

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

Public Notice

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) will hold a public hearing at North Little Rock February 2, 2015, to receive comments on the proposed five-year regional haze progress report on a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision prior to submission of the revised plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The hearing will begin at 2:00 p.m. (Central Time) in the Commission Room at the ADEQ Headquarters Building, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock. The deadline for submitting comments on the SIP revisions is 4:30 p.m. (Central Time) February 17, 2015.

The progress report is intended to fulfill one of Arkansas's responsibilities under the Clean Air Act and Regional Haze Rule. Arkansas's original Regional Haze SIP revision was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in September 2008 and addressed visibility impairment in the State's Class I Federal areas - Upper Buffalo and Caney Creek Wilderness areas. The proposed SIP is intended to address the requirements of 40 Code of Federal Register (C.F.R.) Section 51.308(g) requiring periodic reports evaluating progress towards the Reasonable Progress Goals established for mandatory Class I areas where visibility may be impacted by Arkansas sources.

This proposed SIP submittal is meant to demonstrate the actions ADEQ has taken to fulfill the requirements under 40 C.F.R. Section 51.308(g) for periodic progress reports. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. Section 51.308(h)(1), the State is submitting a negative declaration that further revision of the existing implementation plan is not needed at this time. However, ADEQ is cognizant of its obligation and the associated timeframe to address the disapproved components of the 2008 Arkansas Regional Haze SIP submittal.

ADEQ is providing the public with the opportunity to comment on this proposed SIP revision in two ways. In addition to commenting at the February 2, 2015, public hearing, interested parties may submit written or electronic mail comments prior to the comment deadline. Oral and written statements will be accepted at the hearing, but written comments are preferred in the interest of accuracy. Written comments should be mailed to Mike Bates, Air Division, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118. Electronic mail comments should be sent to: bates@adeq.state.ar.us. Written or E-mail comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. (Central Time) February 17, 2015, in order to be considered.

In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, a decision may be made to postpone the hearing. If the hearing is postponed and rescheduled, a new legal notice will be published to announce the details of the new hearing date and comment period.

Copies of Arkansas's proposed SIP revision are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Public Outreach and Assistance (POA) Division in the ADEQ headquarters building in North Little Rock and in ADEQ information depositories located in public libraries at Arkadelphia, Batesville, Blytheville, Camden, Clinton, Crossett, El Dorado, Fayetteville, Forrest City, Fort Smith, Harrison, Helena, Hope, Hot Springs, Jonesboro, Little Rock (main branch),

Magnolia, Mena, Monticello, Mountain Home, Pocahontas, Russellville, Searcy, Stuttgart, Texarkana, and West Memphis; in campus libraries at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and the University of Central Arkansas at Conway; and in the Arkansas State Library, 900 W. Capitol, Suite 100, Little Rock, AR. In addition, an electronic copy of the Arkansas's proposed SIP revision is available for viewing or downloading on ADEQ's Internet web site at <http://www.adeg.state.ar.us/air/5year RH Progress Report.pdf>

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