



FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT AND NAVAJO MINE ENERGY PROJECT EIS

AIR QUALITY

CLEAN AIR ACT

Air pollution affects visibility. Regional haze is produced by a multitude of sources and activities located across a broad geographic area. Power plant operations impact air quality and contribute to regional haze.

In the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, Congress set a national goal of restoring visibility at national parks and wilderness areas to natural conditions. In response, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued regulations to improve visibility in national parks and wilderness areas.

Stationary pollution sources such as power plants that were built between 1962 and 1977 are required to install and operate Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) to reduce pollutants that impact visibility.

Pollution Controls at the Four Corners Power Plant

In October 2010, the EPA proposed a BART rule for the Four Corners Power Plant that included additional:

- Nitrogen oxides (NO_x) controls for all five units
- Particulate controls for Units 1, 2 and 3
- Completion of the above within five years of the final rule effective date

In response, Arizona Public Service provided an alternative to EPA to better address emissions and resolve other existing uncertainties that included:

- Closure of Units 1, 2 and 3 in 2014
- Installation of NO_x controls on Units 4 and 5 by end of 2018
- Resolution of plant obligations under other Clean Air Act programs

The proposed closure of Units 1, 2 and 3, and installation of additional pollution controls on Units 4 and 5 would reduce:

- Nitrogen oxides by 86%
- Mercury by 61%
- Particulates by 43%
- Carbon dioxide by 30%
- Sulfur dioxide by 24%

