

## **Extension of the State Implementation Plan Due Date for the Regional Haze Third Implementation Period Proposed Action**

### **FACT SHEET**

#### **ACTION**

- On December 13, 2024, EPA proposed to extend the Third Implementation Period SIP deadline from July 31, 2028, to July 31, 2031. EPA is also soliciting comment on alternative SIP due dates for the Third Implementation Period.
- The deadline for Third Implementation Period Progress Reports remains July 2033. The Third Implementation Period will end in July 2038. EPA is also proposing to revise the regulatory language to clarify that SIPs for the Fourth Implementation Period remain due July 31, 2038.
- Revising the deadline for the Third Implementation Period SIPs would better align Third Implementation Period SIP development with the upcoming Regional Haze Rule (RHR) revisions. This would allow states to develop SIP revisions for the Third Implementation Period that are fully integrated with any prospective changes to the current RHR.
- While SIP development schedules can vary state-to-state, EPA recognizes that regional haze SIPs often take longer than 2 years to develop due to modeling and technical analyses that are performed prior to SIP development. Based on stakeholder feedback and past experience, EPA estimates that states will need approximately 4-years to complete this work. Given the current rule revisions schedule, that timeline aligns with a 2031 Third Implementation Period SIP due date.
- This revised SIP due date, if finalized, would also provide for greater integration of the Third Implementation Period with several other Clean Air Act (CAA) regulatory programs that will affect sources of air pollutants that impair visibility over the next several years. EPA expects an integrated approach will result in greater environmental progress than if planning for these multiple programs happened separately.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- Regional haze reduces visibility and is caused by the emissions of air pollutants from numerous sources located over a wide geographic area. The CAA established a national visibility goal to prevent any future, and remedy any existing, visibility impairment in the 156 designated mandatory “Federal Class I areas” which include many of our nation’s most treasured parks and wilderness areas. In 1999, EPA promulgated the RHR to reduce regional haze. Consistent with the current RHR, most recently revised in January 2017, states are required to submit SIPs on regular approximately 10-year cycles. The first state plans were due in 2007 and covered the 2008-2018 First Implementation Period.
- The January 2017 revisions to the RHR were focused on the requirements for the Second Implementation Period, for which SIPs were due on July 31, 2021. The focus of the Second Implementation Period is to ensure reasonable progress towards the CAA’s visibility goal for

Class I areas. The RHR describes requirements for SIPs and progress reports for the Second Implementation Period. Only 8 (out of 52 required) states submitted SIPs by the July 31, 2021 due date for the Second Implementation Period.

- EPA conducted outreach in Spring 2024, and received feedback through a nonregulatory docket that several improvements could be made to streamline the requirements of the current RHR. EPA intends to revise the RHR to align with Third Implementation Period SIP submittal deadline. Based on previous experience from the First and Second Implementation Periods, EPA estimates that states will need approximately 4 years to complete all work necessary to developing a Haze SIP under the current RHR.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download this proposed rule from EPA's website, go to: <https://www.epa.gov/visibility>. The official version of this rule will be published in the *Federal Register*.
- Today's proposed rule and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room (Docket ID EPA-HQ-OAR-2023-0262).
- The Public Reading Room is located in EPA Headquarters, Room Number 3334 in the William Jefferson Clinton West Building, located at 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.
- Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector, and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an x-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
- For further information about this action, contact Ms. Paige Wantlin of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5760 or by email at [wantlin.paige@epa.gov](mailto:wantlin.paige@epa.gov) or Mr. Brian Timin of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-1850 or [timin.brian@epa.gov](mailto:timin.brian@epa.gov).