

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Briefing Paper

Prepared for: Director

Submitted: July 15, 1997

States: All

Title: EPA Regional Haze Rule

Issue: Proposed Rulemaking for Revisions to Existing Visibility Protection Regulations to Address Regional Haze (Visibility Impairment) in Mandatory Class I Areas which Includes Several Large National Parks and Wilderness Areas

Background:

- The EPA has concluded that the most appropriate means for reducing visibility impairment due to regional haze, caused by many sources spread over a large geographic region, is to establish a secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and to revise its present visibility regulations to explicitly address regional haze. The proposed PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS addresses those atmospheric particles most responsible for visibility impairment and the current visibility regulation addresses only impairment that is attributable to a single source or small group of sources.

Status:

- The National Park Service is reviewing the draft rule for implications for resources protection and for National Park Service research and monitoring activities.

Position of Interested Parties:

- Unknown at this time, but we suspect that estimated high costs for compliance with the rule will soon become an issue with stakeholders.

NPS Perspective:

- The Service would have preferred a secondary NAAQS more protective of visibility in addition to the regional haze rule. However, we will continue to assess the implications of this rule and provide comments to EPA.

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