



REGIONAL HAZE FACTSHEET 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 Virginia those places include Shenandoah National Park and James River Face Wilderness Area.

In order to meet this requirement, Virginia was supposed to submit its regional haze plan to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by July 2021. In August 2022, EPA issued a [finding of failure to submit](#), which starts a two year deadline for Virginia to submit their plan, before EPA steps in and issues one for them. We urge Virginia to swiftly release their haze plan for public comment and submit to EPA in order to ensure expeditious compliance with the haze program and deliver clean air benefits to Shenandoah, James River Face, and other Class 1 areas in the region.



13

Industrial facilities in Virginia potentially affecting visibility in 22 regional Class I Areas.



196

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

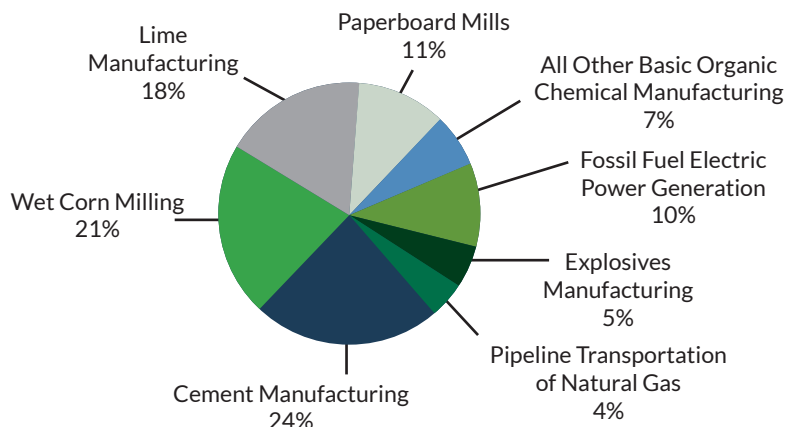
Views from Shenandoah National Park. Credit: (c) Appalachianviews | Dreamstime.com

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.

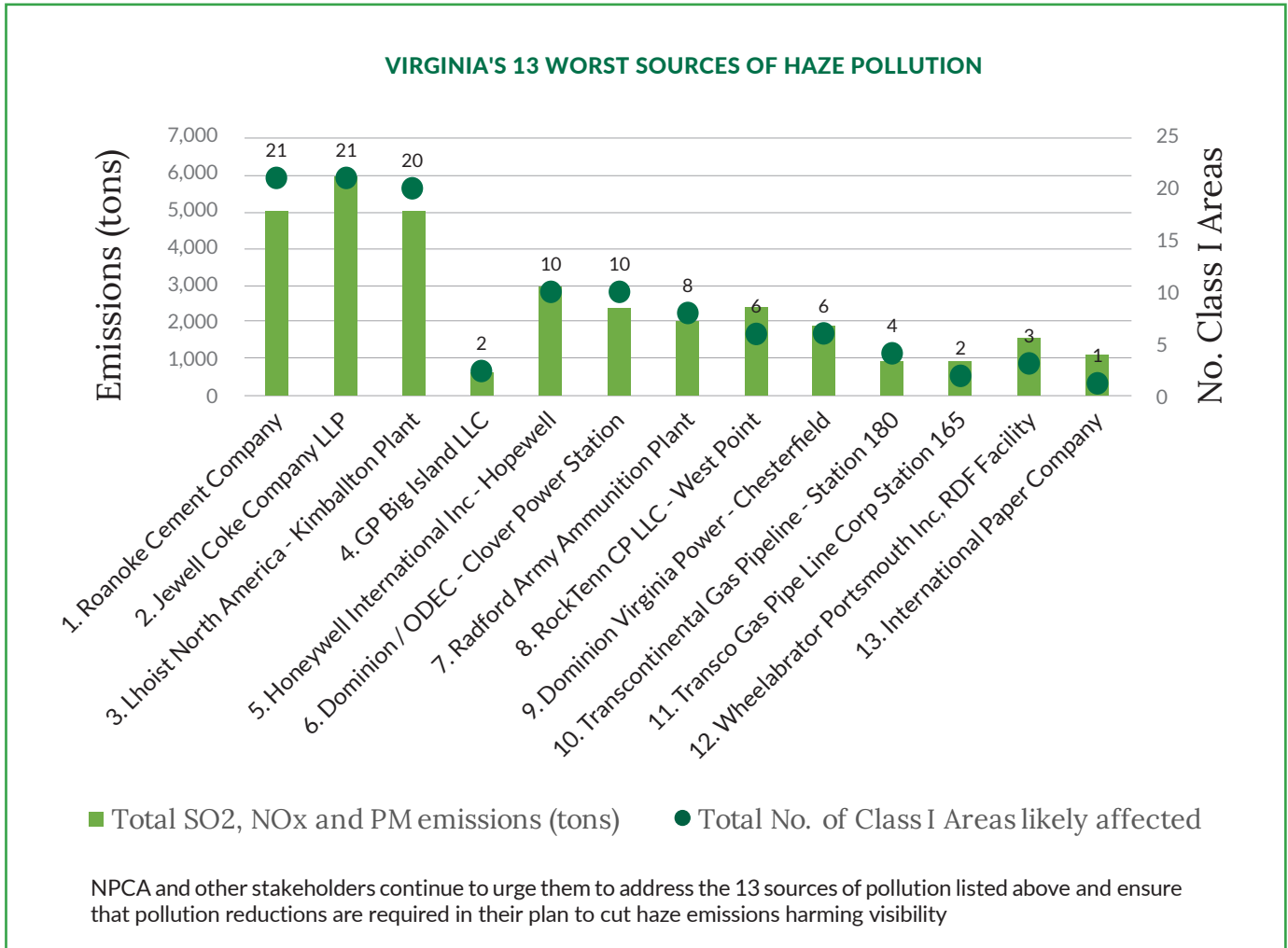
VIRGINIA’S INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF HAZE POLLUTION

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 Virginia.



Sources of Visibility Impairing Pollution in Virginia



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



20

Roanoke Cement Company
Botetourt County
5,035 tons



23

Jewell Coke Company
Buchanan County
5,760 tons



18

Lhoist North America - Kimballton Plant
Giles County
4,623 tons



3

GP Big Island LLC
Bedford County
631 tons



12

Honeywell International - Hopewell
Hopewell County
2,970 tons

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