



# REGIONAL HAZE FACTSHEET NORTH 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 North Carolina those places include Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Shining Rock, Linville Gorge and Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness Areas and Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge.

The state of North 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. The state has improperly concluded that no new reductions in pollution are warranted. North Carolina used a [flawed methodology](#) to justify ignoring nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter (PM) emissions and exempt all of their coal units from review, including Duke energy, the largest source of haze pollution in the state. EPA must now decide whether to approve, partially approve, or disapprove the state’s plan.



Views in the Great Smoky Mountains. credit: (c) Anthonyheflin | 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.



### 28

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



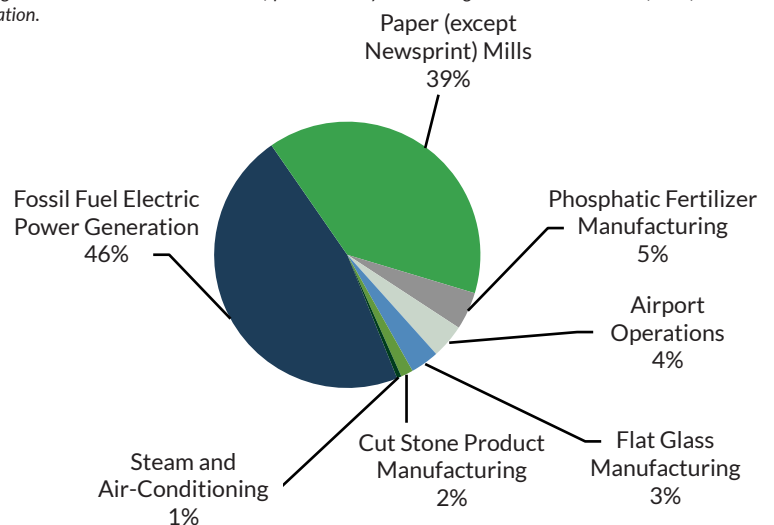
### 241

Industrial facilities from any state potentially affecting visibility in North Carolina’s 5 Class I Areas.

## NORTH CAROLINA’S INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF HAZE POLLUTION

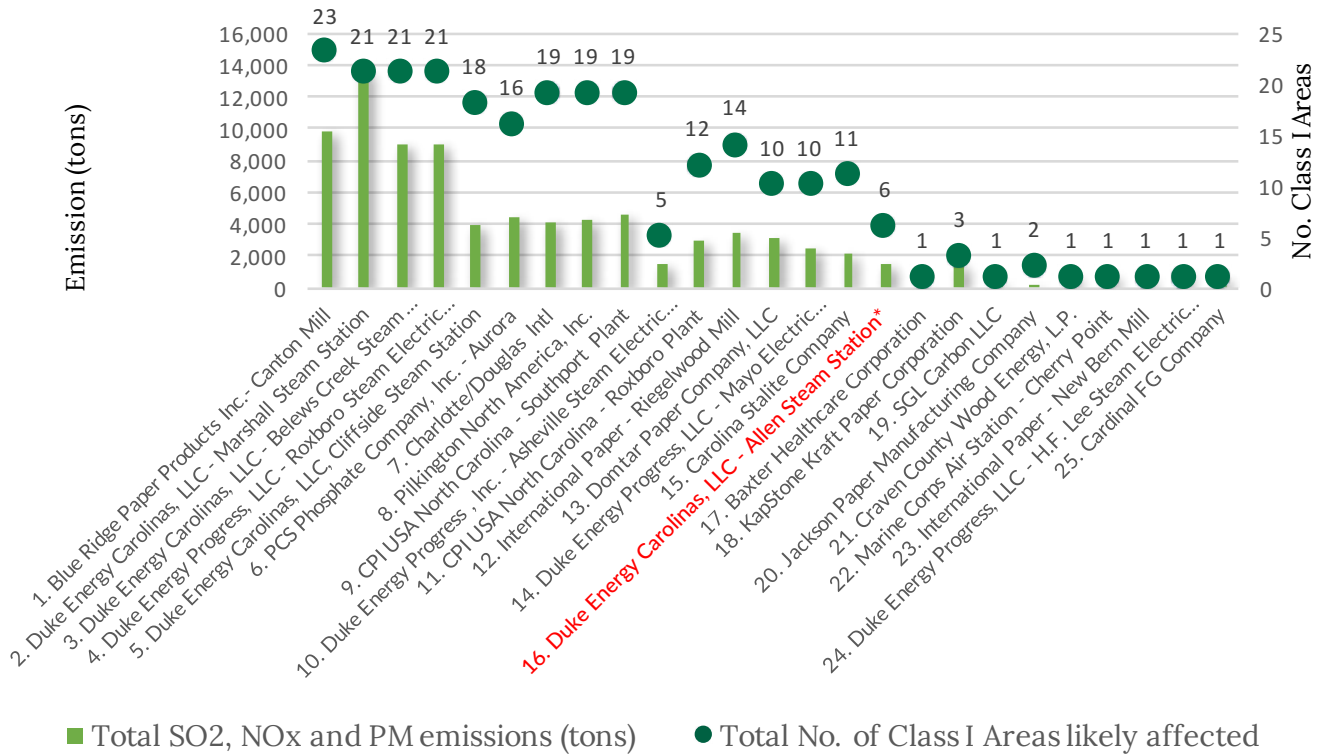
NPCA analyzed publicly available data to identify the worst sources and industrial sectors of haze pollution potentially affecting Class I Areas. We evaluated these emitters to determine which sources should be selected by the state for a four-factor reasonable progress analysis.

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



# Sources of Visibility Impairing Pollution in North Carolina

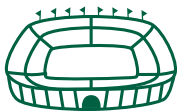
## NORTH CAROLINA'S 25 WORST SOURCES OF REGIONAL HAZE POLLUTION



The state of North Carolina identified a 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 North Carolina to also do four-factor analyses for additional sources and to ensure pollution controls are required to cut emissions from these polluting facilities.

\*Indicates facility planned for retirement.

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



**39**

Blue Ridge Paper Products Inc. - Canton Mill  
Haywood County  
**9,852 tons**



**55**

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC - Marshall Steam Station  
Catawba County  
**13,629 tons**



**36**

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC - Belevs Creek Steam Station  
Stokes County  
**10,399 tons**



**36**

Duke Energy Progress, LLC - Roxboro Steam Electric Plant  
Person County  
**9,027 tons**



**15**

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC - Cliffside Steam Station  
Rutherford County  
**3,868 tons**

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