

MANE-VU STATES START THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

MANE-VU Class I states have begun to consult with other states both within and outside the region about how to achieve improvements in visibility in MANE-VU Class I areas by 2018. Letters have been sent from the Environmental Commissioners/Secretaries from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New Jersey to their counterparts in states that contributed to visibility degradation in MANE-VU Class I areas in 2002, inviting feedback as they decide what reasonable progress goals to include in their State Implementation Plans (SIPs).

EPA rules require consultations with contributing states while setting goals for visibility improvement (called reasonable progress goals) and selecting the associated emission control measures needed to achieve those goals.

The basis for attributing contributions to states from within and outside MANE-VU is documented in “Contributions to Regional Haze in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic U.S.” The report indicates that all states in the analysis area contribute, to some degree, to reduced visibility at MANE-VU Class I sites.

REGIONAL HAZE SCIENCE MEETING SET

MANE-VU and the Midwest RPO are co-sponsoring a Science Meeting with a focus on airborne organic carbon particulate matter to be held in the Baltimore area on July 10-11th, 2007. The goal of the meeting is to present current science that can be used to inform policy. Expert presenters will address topics such as the modeling of secondary organic aerosol, source apportionment, measurement of atmospheric organic carbon, the contribution of mobile sources, and the challenge of distinguishing between biogenic and anthropogenic carbon. Discussion periods will allow policy makers and scientists to exchange ideas that clarify the impact of the science on policy decisions.

The meeting is open to the public. Pre-registration is required by June 18th. For draft agenda and other information about attending the science meeting please check the MARAMA website at <http://www.marama.org/calendar/>.

THANKS

MANE-VU would like to thank everyone who participated in the Fall 2006 MANE-VU Newsletter Survey. The input we received was very valuable and useful for composing the Spring Newsletter.



Main Lodge House, Campobello

IN THIS ISSUE...

GETTING THE DISCUSSION STARTED

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Basis for Consultation..... | 1 |
| Regional Haze | |
| Science Meeting Set..... | 1 |

REGIONAL COORDINATION

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Reasonable Progress | |
| Report Available..... | 2 |
| New Tool For BART | |
| Determinations..... | 3 |

VISIBILITY TRENDS

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Report Highlights..... | 3 |
|------------------------|---|

THE REGION'S WILD PLACES

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Great Gulf..... | 3 |
|-----------------|---|

Regional Haze SIP Development

REASONABLE PROGRESS PROJECT REPORT AVAILABLE

A draft report now available is helping MANE-VU states assess control measures that could reduce regional haze in the Class I areas in the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States and in Class I areas outside MANE-VU affected by emissions from within MANE-VU. The document, entitled “*Assessing Reasonable Progress for Regional Haze in the Mid-Atlantic Northeastern Class I Areas*” was written by MACTEC Federal Programs, Inc. hired by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Air Association, Inc. (MARAMA) on behalf of MANE-VU. The final report will be available by late June.

