

**U.S. EPA Fact Sheet**  
**Final Approval of the Nevada Regional Haze Plan**

December 13, 2011

**Today's Action:**

- EPA is approving most of Nevada's Regional Haze Plan as meeting the requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA). These requirements can be found in Section 169A of the CAA and at 40 CFR 51.308.
- Specifically, EPA's approval is based on the following:
  - The plan ensures reasonable progress toward achieving visibility goals at the Jarbidge Wilderness Area (the only Class 1, or protected area in Nevada) in the first planning period through 2018.
  - The State's analysis and determination of Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) controls on emissions are acceptable for two power plants: Tracy and Fort Churchill.
  - Pollution from Nevada is not interfering with visibility protection plans in neighboring states.
- EPA is taking no action on the BART determination for nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) at the Reid-Gardner Generating Station (RGGS). EPA intends to propose action on the NO<sub>x</sub> BART determination and take public comment in the future. However, EPA's final approval includes the BART determinations for sulfur dioxide and particulate matter at the RGGS.

**Background:**

- Regional Haze is visibility impairment caused by fine particle pollution. This haze obscures the view of scenery and objects at a distance, reducing the beauty of our protected natural areas.
- Congress set the goal of the "prevention of any future, and the remedying of any existing, impairment of visibility in mandatory Class I Federal areas which impairment results from manmade air pollution." These Class I areas include 156 national parks and national wilderness areas.
- Under EPA's Regional Haze Rule, the states are required to establish long-term strategies for making reasonable progress toward achieving natural visibility in Class 1 areas.
- The goal is to restore Class I areas to natural levels of visibility by 2064. The rule requires the installation of BART at some stationary sources that began operations between 1962 and 1977 and are causing or contributing to visibility impairment at Class I areas.
- The Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP), a voluntary organization of state, tribal, federal, and local air agencies addressing air quality in the West, worked with Nevada and other states and tribes to study the causes of haze in the west and develop a shared strategy for improving visibility at protected natural areas.

For more information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/nv.html#haze>