U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

Reconsideration of BART Compliance Date for Reid Gardner Generating Station
Proposed 18-month Extension of Compliance Date

March 15, 2013

Today's Action

- EPA is granting a petition, filed by Nevada Energy, to reconsider the date Units 1, 2, and 3 at Reid Gardner Generating Station (RGGS) must meet limits to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx). These emission limits were required in a previous action under the Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) requirement of the Regional Haze Rule.
- This action also proposes to extend the compliance date by 18 months, from January 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, based on supplemental information provided by Nevada Energy demonstrating that additional time was needed to design, procure and install new NOx controls.
- The proposed additional time would allow Nevada Energy a total of 4 years from the effective date of the final BART determination to comply. The proposed 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.

Background

- 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 Best Available Retrofit Technology (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 the 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 partial approval and partial disapproval of Nevada's plans for controlling NOx 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. Today's action is limited to one aspect of the FIP, the compliance date, and proposes an 18-month extension of that date to June 30, 2016.

- The State and Federal controls in the Regional Haze plan are designed to meet emissions limits of 0.20 lb/MMBtu and are expected to cut NOx emissions by 4,000 tons per year. We anticipate that the reduction of NOx will reduce visibility impairment caused by RGGS by an average of 48% at 5 Class I areas within 300 km of the facility.
- 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 numerous 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, such as Jarbidge Wilderness Area in Nevada. EPA and the State also evaluated Nevada's regional haze impacts on neighboring states' Class I areas, such as the Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon.

Next Steps

- EPA will accept comments on our proposed 18-month extension of the compliance date at RGGS for 60 days after the date of publication in the Federal Register. EPA also intends to hold a public hearing; the date and time will be announced in the Federal Register and at http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/nv.html#haze

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