

MANE-VU STATES START THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

MANE-VU Class I states have begun to consult with other states both within and outside the region about how to achieve improvements in visibility in MANE-VU Class I areas by 2018. Letters have been sent from the Environmental Commissioners/Secretaries from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New Jersey to their counterparts in states that contributed to visibility degradation in MANE-VU Class I areas in 2002, inviting feedback as they decide what reasonable progress goals to include in their State Implementation Plans (SIPs).

EPA rules require consultation while setting goals for visibility improvement (called reasonable progress goals) and selecting the associated emission control measure needed to achieve those goals.

The basis for attributing contributions to states outside the MANE-VU RPO is documented in “*Contributions to Regional Haze in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic U.S.*” The report indicates that all states in the analysis area contribute, to some degree, to reduced visibility at MANE-VU Class I sites.

REGIONAL HAZE SCIENCE MEETING SET

MANE-VU and the MidWest RPO are cosponsoring a Science Meeting with a focus on airborne organic carbon particulate matter to be held in the Baltimore area on July 10-11th, 2007. The goal of the meeting is to present current science that can be used to inform policy. Expert presenters will address topics such as the modeling of secondary organic aerosol, source apportionment, measurement of atmospheric organic carbon, the contribution of transportation sources, and the challenge of distinguishing between biogenic and anthropogenic carbon. Discussion periods will allow policy makers and scientists to exchange ideas that clarify the impact of the science on policy decisions. Check the MARAMA website for a draft agenda and further details about the meeting at www.marama.org/calendar/.

The meeting is open to the public. Pre-registration is required by June 18th. For information about attending the science meeting please check the MARAMA website at <http://www.marama.org/calendar/>.

MANE-VU would like to thank everyone who participated in the Fall 2006 MANE-VU Newsletter Survey. The input we received was very valuable and useful for composing the Spring Newsletter.

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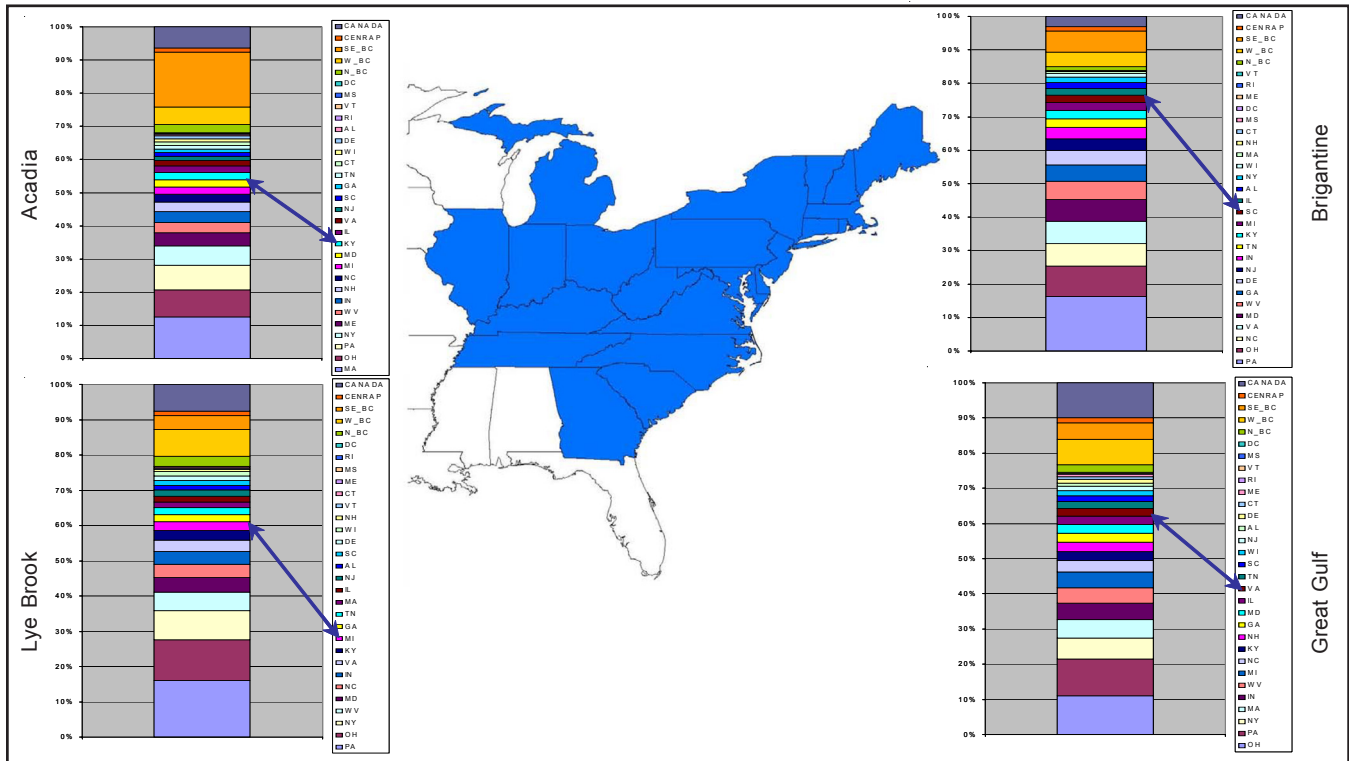
Regional Haze SIP Development

