitters to determine which sources should be selected by the state for a four-factor reasonable progress analysis.

The chart on the right shows the industrial sectors emitting the most visibility impairing pollution in Georgia.



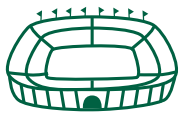
# Sources of Visibility Impairing Pollution in Georgia

GEORGIA'S 25 WORST SOURCES OF REGIONAL HAZE POLLUTION



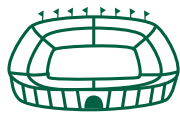
The state of Georgia identified a small set of point sources for a four-factor reasonable progress analysis and requested information on emission reduction options from these source owners. NPCA supports the evaluation of these sources and we urge the state of Georgia to also do four-factor analyses for additional sources and to ensure pollution controls are required to cut emissions from these polluting facilities.

## HOW MANY FOOTBALL STADIUMS (8 STORIES HIGH) COULD EACH OF THE TOP FIVE INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES IN GEORGIA FILL WITH THEIR EMISSIONS EACH YEAR?



60

GA Power Company - Plant Bowen  
Bartow County  
14,963 tons



45

GA Power Company - Plant Scherer  
Monroe County  
11,289 tons



30

Hartsfield - Jackson Atlanta Intl Airport  
Clayton County  
7,607 tons



27

International Paper - Savannah  
Chatham County  
6,651 tons



14

International Paper Company (Rome Linerboard Mill)  
Floyd County  
3,405 tons

**TAKE ACTION:** We have an opportunity to achieve a regional haze plan for Georgia that protects people, parks, and our future. Please join our effort to ensure that all decision-makers and stakeholders, at the federal, state, and municipal level work to make this happen.

For more information, please contact Ulla Reeves at [ureeves@npca.org](mailto:ureeves@npca.org).