



REGIONAL HAZE FACTSHEET

KENTUCKY

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 Kentucky those places include Mammoth Cave National Park.

In order to meet this requirement, Kentucky was supposed to submit its regional haze plan to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by July 2021. In August 2022, EPA issued a [finding of failure to submit](#), which starts a two year deadline for Kentucky to submit their plan before EPA steps in and issues one for them. We urge Kentucky to swiftly release their haze plan for public comment, and submit to EPA to ensure expeditious compliance with the haze program and deliver clean air benefits to Mammoth Cave National Park and other regional Class 1 areas.



18

Industrial facilities in Kentucky potentially affecting visibility in 26 regional Class I Areas.



206

Industrial facilities from any state potentially affecting visibility in one of Kentucky’s Class I Areas.

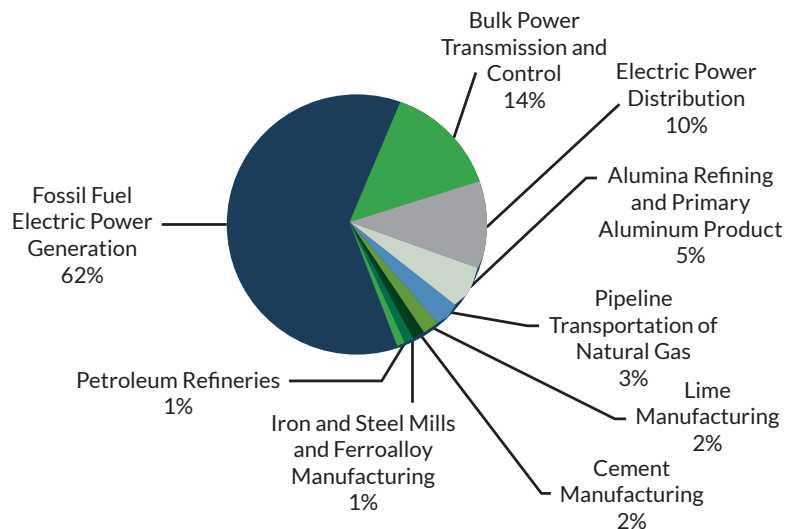
credit: (c) Zrfphoto | Dreamstime.com

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 for updated data information.

KENTUCKY’S INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF HAZE POLLUTION

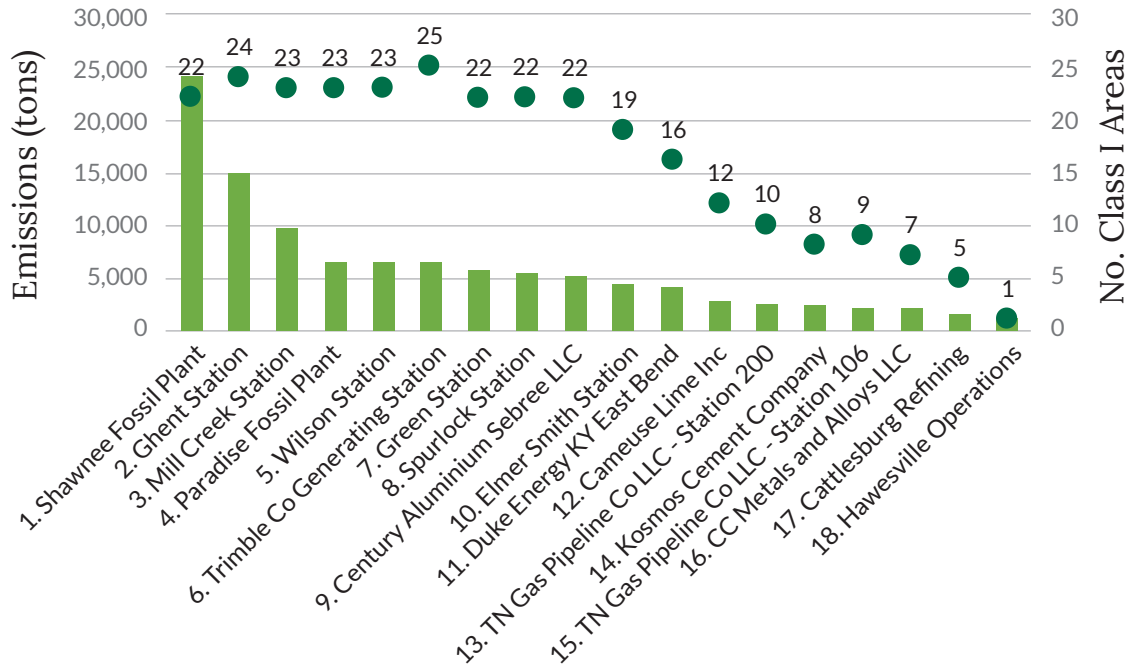
NPCA analyzed publicly available data to identify the worst sources and industrial sectors of haze pollution potentially affecting Class I Areas. We evaluated these emitters to determine which sources should be selected by the state for a four-factor reasonable progress analysis.

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



Sources of Visibility Impairing Pollution in Kentucky

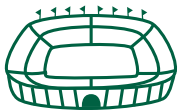
KENTUCKY'S WORST SOURCES OF REGIONAL HAZE POLLUTION



■ Total SO2, NOx and PM emissions (tons) ● Total No. of Class I Areas likely affected

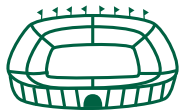
The state of Kentucky has only selected two polluters to include in its proposed plan. NPCA and other stakeholders continue to urge them to address the 18 sources of pollution listed above and ensure that pollution reductions are required in their plan to cut haze emissions harming visibility.

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



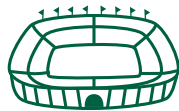
97

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) - Shawnee Fossil Plant
McCracken County
24,371 tons



60

KY Utilities Co - Ghent Station
Carroll County
14,897 tons



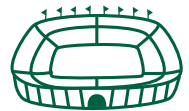
39

Louisville Gas & Electric Co., Mill Creek Station
Jefferson County
9,840 tons



26

Tennessee Valley Authority - Paradise Fossil Plant
Muhlenberg County
6,539 tons



26

Big Rivers Electric Corp - Wilson Station
Ohio County
6,463 tons

TAKE ACTION: We have an opportunity to achieve a regional haze plan for Kentucky that protects people, parks, and our future. Please join our effort to ensure that all decisionmakers 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.