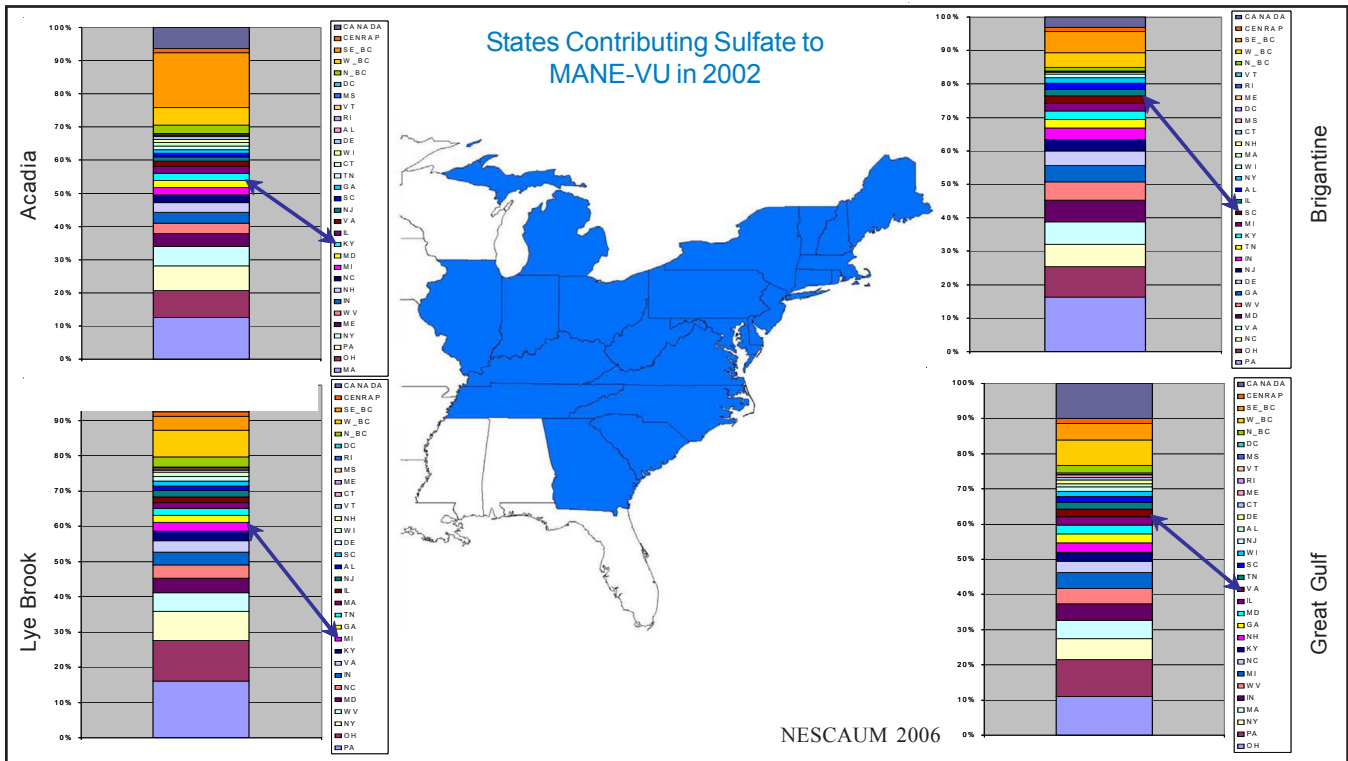
The MANE-VU Contribution Assessment (NESCAUM 2006) identified sulfate caused by SO₂ emissions from the states shown below as the largest contributor to visibility impairment in the Mid-Atlantic/Northeastern Class I areas. The Reasonable Progress Report 1) summarizes available information identifying pollutants, source categories, and specific sources affecting visibility in Class I areas in and

near MANE-VU, 2) lists control options considered for key source categories and sources, and 3) applies four factors (explained below) to each control measure for each source category. The Clean Air Act requires states to consider four factors in setting reasonable progress goals: cost, time necessary for compliance, energy and non-air environmental impacts, and the remaining useful life of affected sources.

The map below shows the states whose emissions caused at least two percent of the visibility impairment due to sulfate pollutants for MANE-VU Class I areas.

The bar charts show individual state contributions by area. Related project documents are available on the MARAMA website: <http://www.marama.org/visibility/RPG/index.html>.

The Regional Haze Rule requires that states with Class I areas establish goals for the amount of visibility improvement that is reasonable to expect by 2018.



NEW TOOL AVAILABLE FOR BART DETERMINATIONS

A new report from NESCAUM, *Five-Factor Analysis of BART Eligible Sources*, summarizes an approach to satisfy the BART requirements of the Regional Haze Rule. NESCAUM conducted a survey of state staff as to the applicability of the five factors to MANE-VU BART-eligible sources, yielding a region-wide perspective for states to consider in determining controls for various source categories.

This analysis will enable MANE-VU states to conduct their facility-specific BART determinations within the context of similar sources in the region. The analysis includes an examination of individual units' impacts on visibility in Class I areas based on CALPUFF modeling, an evaluation of existing or potential controls, and the feasibility of controls relative to the five factors identified in the BART guidance.

The document is available at <http://manevu.org>. For more information contact Gary Kleiman, gkleiman@nescaum.org.

BART SNAP SHOT

The 1999 EPA "Regional Haze Rule" [64 Fed. Reg. 35714 (July 1, 1999)] requires certain emission sources that "may reasonably be anticipated to cause or contribute" to visibility impairment in downwind Class I areas to install BART. These requirements are intended to reduce emissions specifically from large sources that, due to age, were exempted from other control requirements of the Clean Air Act.

Once a facility has been identified as BART-eligible and "subject" to BART, it must conduct an engineering review to determine if the installation of new control requirements is appropriate. This review takes into consideration five factors: (1) cost of controls, (2) energy and non-air quality environmental impacts, (3) existing controls at sources, (4) remaining useful life of source, and (5) visibility improvement reasonably expected from application of the controls.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE REGION'S WILD PLACES: GREAT GULF WILDERNESS

Within the rugged cradle of New Hampshire's Presidential Range lies the Great Gulf Wilderness Area. This peaked carpet begins at Mount Washington, unfurling north and east to cover the flanks of Mounts Jefferson, Adams, and Madison. Then, finally, it enfolds the Great Gulf, the largest cirque in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. From the headwall rising 1,100 feet to 1,600 feet above the bowl's bottom, the Gulf drops ruggedly east for about 3.5 miles, then flattens into more open country for another 1.5 miles.

