



# REGIONAL HAZE FACTSHEET SOUTH CAROLINA

## 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 South Carolina, those places include Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge.

The state of South Carolina 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. South Carolina used a [flawed methodology](#) to justify ignoring nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter (PM) emissions and exempt multiple large polluting facilities from review. Of the facilities that the state did review, no new reductions in pollution were required. EPA must now decide whether to approve, partially approve, or disapprove the state’s plan.



A marsh in Cape Romain Wilderness. Credit: (c) Wilderness.net

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.



### 24

Industrial facilities in South Carolina potentially affecting visibility in 22 regional Class I areas.



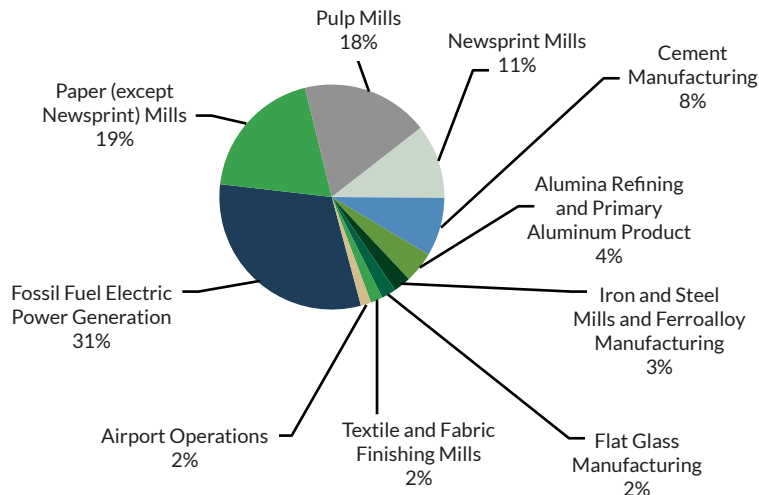
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Industrial facilities from any state potentially affecting visibility in South Carolina’s Class I area.

## SOUTH CAROLINA’S INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF HAZE POLLUTION

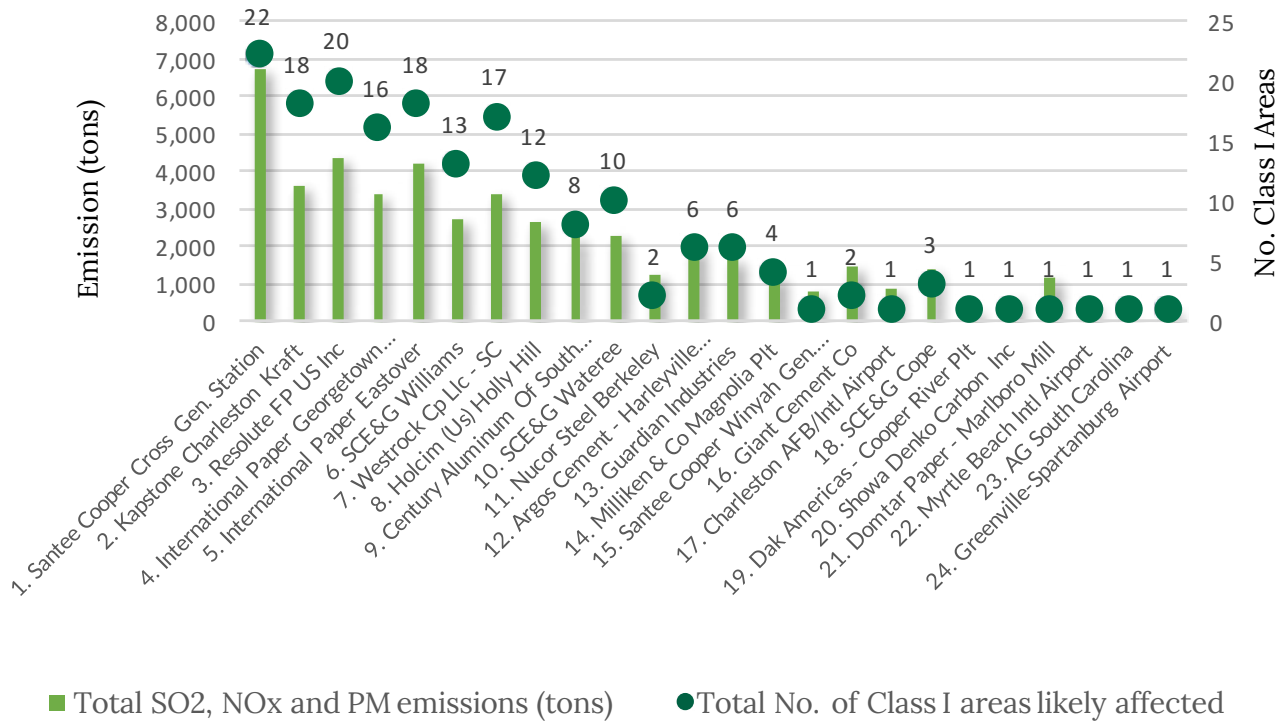
NPCA analyzed publicly available data to identify the worst sources and industrial sectors of haze pollution potentially affecting Class I areas. We evaluated these emitters to determine which sources should be selected by the state for a four-factor reasonable progress analysis.

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



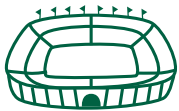
# Sources of Visibility Impairing Pollution in South Carolina

## SOUTH CAROLINA'S 24 WORST SOURCES OF REGIONAL HAZE POLLUTION



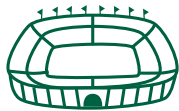
The state of South Carolina identified a few point sources for a four-factor reasonable progress analysis and requested information on emission reduction options from these source owners. NPCA supports the evaluation of these sources and we urge the state of South Carolina to thoroughly evaluate more sources and 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 SOUTH CAROLINA FILL WITH THEIR EMISSIONS EACH YEAR?



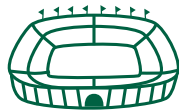
27

Santee Cooper Cross  
Generating Station  
Berkeley County  
6,688 tons



15

Kapstone  
Charleston Kraft  
Charleston County  
3,636 tons



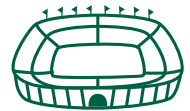
17

Resolute FP US Inc.  
York County  
4,366 tons



14

International Paper  
Georgetown Mill  
Georgetown County  
3,391 tons



17

International Paper  
Eastover  
Richland County  
4,173 tons

**TAKE ACTION:** We have an opportunity to achieve a regional haze plan for South Carolina 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).