

The Regional Haze Rule Reasonable Progress Report Project for 116 Western Class I Areas

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Data from the International Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) program supports the EPA's Regional Haze Rule (RHR), which protects visibility in 156 federal Class I areas (CIAs), including national parks and wilderness areas. The RHR mandates that States create implementation plans designed to reduce man-made emissions affecting these CIAs towards goals of natural conditions, or conditions without any man-made influences, by 2064. Over the long-term period of RHR haze planning (nominally 60 years) each State is required to periodically assess the rate of visibility improvement for each CIA in that state. The first of these progress assessment reports are due at various dates in the 2013-15 timeframe, depending on respective submittal dates for each state's initial implementation plans.

The Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP), on behalf of the 15 western state members in the WRAP region, has recently completed a project designed to provide the technical basis for use by States to develop the first of their individual reasonable progress reports for the 116 Class I federal areas located in the WRAP region. The final project report includes summaries of monitoring and emissions data, including comparisons between baseline averages and first progress period averages, and trends in monitored data. This presentation will summarize the goals of this project, and presents example data summaries and results. The final project report is available at <http://www.wrapair2.org/RHRPR.aspx>.

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