



## REGIONAL HAZE FACTSHEET

# TEXAS

### 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, contributing to a changing climate 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, including 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 Texas those places include Big Bend and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks.

The state of Texas 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, despite Texas coal plants emitting the highest amounts of sulfur dioxide in the country. Many of the largest haze polluters in the state are not addressed in the plan, allowing over 56,000 tons of uncontrolled haze-causing pollution to continue to be released into the air each year. Texas also failed to address concerns raised by the National Park Service and neighboring states, as is required in the haze planning process. EPA must now decide whether to approve, partially approve, or disapprove the state’s plan.



# 58

Industrial facilities in Texas potentially affecting visibility in 52 regional Class I Areas in the U.S.



# 71

Industrial facilities from any state potentially affecting visibility in Texas’ Class I Areas.

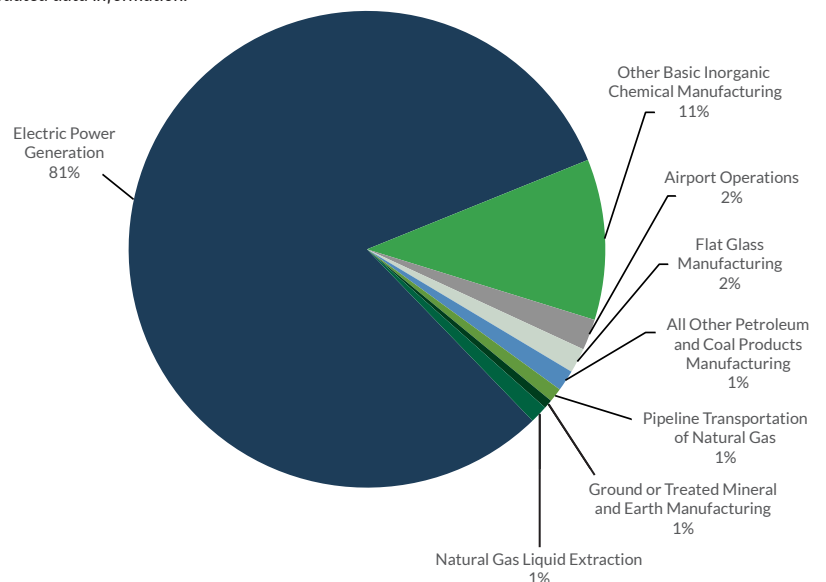
Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas (c) Vladgor33 | Dreamstime.com

NPCA analysis of impact of industrial facilities based on publicly available emissions data from the EPA’s 2014 National Emissions Inventory (NEI) and the 2018 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.

### TEXAS’ INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF HAZE POLLUTION

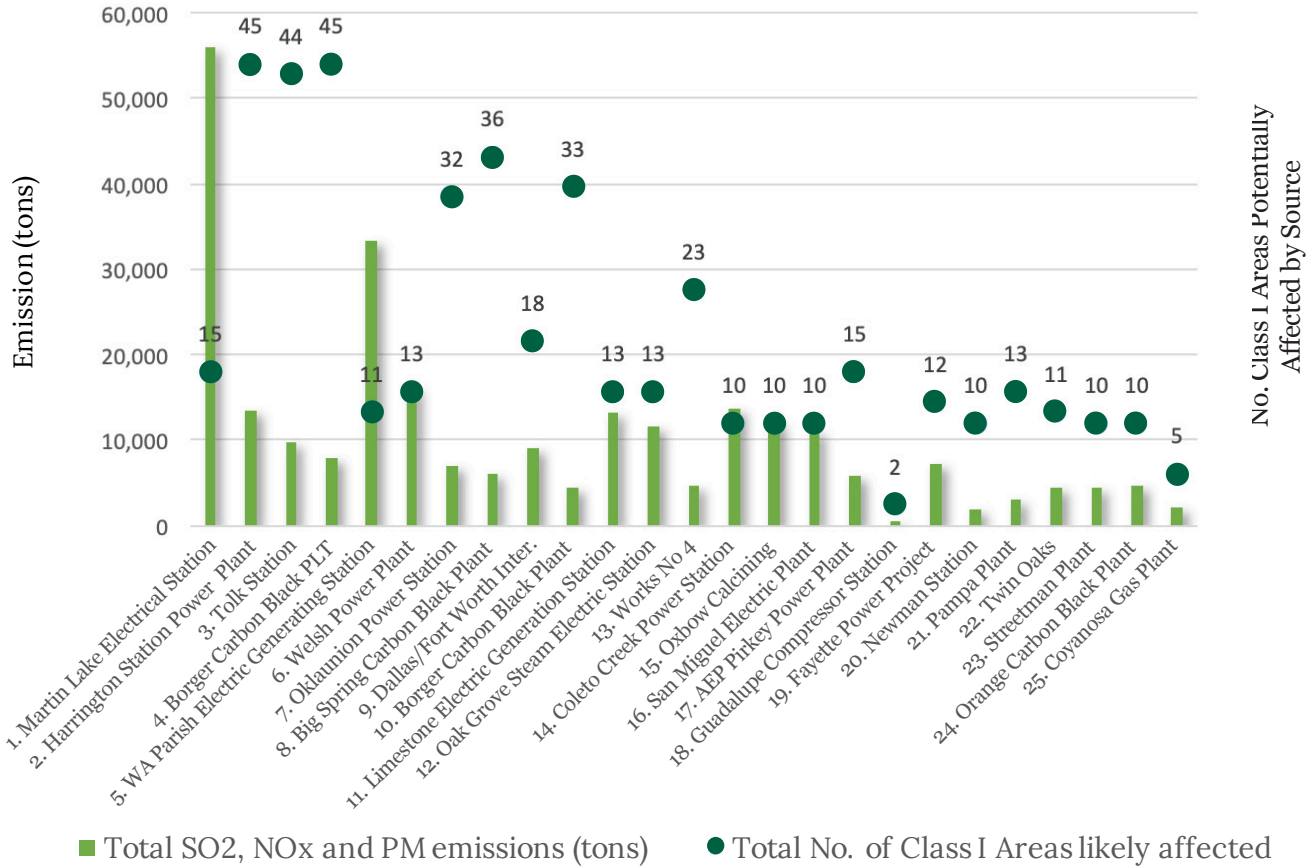
NPCA analyzed publicly available data to identify the worst sources and industrial sectors of haze pollution potentially affecting Class I Areas. We evaluated these emitters to determine which sources should be selected by the state for a four-factor reasonable progress analysis.

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



# Sources of Visibility Impairing Pollution in Texas

TEXAS' 25 WORST SOURCES OF REGIONAL HAZE POLLUTION



NPCA identified a set of point sources contributing to regional haze in Class I Areas, requiring a four-factor reasonable progress analysis and is urging the state of Texas to complete this analysis for all of the sources included in the chart above.

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



**224**

Martin Lake  
Coal Plant  
Rusk County  
**56,038 tons**



**54**

Harrington Station  
Coal Plant  
Potter County  
**13,421 tons**



**39**

Tolk Station  
Coal Plant  
Lamb County  
**9,713 tons**



**32**

Borger Carbon  
Black Plant  
Hutchinson County  
**7,952 tons**



**134**

Parish Electrical  
Station  
Fort Bent County  
**33,400 tons**

**TAKE ACTION:** We have an opportunity to achieve a regional haze plan for Texas 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 Cary Dupuy at [cdupuy@npca.org](mailto:cdupuy@npca.org).