



Connecticut

Delaware

District of Columbia

Maine

Maryland

Massachusetts

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New York

Pennsylvania

Penobscot Nation

Rhode Island

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Vermont

Resolution of the Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union on the Need to Reinvigorate Progress towards Achieving the National Visibility Goal

WHEREAS, Congress through the Clean Air Act declared it a national goal to prevent future and remedy existing visibility impairment in mandatory Class I Federal areas, which include certain national parks and wilderness areas of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Congress called upon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promulgate regulations to assure reasonable progress towards meeting its national visibility goal; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of Congress' call upon the EPA, the Agency promulgated the Regional Haze Rule, which recognized that visibility impairing pollutants can originate from emissions sources across broad geographic areas; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 the Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union (MANEVU) was formed by the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states, Tribes, and federal agencies to foster a coordinated approach to improve visibility at national parks and wilderness areas in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region; and

WHEREAS, other regions of the United States have established regional planning organizations like MANEVU to work cooperatively in developing strategies that will make reasonable progress towards meeting Congress's national visibility goal; and

WHEREAS, states that are reasonably anticipated to contribute to visibility impairment at Class I areas within or outside their borders are required by the Clean Air Act to develop long-term strategies for making reasonable progress towards the national visibility goal; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Haze Rule further requires consultations between states that are reasonably anticipated to contribute to visibility impairment at Class I areas outside their borders and the affected Class I area states; and

MANEVU Class I Areas

Acadia National Park
Maine

Brigantine Wilderness
New Jersey

Great Gulf Wilderness
New Hampshire

Lye Brook Wilderness
Vermont

Moosehorn Wilderness
Maine

Presidential Range
Dry River Wilderness
New Hampshire

Roosevelt Campobello
International Park
Maine/New Brunswick,
Canada

WHEREAS, the states have achieved dramatic progress towards achieving the national visibility goal relative to the 2000-2004 baseline; and

WHEREAS, the major factor in the states' success to date has been large reductions in emissions of sulfur dioxide, a key precursor to visibility-impairing sulfates that historically comprised the major portion of visibility impairment in the MANEVU region; and

WHEREAS, since approximately 2020, the significant visibility improvement progress seen in the MANEVU region has now stalled; and

WHEREAS, the large reductions in sulfur dioxide have resulted in other haze forming pollutants, most notably nitrogen oxides, now contributing relatively larger shares to visibility impairment in the MANEVU region, and

WHEREAS, nitrates formed from nitrogen oxides are more stable in winter, and in recent years the poorest visibility days have shifted from warmer months to cooler months in the MANEVU region; and

WHEREAS, extending existing or developing new emission reduction requirements for nitrogen oxides to include not just the summer months but all months year-round would improve visibility in winter; and

WHEREAS, reductions in other haze-forming pollution, such as volatile organic compounds from wood combustion and diesel emissions, will also improve regional visibility.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MANEVU calls upon the EPA to assist the states in reinvigorating the path towards Congress's national visibility goal; and

FURTHERMORE, that the EPA ensure upwind states identified as contributing to visibility impairment in Class I areas include measures in their State Implementation Plans ensuring that reasonable progress is made at the downwind Class I areas; and

FURTHERMORE, that the EPA implement reasonable and cost-effective national measures that will assist states in meeting Congress's national visibility goal; and

FURTHERMORE, that the EPA provide robust technical support to the regional planning organizations in evaluating and implementing the most effective strategies to improve visibility in national parks and wilderness areas; and

FURTHERMORE, that the federal government provide adequate and timely funding and support to the regional planning organizations in order to bring back clear skies at our country's greatest scenic treasures.

Adopted by MANEVU June 11, 2025

Note: This resolution is of the MANEVU state and DC members only, and does not necessarily reflect endorsement by the MANEVU Tribal and federal partners.