

U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

EPA final action to approve partially and disapprove partially Nevada's determination of Best Available Retrofit Technology to control NO_x emissions at Reid Gardner Generating Station, and promulgate a Federal Implementation Plan

August 13, 2012

Today's Action

- EPA is taking final action regarding the control of nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions at Units 1, 2 and 3 of the Reid Gardner Generating Station (RGGS). This notice includes:
 - Approving Nevada's Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) emissions limit of 0.20 lbs/MMBtu for NO_x at Units 1 and 2, achievable through installation of Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR)
 - Disapproving Nevada's BART emissions limit of 0.28 lbs/MMBtu for NO_x at Unit 3, and the compliance method based on a 12-month rolling average for Units 1-3
 - Promulgating a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) to require a BART emission limit of 0.20 lbs/MMBtu for NO_x, at Unit 3, and a 30-day rolling average at Units 1 – 3 for compliance purposes
- The State has agreed to submit a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision to replace the FIP; EPA will work with the State of Nevada to replace the FIP provisions with a revised SIP as quickly as possible.
- The State and Federal controls are designed to cut NO_x emissions by 4,000 tons per year.

Background

- On December 13, 2011, EPA approved most of Nevada's Regional Haze Plan as meeting the requirements of the Clean Air Act. At that time, EPA did not act on Nevada's BART determination for NO_x at RGGS.
- On April 12, 2012, EPA proposed a partial approval and a partial disapproval of Nevada's BART determination for NO_x emissions at RGGS. For the proposed disapprovals, EPA proposed a narrow FIP.
- This action was postponed thirty days from the original consent decree deadline of July 13, 2012 at the request of the environmental group petitioners.
- Today's final action addresses the remaining portion of the Nevada Regional Haze Program and meets EPA's consent decree deadline with the National Parks Conservation Association.
- Regional Haze is visibility impairment caused by fine particle pollution. This haze obscures the view of scenery and objects at a distance, reducing the beauty of our protected natural areas.
- Under the Clean Air Act, Congress set a long-term goal of restoring natural visibility conditions in numerous national parks and wilderness areas throughout the United States, known as Class 1 Areas. One of the strategies for achieving this goal is the use of Best Available Retrofit Technology at older power plants that cause or contribute to visibility impairment at Class I areas, such as Jarbidge Wilderness Area in Nevada. EPA and the State

also evaluated Nevada's regional haze impacts on neighboring states' Class I areas, such as the Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon.

- Section 169A of the Clean Air Act requires BART determinations on eligible sources before 2018, the end of the first planning period. BART determinations are one means of ensuring downward emission and visibility impairment trends in order to meet the national goal of remedying visibility impairment from manmade pollution.

For more information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/nv.html#haze>