



REGIONAL HAZE FACTSHEET

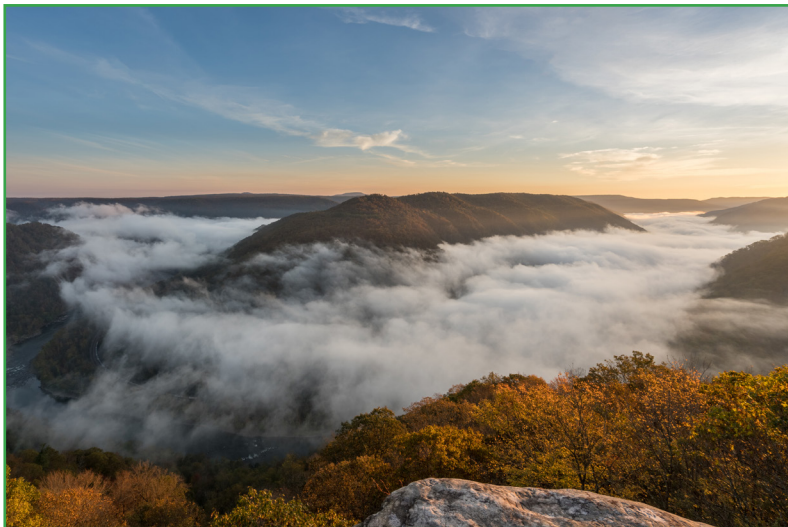
WEST VIRGINIA

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 West Virginia those places include Otter Creek and Dolly Sods Wilderness Areas.

The state of West Virginia 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. Despite ranking 10th in the nation for the most haze pollution from mainly coal-fired powered plants, and the many opportunities for cost-effective controls, the state has improperly concluded that no new reductions are warranted. West Virginia used a [flawed methodology](#) to justify ignoring nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter (PM) emissions and exempt multiple large polluting facilities from review. With the proposed plan close to 80,000 tons of uncontrolled haze-causing pollution will continue to be released into the air each year. EPA must now decide whether to approve, partially approve, or disapprove the state’s plan.



22

Industrial facilities in West Virginia potentially affecting visibility in 24 regional Class I Areas.



177

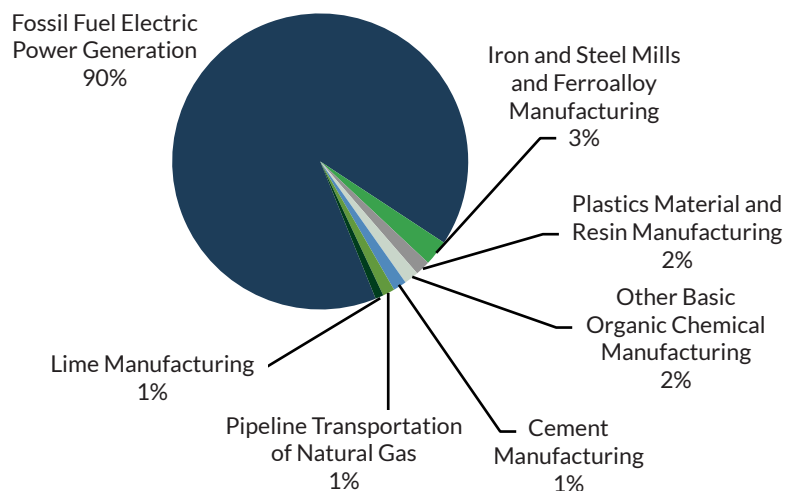
Industrial facilities from any state potentially affecting visibility in West Virginia’s 2 Class I Areas.

Panorama of New River at Grand View in New River Gorge National Park & Preserve at sunrise in West Virginia. credit: (c) Steveheap | 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.

