

Regional Haze Rule: Science, Modifications, and State Implementation Plan Requirements

Instructors: Bret Schichtel, NPS-ARD, Fort Collins, CO
Tom Moore, WESTAR/WRAP, Fort Collins, CO

Full day course

EPA is currently reviewing the requirements of the Regional Haze Rule (RHR), with any changes to be completed in 2016. It is anticipated that the haze metrics used to track progress, estimate natural visibility goals and planning requirements will be modified resulting in new RHR guidance documents and potentially RHR changes. These changes will impact the requirements for the next round of the RHR State Implementation Plans (SIPs) currently due in 2018.

This course will review the visibility and aerosol science and regulations underpinning the RHR. Issues raised by States and others on the current RHR SIP requirements will be discussed and how revisions to these requirements address these issues. With this background, detailed descriptions of the RHR SIP requirements will be presented and discussed along with examples of different elements of a SIP.

Course Outline

- **Overview of visibility, causes of haze and visibility regulations**
 - o What is visibility, why do we care, and how is it measured/tracked
 - o Haze: how aerosols obscure and diminish visibility
 - Relationship of aerosol and light extinction
 - o Patterns and trends in haze
 - o A brief history of the visibility regulations and requirements

- **Tracking Progress**
 - o RHR requirements: Baseline, Natural Condition goals and rate of progress
 - o Issues with original RHR Implementations: Tracking smoke, not progress
 - o Revisions and implications to the RHR tracking progress metrics and requirements

- **RHR SIP Requirements**
 - o Tracking Progress to date with the new metric and structuring the planning process
 - o Co-Benefit of other regulatory programs
 - o Four Factor Analysis
 - o Projecting future visibility conditions and selecting the reasonable progress goal