



REGIONAL HAZE FACTSHEET

UTAH

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 Utah those places include Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef and Zion National Parks.

The state of Utah 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. Moreover, the proposed plan fails to require retirement commitments from Pacificorp’s Hunter and Huntington coal-fired power plants, and wrongfully exempted other facilities which have been let off the hook for decades. With the proposed plan, more than 28,000 tons of uncontrolled haze-causing pollution will continue to be released into the air each year, despite cost-effective controls that could cut up to 85% of current emissions. EPA must now decide whether to approve, partially approve, or disapprove the state’s plan.



11

Industrial facilities in Utah potentially affecting visibility in 105 regional Class I Areas.



55

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



Utah Ranks #4 Among States Polluting All Class I Areas

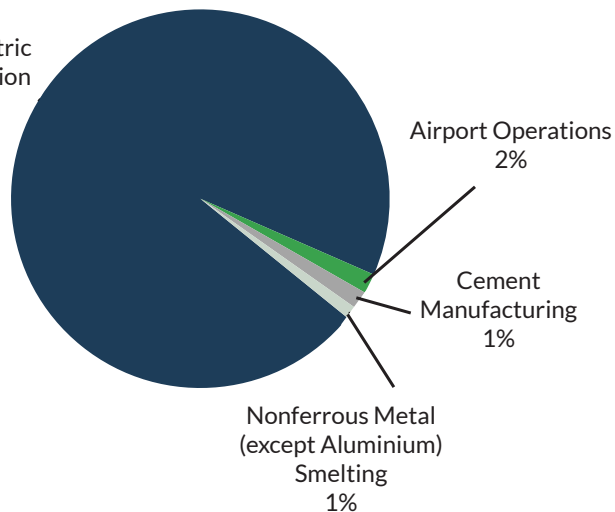
Hazy skies at Canyonlands. @Cory MacNulty, NPCA
NPCA analysis of impact of industrial facilities based on publicly available emissions data from the EPA’s 2017 National Emissions Inventory (NEI) and the 2019 Air Markets Program Data (AMPD). Note that data regarding emission numbers and sources of pollution may have changed since the creation of this fact sheet. Please contact dorozco@npca.org for updated data information.

UTAH’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.

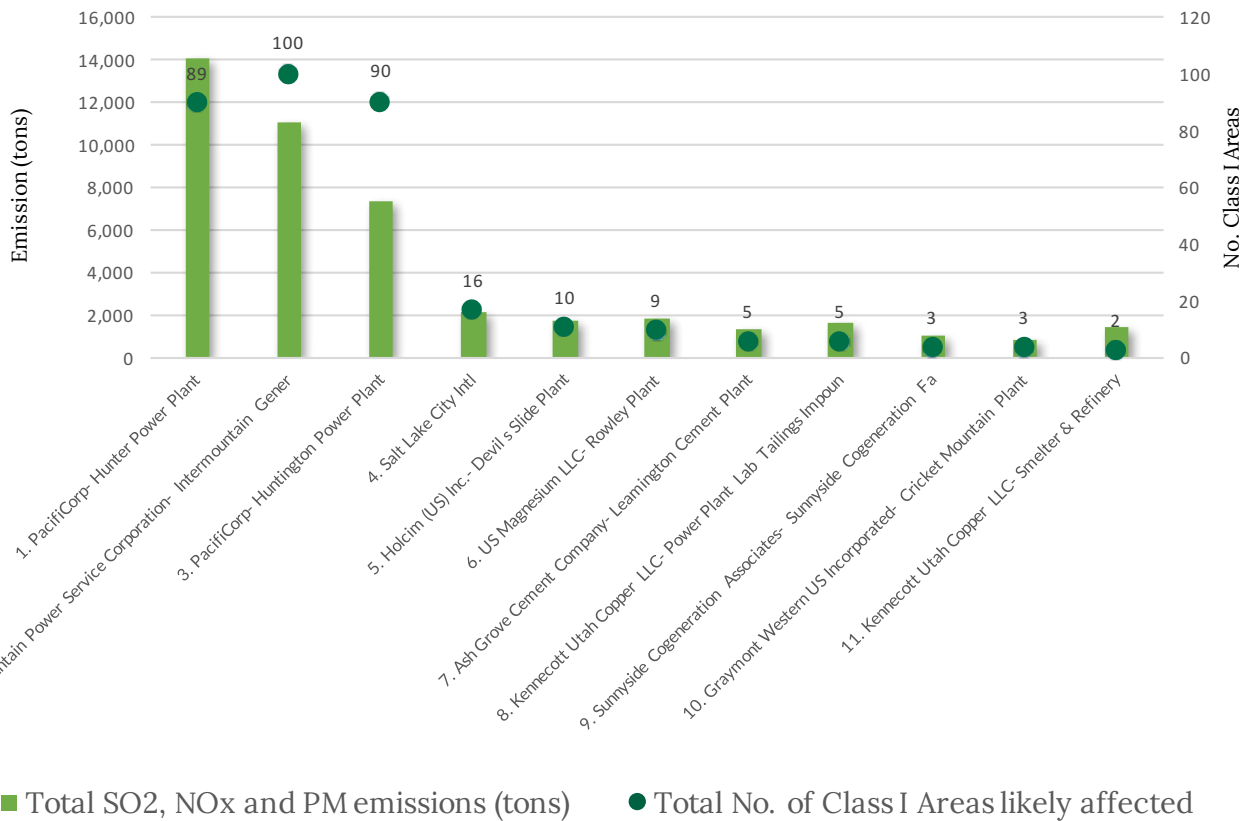
The chart on the right shows the industrial sectors emitting the most visibility impairing pollution in Utah.