WEST VIRGINIA’S INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF HAZE POLLUTION

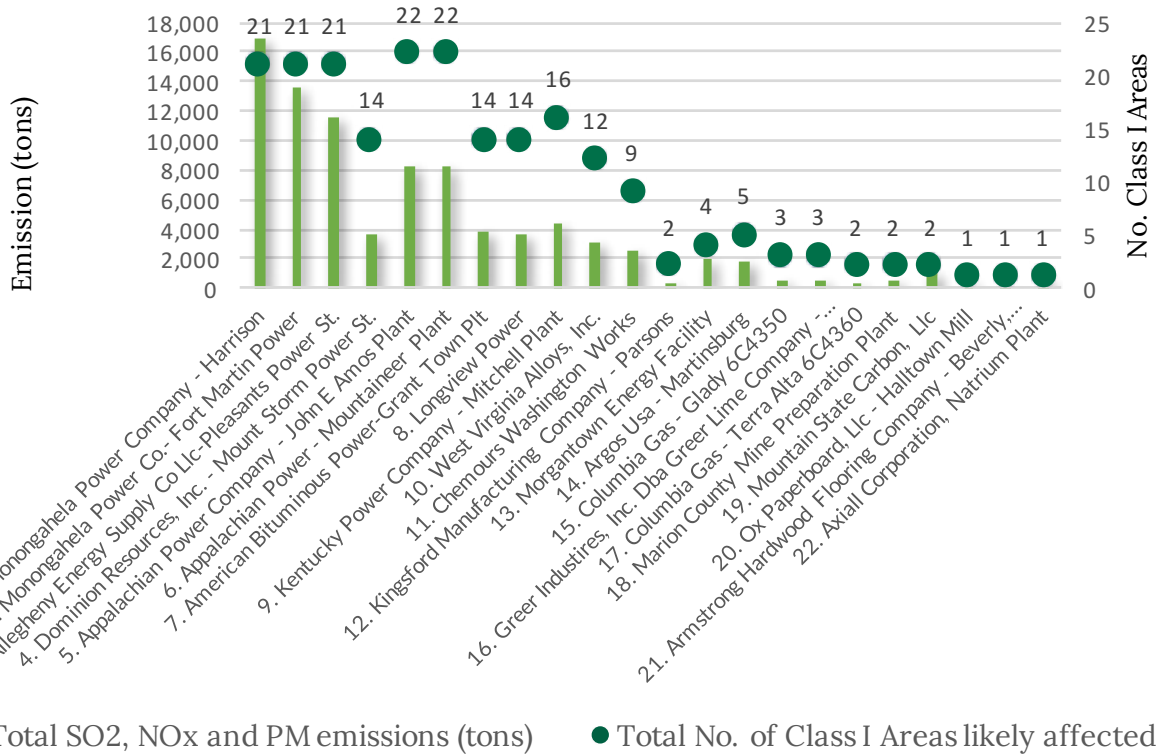
NPCA analyzed publicly available data to identify the worst sources and industrial sectors of haze pollution potentially affecting Class I Areas. We evaluated these emitters to determine which sources should be selected by the state for a four-factor reasonable progress analysis.

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



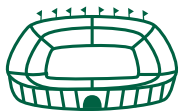
Sources of Visibility Impairing Pollution in West Virginia

WEST VIRGINIA'S 22 WORST SOURCES OF REGIONAL HAZE POLLUTION



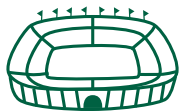
The state of West Virginia identified a set of point sources for a four-factor reasonable progress analysis and requested information on emission reduction options from these source owners. NPCA supports the evaluation of these sources and we urge the state of West Virginia to also do four-factor analyses for additional sources and 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 WEST VIRGINIA FILL WITH THEIR EMISSIONS EACH YEAR?



67

Monongahela Power Company - Harrison
Harrison County
16,845 tons



54

Monongahela Power Co. - Fort Martin Power
Monongalia County
13,622 tons



46

Allegheny Energy Supply Co LLC - Pleasants Power St.
Pleasants County
11,557 tons



15

Dominion Resources, Inc. - Mount Storm Power St.
Grant County
3,664 tons



33

Appalachian Power Company - John E. Amos Plant
Putnam County
8,164 tons

TAKE ACTION: We have an opportunity to achieve a regional haze plan for West Virginia 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 Ed Stierli at estierli@npca.org.