



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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EPA Approves DEQ Plan to Improve Visibility Including Preserving the Scenic Beauty of Caney Creek and Upper Buffalo Wilderness Areas

NORTH LITTLE ROCK—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently approved the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment’s Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) plans for reducing emissions of pollutants that cause haze including sulfur dioxides, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter. The approved plan, in combination with other plans submitted by DEQ, is intended to improve visibility in designated scenic national parks and wilderness areas in Arkansas as well as in nearby states. Arkansas has two designated scenic areas: Caney Creek Wilderness and Upper Buffalo Wilderness Areas.

“This approval marks an important milestone in preserving the scenic beauty of two of our State’s most cherished wilderness areas and shows the great strides that can be made working with our federal partners within the Clean Air Act’s cooperative federalist framework,” said Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment Secretary Becky W. Keogh.

EPA’s approval also acknowledges that the plan meets all Clean Air Act requirements for making progress toward natural visibility conditions at Caney Creek Wilderness and Upper Buffalo Wilderness Areas and ensures that emissions in Arkansas do not interfere with other states’ plans to protect visibility. This approval completes the State’s obligations to protect visibility in the first planning period of the regional haze program.

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