

U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

Proposed Rule: Revisions to the Four Corners Power Plant Federal Implementation Plan

November 22, 2016

Summary of Action:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing limited revisions to the source-specific Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) that was promulgated to regulate air pollutant emissions from the Four Corners Power Plant (FCPP), a coal-fired power plant located on the reservation lands of the Navajo Nation, near Farmington, New Mexico.

The EPA is proposing revisions to the FIP for several reasons: (1) to make certain provisions in the FIP consistent with national actions and rulemakings promulgated since 2012; (2) to update the FIP to reflect recent operating changes; and (3) to add new provisions to the FIP to include the air pollution control requirements of a Consent Decree with EPA for FCPP dated August 17, 2015. Specifically, we are proposing:

- To remove (1) emission limit exemptions that applied during periods of startup and shutdown; (2) a provision allowing for an affirmative defense during periods of malfunctions; and (3) exemptions for water vapor from the opacity standard and monitoring and reporting requirements.
- To update the testing requirements for particulate matter (PM) in the FCPP FIP to be consistent with PM testing requirements promulgated nationally in the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) Rule. The revisions to the PM testing requirements, if finalized, will increase the frequency of PM testing in the FIP to match the MATS Rule, and allow the operator the option to demonstrate compliance using alternative methods.
- To update the FIP to reflect the current operation of FCPP, by adding a statement to the applicability section of the FIP to clarify that Units 1, 2 and 3 have been permanently retired, and to remove certain provisions related to Units 1, 2, and 3 from the FIP that are no longer applicable following the permanent retirement of those units.
- To add new provisions to the FCPP FIP to reflect requirements in a Consent Decree entered in the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico on August 17, 2015. Generally, the Consent Decree requires greater emission reductions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and PM by establishing lower emission limits than the existing limits in the FIP for these pollutants.

Background:

FCPP is a coal-fired power plant located on the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation, west of Farmington, New Mexico. FCPP is co-owned by several entities and operated by APS. The facility includes two units, Units 4 and 5, each with a capacity of 770 megawatts (MW) net generation, providing a total capacity of 1540 MW. Operations at the facility produce emissions of air pollutants, including SO₂, NO_x, and PM. Existing pollution control equipment on Units 4 and 5 include baghouses for particulate matter control,

lime spray towers (scrubbers) for SO₂ control, and low-NO_x burners for limiting NO_x formation during the combustion process. FCPP is in the process of installing selective catalytic reduction on Units 4 and 5 for additional NO_x emission reductions to comply with the “better than BART” provisions of the 2012 FIP and with the Consent Decree.

Next Steps:

The Federal Register notice will be published in approximately 1 to 2 weeks. There will be a 30-day public comment period on this action.

More Information: <https://www3.epa.gov/region9/air/navajo/index.html>