Fossil Fuel Electric Power Generation
96%



Sources of Visibility Impairing Pollution in Utah

UTAH'S 12 WORST SOURCES OF REGIONAL HAZE POLLUTION



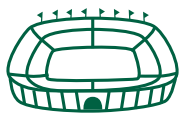
The state of Utah identified a set of point sources for a four-factor reasonable progress analysis and requested information on emission reduction options from these source owners. NPCA supports the evaluation of these sources and we also urge the state of Utah to also do a four-factor analysis for the Holcim-Devils Slide Cement Plant and the Kennecott Utah Copper Smelter and Refinery.

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



56

PacifiCorp - Hunter Power Plant
Emery County
14,059 tons



44

Intermountain Power Service Corp
Millard County
11,071 tons



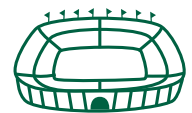
29

PacifiCorp - Huntington Power Plant
Emery County
7,350 tons



8

Salt Lake City Intl
Salt Lake County
2,112 tons

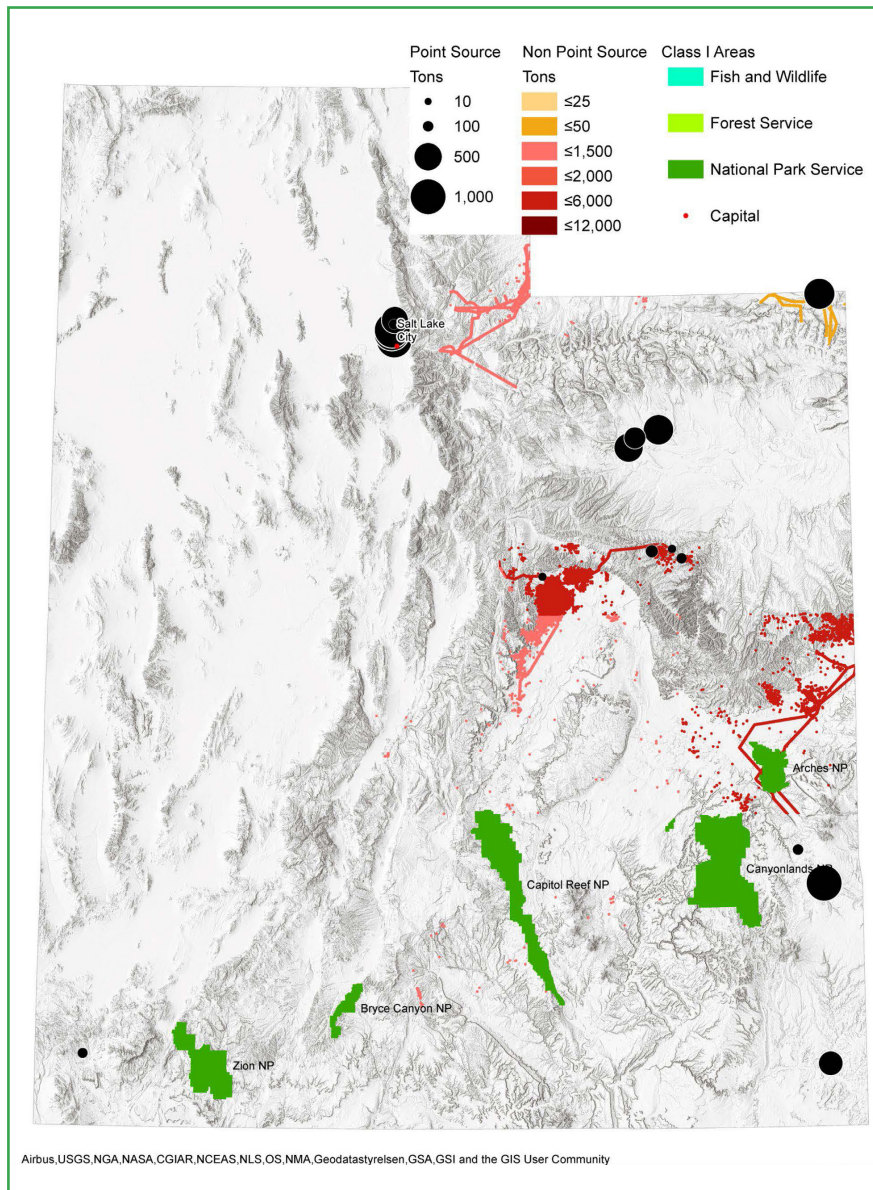


7

Holcim (US) Inc. - Devil's Slide Plant
Morgan County
1,674 tons

Visibility Impairing Pollution from the Oil and Gas Sector

This map shows the point and non-point emissions associated with the oil and gas industrial sector in Utah. Pollution released from various processes across oil and gas development and operations including gas and diesel fired reciprocating internal combustion engines (RICE), combustion turbines, heater and boilers, and flaring. Pollution from this sector must be reduced to help restore national park and wilderness area visibility.



NPCA urges Utah to require emission reductions from the oil and gas sector to make reasonable progress towards natural visibility at our treasured public lands.

TAKE ACTION: We have an opportunity to achieve a regional haze plan for Utah 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 Cory MacNulty at cmacnulty@npca.org.