REASONABLE PROGRESS PROJECT WRAPS UP

A draft report now available for comment is intended to help MANE-VU states assess control measures that could reduce regional haze in the Class I areas in the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States and in Class I areas outside MANE-VU affected by emissions from within MANE-VU. The document, entitled “*Assessing Reasonable Progress for Regional Haze in the Mid-Atlantic Northeastern Class I Areas*” was written by MACTEC Federal Programs, Inc. hired by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Air Association, Inc. (MARAMA) on behalf of MANE-VU. The final report will be available by late June.

The MANE-VU Contribution Assessment (NESCAUM 2006) identified sulfate as the largest contributor to visibility impairment in the Mid-Atlantic/Northeastern Class I areas. Biomass combustion has also been identified as a contributor to visibility impairment in the MANE-VU Class I areas. Biomass combustion emissions addressed in this report derive from two source categories: residential wood combustion and open burning. The focus of this control option analysis was on sulfur dioxide emissions and organic compounds. The report 1) summarized available information identifying pollutants, source categories, and specific sources affecting visibility in Class I areas in and near MANE-VU, 2) listed control options considered for key source categories and sources, and 3) applied the four statutory factors (explained below) to each control measure for each source category.

The Regional Haze Rules require that states with Class I areas establish goals for the amount of visibility improvement that is reasonable to expect by 2018.



Guiding this effort was the Reasonable Progress Workgroup reporting to MANE-VU’s Technical Support Committee. The workgroup met via conference call every month. Regular participants included MANE-VU states and tribes, EPA, U.S. Forest Service, NESCAUM, OTC, LADCO, and VISTAS. Workgroup minutes and related project documents are available on the MARAMA website: <http://www.marama.org/visibility/RPG/index.html>.

NEW TOOL AVAILABLE FOR BART DETERMINATIONS

The BART 5-Factor Analysis Document summarizes an approach to satisfy the BART requirements of the Regional Haze Rule. The Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) reviewed BART-eligible facilities in the MANE-VU region and analyzed the general applicability of the five factors states must consider when determining controls for various source categories subject to BART. This analysis will enable MANE-VU states to conduct their facility-specific BART determinations within the regional context of similar sources in the region. The analysis includes an examination of individual units' impacts on visibility in Class I areas based on CALPUFF modeling, an evaluation of existing or potential controls, and the feasibility of controls relative to the five factors identified in the BART guidance.

The draft document is available at (<http://manevu.org/Document.asp?fview=Reports>). For more information contact Gary Kleiman (gkleiman@nescaum.org).


BART FIVE FACTOR SNAP SHOT

The 1999 EPA "Regional Haze Rule" [64 Fed. Reg. 35714 (July 1, 1999)] requires certain emission sources that "may reasonably be anticipated to cause or contribute" to visibility impairment in downwind Class I areas to install BART. These requirements are intended to reduce emissions specifically from large sources that, due to age, were exempted from other control requirements of the Clean Air Act.

Once a facility has been identified as BART-eligible and "subject" to BART, it must conduct an engineering review to determine if the installation of new control requirements is appropriate. This review takes into consideration five factors: (1) cost of controls, (2) energy and non-air quality environmental impacts, (3) existing controls at sources, (4) Remaining useful life of source, (5) visibility improvement reasonably expected from application of the controls.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE REGION'S WILD PLACES: GREAT GULF WILDERNESS

Within the rugged cradle of New Hampshire's Presidential Range lies the Great Gulf Wilderness Area. This peaked carpet begins at Mount Washington, unfurling north and east to cover the flanks of Mounts Jefferson, Adams, and Madison. Then, finally, it enfolds the Great Gulf, the largest cirque in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. From the headwall rising 1,100 feet to 1,600 feet above the bowl's bottom, the gulf drops ruggedly east for about 3.5 miles, then flattens into more open country for another 1.5 miles.



