



Joint Resolution by the Ozone Transport Commission and the Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union on the Need for Robust Future-Year Emissions Inventories

WHEREAS, the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC), a multi-state organization created under the Clean Air Act (CAA), is required to advise the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on practical and cost-effective strategies or measures, based on sound science, to address the environmental and health problems associated with high ground-level ozone levels in the states of the OTC; and

WHEREAS, approximately 30 million residents of the Ozone Transport Region (OTR) continue to be exposed to unhealthy levels of ozone air pollution; and

WHEREAS, states (which hereinafter include the District of Columbia) that contain areas in violation of the ozone NAAQS (i.e., nonattainment areas), which include states within the OTR, must submit plans for attaining and maintaining the ozone NAAQS; and

WHEREAS, these plans must demonstrate attainment with the ozone NAAQS based on future analysis years including, but not limited to, 2026 and 2032; 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, since approximately 2020, the significant visibility improvement progress seen in the MANEVU region has now stalled; and

WHEREAS, states are required to submit plans for making reasonable progress in visibility improvement at federal mandatory Class I areas such as natural parks and wilderness areas; and

WHEREAS, the next round of these plans must demonstrate reasonable progress based on a future analysis year of 2038; and

WHEREAS, photochemical modeling and associated emissions inventories are an essential part of developing approvable plans for meeting the ozone NAAQS and for demonstrating reasonable progress in visibility improvement; and

WHEREAS, at a minimum, states in the OTC/MANEVU region will require robust projected future-year emissions inventories and photochemical model runs for 2026, 2032, and 2038; and

WHEREAS, Section 103(a)(2) of the CAA requires EPA to “encourage, cooperate with, and render technical services...to air pollution control agencies...in the conduct of...activities” related to the prevention and control of air pollution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OTC and MANEVU call upon EPA to provide substantive and robust technical assistance in the development of projected future-year emission inventories of sufficient quality for use in states’ plans for attaining and maintaining the ozone NAAQS and for demonstrating reasonable progress in visibility improvement at federal mandatory Class I areas.

Adopted by the Commission and MANEVU June 3, 2026

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