



Bo Wood <rwood@utah.gov>

We need real pollution cuts to protect parks

1 message

Jennifer Baugh <Jennifer.Baugh.30395370@p2a.co>
Reply-To: Jennifer Baugh <jenniferbaugh@hotmail.com>
To: Bryce Bird <rwood@utah.gov>

Tue, May 31, 2022 at 4:21 AM

Dear Director Bryce Bird,

I write today because I deeply value clean air and clear views in national parks and wilderness areas protected under the Regional Haze Rule.

I am very disappointed that the Division of Air Quality has yet again proposed a Regional Haze plan for the second implementation period that will not achieve real emissions reductions. The plan is unacceptable and fails to make reasonable progress toward clean air in places like Arches, Zion and Capitol Reef National Parks, and in our rural communities near the polluting facilities and the parks.

The draft Utah haze plan is woefully inadequate and fails to require cost-effective controls or enforceable retirements for polluting coal plants and other sources across the state. The state is obligated to make progress toward improving air quality and limiting haze pollution in Class I areas—if the plan is left unchanged, it will not comply with the federal Clean Air Act or the EPA's Regional Haze Rule.

Rocky Mountain Power's Hunter and Huntington coal plants, other industrial facilities and the oil and gas sector emit unacceptable levels of haze-causing air pollution, and they must be cleaned up. These facilities have muddied our views, harmed our lungs and obstructed clear night skies for far too long in Arches, Canyonlands, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Zion, Mesa Verde, Black Canyon of the Gunnison and Grand Canyon National Parks.

I urge you to revise the plan by:

- Requiring strong and significant emission-reducing measures or earlier retirement dates for the Hunter and Huntington coal-fired power plants where best control technologies are missing and emissions are long overdue to be cleaned up.
- Requiring Intermountain coal plant to have an enforceable retirement or conversion date no later than December 31, 2025 and evaluate SO2 scrubber upgrades for the interim.
- Requiring actual, measurable emission reductions from the Sunnyside Cogeneration facility, Cricket Mountain lime processing plant, Rowley magnesium production facility and the Leamington Cement Plant.
- Requiring statewide nitrogen oxide (NOx) requirements for flaring, engines, and other sources in the oil and gas sector that also contribute to haze and is an issue for the Uinta Basin ozone non-attainment area.
- Establishing a cost-effectiveness threshold for reasonable progress that is in line with other states.
- Revisiting and conducting comprehensive analyses for the wrongly exempted Lisbon Natural Gas Processing Facility, Intermountain Generation Station and Kennecott Utah Copper facility.

These revisions will ensure the state is putting parks, people and clean air ahead of polluters' interests and making reasonable progress towards clearer air in our national parks, wilderness areas and communities. Our local communities, parks and the people who travel from across the world to visit them deserve better than the current plan.

Thank you,
Jennifer Baugh
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