A number of spur trails hook up to the Great Gulf Trail, which serves as the main artery for the area's trail network and cuts roughly east to west through the center of New Hampshire's oldest and smallest Wilderness. Beginning about 1.5 miles east of the Wilderness boundary, the trail traverses approximately five and a half miles of Wilderness and then continues toward the summit of Mount Washington. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail runs essentially perpendicular to the Great Gulf Trail as it takes in 2.7 miles of the Wilderness on its way from Georgia to Maine. In all, there are about 22 miles of maintained hiking trails within the Wilderness.



Photo © Kenneth C. Zirkel

<http://www.wilderness.net/>

VISIBILITY TRENDS

- Acadia National Park, Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, Lye Brook Wilderness Area, Dolly Sods, and Shenandoah National Park showed statistically significant improving visibility trends for the clearest days, according to an analysis for the 10-year period 1995-2004 performed by the National Park Service.
- No sites included in the analysis had a significant worsening trend on either the best or worst visibility days.

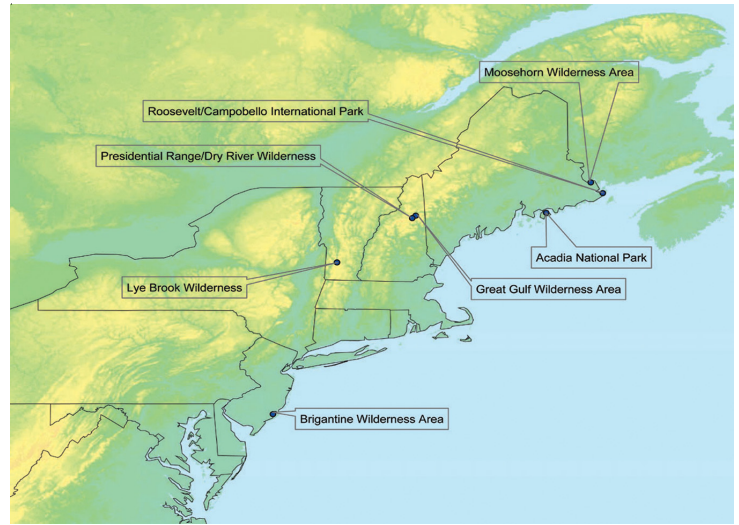
Source: *Spatial and Seasonal Patterns and Temporal Variability of Haze and its Constituents in the United States: Report IV*.
For a full story about the report see IMPROVE's 4th Quarter 2006 Newsletter at <http://vista.cira.colostate.edu>.

ABOUT MANE-VU

The Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union (MANE-VU) was formed by the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states, tribes, and federal agencies to coordinate regional haze planning activities for the region. MANE-VU encourages a coordinated approach to reducing visibility impairment in major national parks and wilderness areas in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region.

MANE-VU provides technical assessments and assistance to its members, leverages progress on other regional air pollution issues, provides a forum for consultation, and encourages coordinated actions, and coordination with other regions.

Section 169A of the Clean Air Act requires the “prevention of any future, and the remedying of any existing impairment of visibility in Class I areas which impairment results from manmade air pollution.” Class I areas are national parks exceeding 6000 acres, wilderness areas and national memorial parks exceeding 5000 acres, and all international parks in existence on August 7, 1977. There are 156 Class I areas in the United States, and seven in MANE-VU as shown on the map above.



Class I Areas in MANE-VU Region

MANE-VU MEMBERS

Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection
Gina McCarthy, Commissioner

Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
John Hughes, Secretary

District of Columbia Environmental Health Administration
George Hawkins, Acting Director

Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection
David Littell, Commissioner

Maryland Dept. of the Environment
Shari Wilson, Secretary

Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection
Arleen O'Donnell, Acting Commissioner

New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services
Thomas Burack, Commissioner

New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection
Lisa Jackson, Commissioner

New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Pete Grannis, Commissioner

Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
Kathleen McGinty, Secretary

Penobscot Indian Nation Dept. of Natural Resources
John Banks, Director

Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management
W. Michael Sullivan, Director

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division
Kenneth Jock, Director

Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Jeffrey Wennberg, Commissioner

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
Marcia Spink

U.S. National Park Service
Christine Shaver

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sandra V. Silva

U.S. Forest Service
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