



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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EPA Proposed Approval of State Haze Plan

NORTH LITTLE ROCK—The Region 6 Office of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed approval of key portions of the State’s Regional Haze plan. The plan, which includes agreements to limit sulfur dioxide and particulate emissions, was signed by Arkansas’s key utility partners: Entergy Arkansas, Inc., Southwestern Electric Power Company, and Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation. In conjunction with EPA’s proposed approval of portions of the Regional Haze SIP, EPA is also withdrawing the corresponding federal haze plan provisions. The approval is a key step in resolving the issues surrounding Arkansas’s challenge to EPA’s 2016 federal haze plan.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/11/30/2018-26073/approval-and-promulgation-of-implementation-plans-arkansas-approval-of-regional-haze-state>

“We’re pleased with EPA’s positive response to return control of the Regional Haze Program to the state and look forward to ongoing cooperation,” Director Becky W. Keogh said. “This plan is an example of Arkansas’s commitment to lasting environmental and visibility improvements in our scenic vistas, the Buffalo Wilderness Area and Caney Creek.”

The state plan saves roughly two billion dollars in costs to Arkansas ratepayers as compared with the federal haze plan while also achieving the state’s goals for improving visibility for this ten-year period. As part of the state plan, Entergy Arkansas, Inc. has agreed to use low-sulfur coal until their proposed plan to discontinue coal usage at Entergy White Bluff is fully realized. Additionally, as a long-term improvement strategy in this plan Entergy Arkansas, Inc. has agreed to implement low-sulfur coal restrictions at Entergy Independence.

The Regional Haze Program seeks to address the combined visibility effects of various pollution sources over a wide geographic region with the goal of achieving natural visibility conditions at designated national parks and wilderness areas. The State’s Phase I Regional Haze plan was approved by EPA on February 12, 2018. That plan provides for control of nitrogen oxide emissions from the State’s electric generating fleet through participation in the Cross State Air Pollution Rule.

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