A number of spur trails hook up to the Great Gulf Trail, which serves as the main artery for the area's trail network and cuts roughly east to west through the center of New Hampshire's oldest and smallest Wilderness. Beginning about 1.5 miles east of the Wilderness boundary, the trail traverses approximately five and a half miles of Wilderness and then continues toward the summit of Mount Washington. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail runs essentially perpendicular to the Great Gulf Trail as it takes in 2.7 miles of the Wilderness on its way from Georgia to Maine. In all, there are about 22 miles of maintained hiking trails within the Wilderness.

<http://www.wilderness.net/>

MANE-VU SPACIAL TRENDS

Of the Class I areas in or around the MANE-VU Region, Acadia National Park, Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, Lye Brook Wilderness Area, Dolly Sods, and Shenandoah National Park showed statistically significant improving visibility trends for the clearest days, according to trends in the haze index analysis for the 10-year period 1995-2004, performed by the National Park Service.

No sites included in the analysis had a significant worsening trend on either the clearest or haziest visibility days.

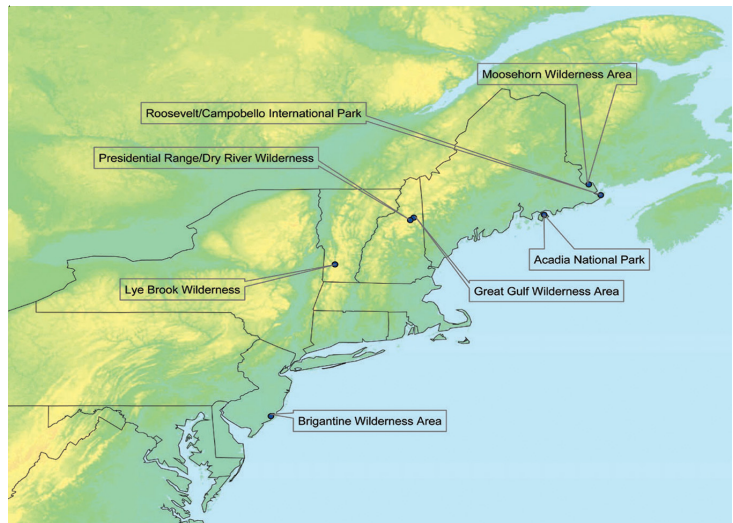
Source: Spatial and Seasonal Patterns and Temporal Variability of Haze and its Constituents in the United States: Report IV. For a full story about the report see IMPROVE's Newsletter at http://vista.cira.colostate.edu/improve/Publications/news_letters.htm

ABOUT MANE-VU

The Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union (MANE-VU) was formed by the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states, tribes, and federal agencies to coordinate regional haze planning activities for the region. MANE-VU encourages a coordinated approach to reducing visibility impairment in major national parks and wilderness areas in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region.

MANE-VU provides technical assessments and assistance to its members, leverages progress on other regional air pollution issues, provides a forum for consultation, and encourages coordinated actions, and coordination with other regions.

Section 169A of the Clean Air Act requires the “prevention of any future, and the remedying of any existing impairment of visibility in Class I areas which impairment results from manmade air pollution.” Class I areas are national parks exceeding 6000 acres, wilderness areas and national memorial parks exceeding 5000 acres, and all international parks in existence on August 7, 1977. There are 156 Class I areas in the United States, and seven in MANE-VU as shown on the map above.



Class I Areas in MANE-VU Region

MANE-VU MEMBERS

Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection
Gina McCarthy, Commissioner

New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services
Thomas Burack, Commissioner

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division
Kenneth Jock, Director

Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control; John Hughes, Secretary

New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection
Lisa Jackson, Commissioner

Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Jeffrey Wennberg, Commissioner

District of Columbia Environmental Health Administration
Elizabeth Berry, Director

New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Pete Grannis, Commissioner

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III
Marcia Spink

Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection
David Littell, Commissioner

Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
Kathleen McGinty, Secretary

U.S. National Park Service
Christine Shaver

Maryland Dept. of the Environment
Shari Wilson, Secretary

Penobscot Indian Nation Dept. of Natural Resources
John Banks, Director

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sandra V. Silva

Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection
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Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management
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