

WHAT IS HAZE?

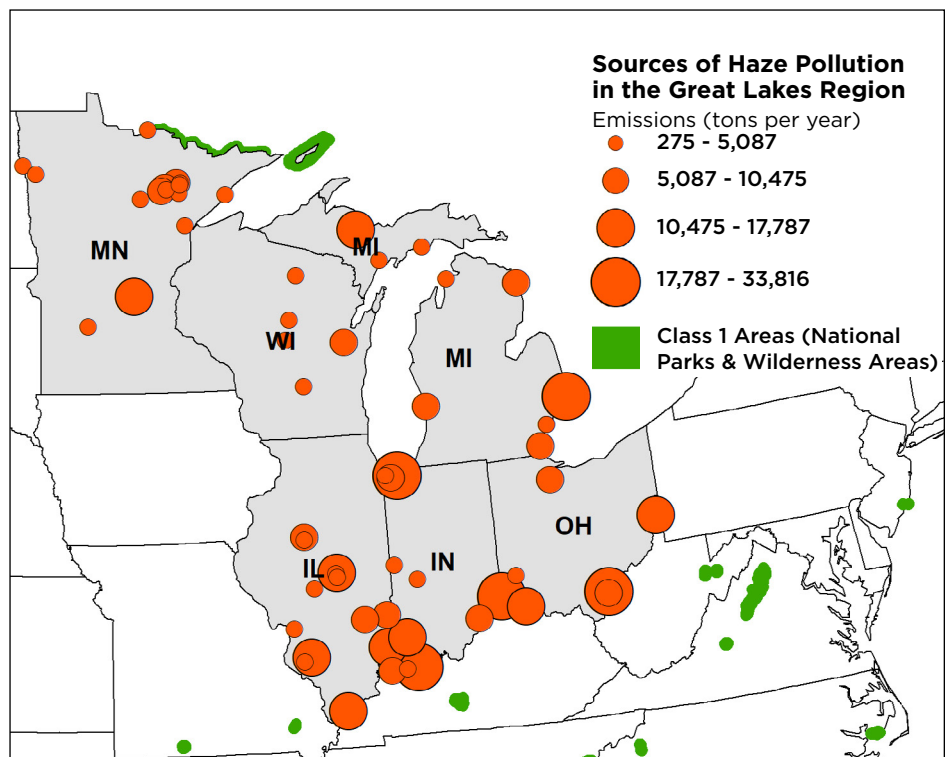
Haze is made of tiny airborne particles and gases that block and scatter light, reducing visibility across distances.

The pollutants causing haze are mainly particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide — they muddy scenic views in national parks and wilderness areas around the country, from Isle Royale National Park in Michigan to Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area in Minnesota and many public lands in between.

Haze pollution also damages sensitive ecosystems and can degrade water quality. It can travel hundreds of miles from its original source, through neighborhoods and communities, causing a myriad of health complications for those who breathe it in.

Haze Pollution in Great Lakes' Parks

EPA's Region 5, also known as the Great Lakes region, includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.



156 national parks and wilderness areas are designated under the Clean Air Act as “Class 1 areas,” meaning they have some of the highest levels of air quality protection in the country. However, most national park sites are still experiencing poor air quality and diminished visibility.

The Regional Haze Rule is intended to cut pollution harming skies in these special places. Every ten years, each state must develop a plan to reduce haze-causing emissions from pollution sources within their state. The state agencies then send these plans to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval or disapproval.

In the first round of regional haze planning over ten years ago, significant emissions reductions were achieved thanks in large part to advocacy efforts for strong state plans. 1.4 million tons of haze pollution (nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter) each year were eliminated, along with 79 million tons of climate pollution (carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide). 146 coal plants were required to either close or clean up. The second round of haze planning is currently in progress.

Reduced Climate Pollution

Healthier Park Air

CLEAN AIR FOR PARKS MEANS ...

Clearer Park Views

Stronger Ecosystems



SOURCES OF HAZE POLLUTION IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

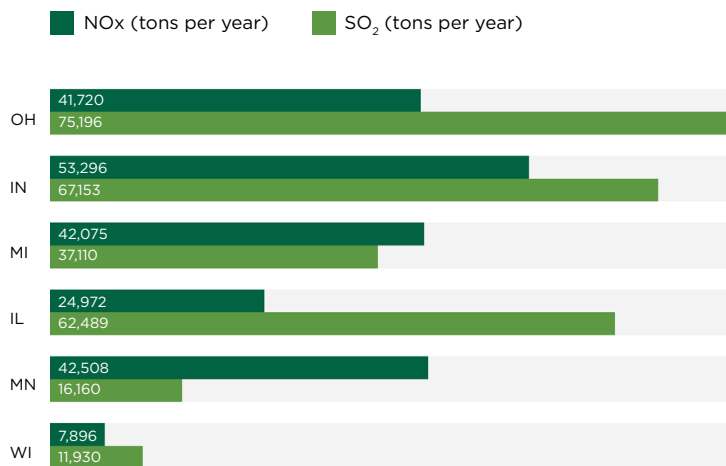
States in the Great Lakes Region are Ignoring Industrial Polluters in Haze Plans

Unfortunately, during this current round of Regional Haze planning, states in the Great Lakes region are failing to meet the haze program requirements under the Clean Air Act. NPCA has identified 60 sources of haze pollution in this region. Collectively, these polluters emit around 480,000 tons of haze pollution each year, which equates to more than 1,900 football stadiums full of pollution. The state agencies that have submitted haze plans failed to select a broad number of polluters to review in their plans. They also failed to require meaningful emission reductions from the few sources that they did select.

State Haze Planning Failures

Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio did not require any new pollution controls on their electric generating units, incorrectly arguing that these facilities are already effectively controlled or slated to retire without enforceable requirements. Indiana and Minnesota overestimated the cost of pollution controls, while Michigan and Ohio failed to identify a cost-effectiveness threshold. Minnesota, Ohio and Indiana also failed to respond to concerns raised by Federal Land Managers like the National Park Service.

Haze-Causing Emissions by State



Electricity generation, steel mills, taconite processing and other industrial polluters are contributing to hazy skies from Isle Royale National Park to Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area to Voyageurs National Park.

TOP 10 POLLUTERS

- Gavin Power Plant - Lightstone Generation**
Fossil fuel power plant in Gallia County, OH
- Miami Fort Power Plant - Luminant**
Fossil fuel power plant in Hamilton, OH
- Burns Harbor Steelmaking - Arcelormittal**
Steel mill in Porter, IN
- Belle River Power Plant - DTE Energy**
Fossil fuel power plant in St. Clair, MI
- Indiana Michigan Power**
Fossil fuel power plant in Spencer, IN
- Gibson Plant - Duke Energy Indiana**
Fossil fuel power plant in Gibson, IN
- Prairie State Generating Station**
Fossil fuel power plant in Washington, IL
- Tilden Mine**
Iron ore processing in Marquette, MI
- Petersburg Generating Station - Indianapolis Power and Light**
Fossil fuel power plant in Pike, IN
- Cardinal Power Plant - Cardinal Operating Company**
Fossil fuel power plant in Jefferson, OH



Coal-fired powerplants are top contributors to haze pollution in Class 1 areas in the region.

TAKE ACTION

As of May 2023, five states in the Great Lakes region have submitted haze plans to EPA, Illinois remains outstanding. EPA must now decide whether to approve or disapprove the submitted state plans. We urge EPA to act swiftly to hold all states in the Great Lakes region accountable to reducing their haze-causing emissions. Join us in acting now!

Visit npca.org/reports/regional-haze to learn more about what you can do.