



GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION
Jacques Hadler (Chair) · Mary McGann (Vice-Chair)
Evan Clapper · Trish Hedin · Josie Kovash
Sarah Stock · Kevin Walker

May 17, 2022

ATTN: Regional Haze
Bryce Bird, Director
Utah Division of Air Quality
P.O. Box 144820
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4820

Sent via email to Air Quality Board members: randy.martin@usu.edu,
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CC: bbird@utah.gov, gladesowards@utah.gov, ccancino@utah.gov, rwood@utah.gov

Re: Regional Haze State Implementation Plan, Round 2

To Whom it May Concern,

The Grand County Commission is submitting this letter to urge the Utah Division of Air Quality and the Air Quality Board to implement meaningful solutions to our regional haze problem. As many of you are probably aware, Grand County is home to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, as well as innumerable other areas of extraordinary natural beauty. People come to our home from across the world to take in the vastness and intricacies of this sandstone desert. On clear days you can see hundreds of miles across the vibrant fractured landscape. At night, you can see the Milky Way, far off galaxies, moons of Jupiter, and a sky so peppered with stars it is mesmerizing.

All of this is under threat. We are seeing increased days with low visibility due to regional haze. Our two neighboring coal fired power plants, Huntington and Hunter, are huge culprits and need to be addressed immediately, which we understand is possible with simple technical fixes. Other factors are also at play, though we have no solutions to readily implement for the increase in drought and localized dust or regional wildfire smoke. From atop the Book Cliffs or the La Sal Mountains, one can usually see the blanket of hazy air extending from these coal fired power plants in Emery County, throughout the San Rafael Swell, and into Labyrinth Canyon, Canyonlands, Bears Ears, and beyond. The problem is visible, palpable, and fixable.

The regional haze plan recently proposed by the Division of Air Quality does not require sufficient pollution reduction from the Hunter and Huntington coal plants, our close neighbors and also Utah's largest dirty emissions sources. According to the Regional Haze Rule of the Clean Air Act, the state implementation plan must make reasonable progress towards addressing

pollution from the state's largest sources, and to-date, Hunter and Huntington remain uncontrolled for nitrogen oxide pollution which is a key precursor to haze.

It is our understanding that by requiring the use of a technology called selective-catalytic reduction at these plants, it is possible to greatly reduce haze-causing pollutants (75% reduction for nitrogen oxide). The current state plan has been critiqued in comments from both the National Park Service and the EPA for not providing sufficient rationale and analysis to support rejecting these control measures. Based on these responses, it is likely that the current plan would not be approved by federal regulators without addressing the significant pollution from these sources.

The impacts of leaving this issue unaddressed extend for hundreds of miles, through our entire county and numerous National Parks and Monuments. Tourism to these parks is the cornerstone of our economy. Please take meaningful steps to address these polluters in the state regional haze plan so that we may all enjoy the breathtaking beauty of our expansive views and dark skies.

Sincerely,



Jacques Hadler, Chair
Grand County Commission