

Maryland Regional Haze Air Quality Plan Released for Public Comment

Public Comment Period January 6, 2012 – February 9, 2012

Ensuring that air emissions within Maryland's borders are as low as possible continues to be a goal of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). While the airborne transport of pollution into Maryland is the primary cause of Maryland's air pollution problems, ozone and fine particle pollution is exacerbated by local sources.

The EPA requires [all states](#) to submit a regional haze State Implementation Plan (SIP) that describe the states' measures for meeting the national goal of a return to natural visibility conditions at Class 1 areas by 2064. States with Class 1 areas must set reasonable progress goals for achieving and maintaining natural visibility conditions in their SIPs. Maryland does not contain any Class 1 areas. However, states impacting Class 1 areas must submit SIPs detailing anticipated actions taken in reasonable progress goals, long-term strategies, compliance schedules and other measures for meeting goals of visibility protection.

The MDE is releasing their Regional Haze SIP titled the *State of Maryland Regional Haze State Implementation Plan* on January 6, 2012.

The document is available for public comment through February 9, 2012, and interested persons can offer comments in writing, through the mail or e-mail, or in person at the public hearing.

The public hearing will be held on February 9, 2012 at the Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21230 – First Floor Conference Room – 10:30 AM

For a copy of the draft document and further information, please see the Maryland Department of the Environment Air Quality Planning Program Web page at :

http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Air/AirQualityPlanning/Pages/programs/airprograms/air_planning/index.aspx

and the Department's regional haze hearing notice at:

<http://www.mde.state.md.us/aboutmde/AboutMDEHome/Pages/aboutmde/reqcomments.aspx>.