Final Action to Extend BART Compliance Date for Units 1, 2, and 3 at the Reid Gardner Generating Station by 18-months

August 16, 2013

Today's Action

- EPA is taking final action to extend, by 18 months, the date by which Units 1, 2, and 3 at Reid Gardner Generating Station (RGGS) must meet limits to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), from January 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016.
- EPA required these units to meet emission limits in a previous action to implement the Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) requirement of the Regional Haze Rule. EPA proposed the extension based on supplemental information provided by Nevada Energy demonstrating that additional time was needed to design, procure and install new NO_x controls.
- The additional time would provide a total of 4 years from the effective date of the final BART determination for Nevada Energy, owner and operator of Units 1, 2, and 3 at RGGS, to comply. The final timeframe is consistent with the Clean Air Act, which requires BART controls to be installed as expeditiously as practicable, but no later than 5 years from the date of the final BART determination.
- Although the Nevada State Legislature and Governor recently approved a plan by Nevada Energy, called NVision, that includes early retirement of Units 1, 2, and 3 at RGGS by the end of 2014, EPA is taking final action to extend the compliance date for these units because NVision still requires review and approval by the Nevada Public Utilities Commission.

Background

- Regional Haze is visibility impairment caused by fine particle pollution. This haze obscures the view of scenery and objects at a distance, reducing the beauty of our protected natural areas.
- Under the Clean Air Act, Congress set a long-term goal of restoring natural visibility conditions in national parks and wilderness areas throughout the United States, known as Class 1 Areas. One of the strategies for achieving this goal is the use of Best Available Retrofit Technology at older power plants, such as RGGS, that cause or contribute to visibility impairment at Class I areas.
- RGGS is a 557 MW coal-fired power plant in southern Nevada, located adjacent to reservation lands of the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians.
- Based on their dates of construction, Units 1, 2 and 3, which are each 100 MW, are subject to the BART requirement of the Regional Haze Rule. Based on its date of construction, Unit 4, a 257 MW unit, is not subject to BART.
- On March 26, 2012, EPA took final action to approve most of Nevada's Regional Haze plan. Nevada's Regional Haze plan addressed all Nevada facilities that are subject to BART. At the

time, EPA did not take action on the portion of Nevada's plan related to controlling NOx emissions from RGGS.

- On August 23, 2012, EPA finalized a partial approval and partial disapproval of Nevada's plans for controlling NO_x at the RGGS. At the same time, EPA finalized a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for the disapproved portions of Nevada's plan related to RGGS. The FIP included, among other things, a compliance date of January 1, 2015.
- On March 26, 2013, EPA proposed a narrow revision of the FIP to extend the BART compliance date by 18 months, from January 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.
- EPA accepted comment on our proposed action for 60 days and held a public hearing at the Administration Building of the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians on April 29, 2013. EPA received written comment letters in support of our proposed action from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and Nevada Energy, and a written comment letter expressing no position on the proposed action from legal counsel representing the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, the Sierra Club, and the National Parks Conservation Association.
- Although the Nevada State Legislature and Governor recently approved a plan by Nevada Energy, called NVision, that includes early retirement of Units 1, 2, and 3 at RGGS by the end of 2014, EPA is taking final action to extend the compliance date for these units because NVision still requires review and approval by the Nevada Public Utilities Commission.
- Today's action finalizes the compliance date extension to June 30, 2016. The final action includes responses to oral comments made during the public hearing.
- The new air pollution controls at Reid Gardner are expected to cut NO_x emissions by 4,000 tons per year. We anticipate that the reduction of NO_x will reduce visibility impairment caused by RGGS by an average of 48 percent at 5 Class I areas within 300 km of the facility.

For more information, please visit: http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/nv.html#haze