



REGIONAL HAZE FACTSHEET

IOWA

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. Even though Iowa doesn’t have any Class I areas, haze pollution from sources in the state could impact regional Class I areas and special places like Effigy Mound National Monument.

In order to meet this requirement, Iowa must submit its plan to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by July 2021 specifying the pollution reducing measures it will require to make progress towards natural visibility.



8

Industrial facilities in Iowa potentially affecting visibility in 32 regional Class I areas.

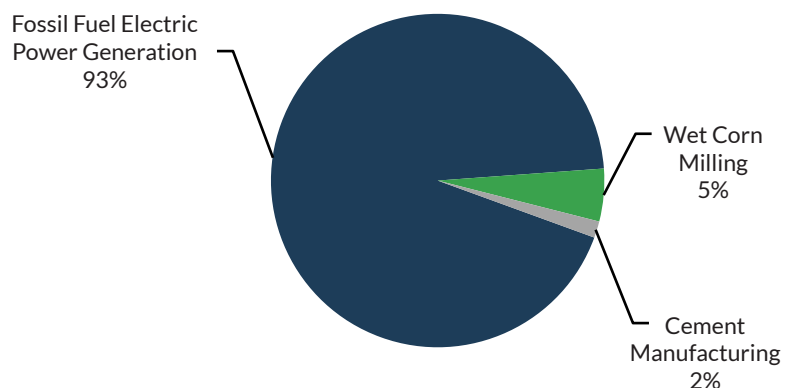
Autumn foliage at its peak in Effigy Mound National Monument, Iowa. Credit: (c) Davidrh | Dreamstime.com

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).

IOWA’S INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF HAZE POLLUTION

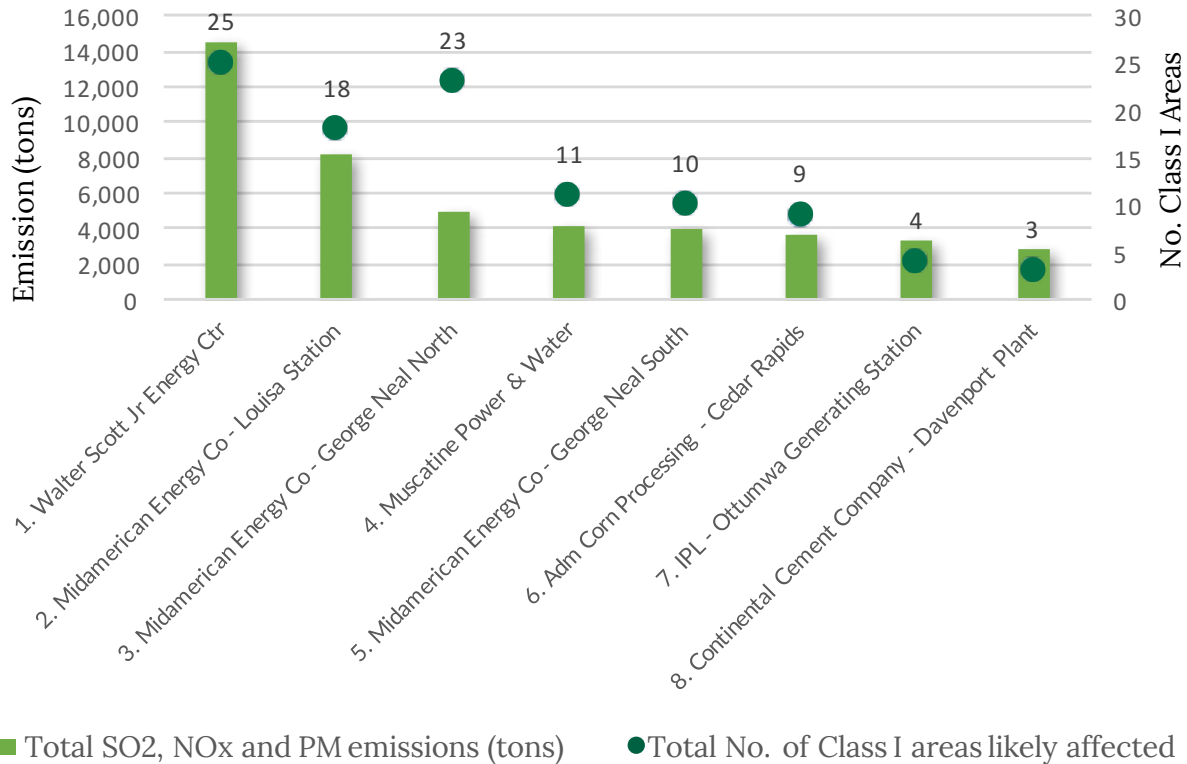
NPCA analyzed publicly available data to identify the worst sources and industrial sectors of haze pollution potentially affecting Class I areas. We evaluated these emitters to determine which sources should be selected by the state for a four-factor reasonable progress analysis.

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



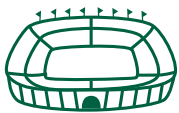
Sources of Visibility Impairing Pollution in Iowa

IOWA'S 8 WORST SOURCES OF REGIONAL HAZE POLLUTION



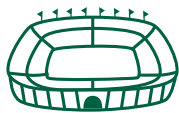
The state of Iowa identified a set of point sources for a four-factor reasonable progress analysis and requested information on emission reduction options from these source owners. NPCA supports the evaluation of these sources and we urge the state of Iowa to ensure pollution controls are required to cut emissions from these polluting facilities.

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



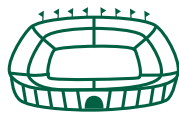
58

Walter Scott Jr.
Energy Center
Pottawattamie County
14,487 tons



33

Midamerican
Energy Co -
Louisa Station
Louisa County
8,246 tons



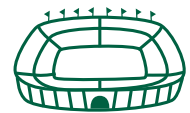
20

Midamerican
Energy Co - George
Neal North
Woodbury County
4,949 tons



17

Muscatine Power
& Water
Muscatine County
4,223 tons



16

Midamerican
Energy Co - George
Neal South
Woodbury County
3,999 tons

TAKE ACTION: We have an opportunity to achieve a regional haze plan for Iowa 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 Natalie Levine at nlevine@npca.org.