



REGIONAL HAZE FACTSHEET

TENNESSEE

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 Tennessee those places include Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Cohutta and Joyce-Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness Areas.

The state of Tennessee 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. Tennessee used a [flawed methodology](#) to justify ignoring nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter (PM) emissions and exempt multiple large polluting facilities from review. With the proposed plan, more than 48,000 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.



25

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



230

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

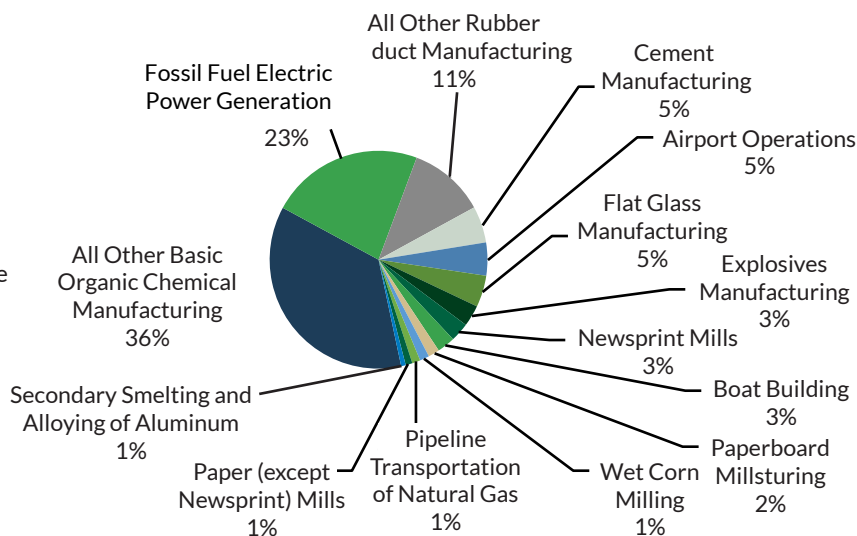
Views across Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Credit © Zrfphoto | Dreamstime.com.

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.

TENNESSEE'S INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF HAZE POLLUTION

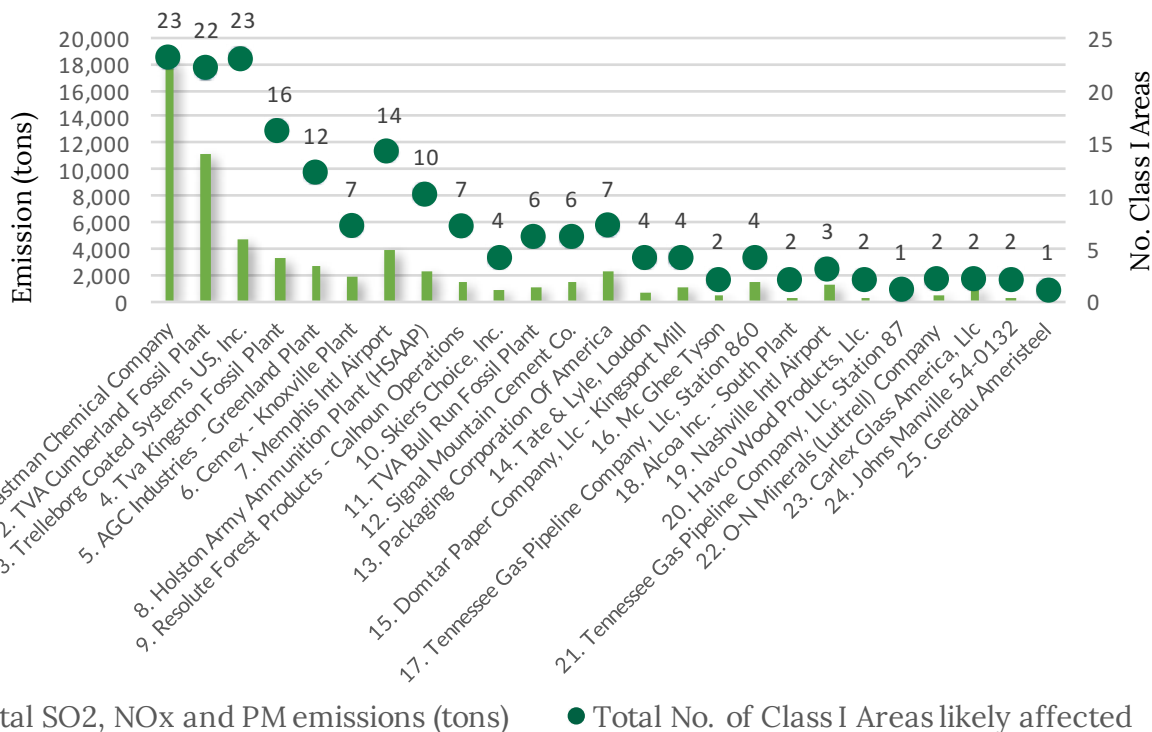
NPCA analyzed publicly available data to identify the worst sources and industrial sectors of haze pollution potentially affecting Class I areas. We evaluated these emitters to determine which sources should be selected by the state for a four-factor reasonable progress analysis.

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



Sources of Visibility Impairing Pollution in Tennessee

TENNESSEE'S 25 WORST SOURCES OF REGIONAL HAZE POLLUTION



The state of Tennessee 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 Tennessee 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 TENNESSEE FILL WITH THEIR EMISSIONS EACH YEAR?



73

Eastman Chemical Company
Sullivan County
18,263 tons



45

TVA Cumberland Fossil Plant
Stewart County
11,127 tons



19

Trelleborg Coated Systems US, Inc.
Hamblen County
4,690 tons



13

TVA Kingston Fossil Plant
Roane County
3,176 tons



11

AGC Industries - Greenland Plant
Hawkins County
2,690 tons

TAKE ACTION: We have an opportunity to achieve a regional haze plan for Tennessee 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.