From: Zimpfer, Amy
To: Jordan, Deborah; Lee, Anita; McKaughan, Colleen; Lyons, Ann; Spiegelman, Nina
Subject: FW: OAR Shout Out
Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 12:32:44 PM

Major, Major thumbs up!!!

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From: McCabe, Janet
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 12:14 PM
To: OAR-WIDE-EVERYONE; Air Division Directors and Deputies
Subject: OAR Shout Out

Yesterday our Region 9 colleagues announced the Agency's final plan (known as a federal implementation plan or FIP) to substantially reduce NOx emissions from the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) on tribal land in Arizona. This action, under the CAA Regional Haze program, will reduce NOx emissions by 80 percent and significantly improve visibility at 11 national parks and wilderness areas, including the Grand Canyon, Mesa Verde, Zion, Bryce Canyon and the Petrified Forest. A large portion of the NGS' power generation supports water movement to the Navajo Nation and other tribes in Arizona, nearby agricultural lands, and other areas, and tribal water rights and other trust responsibilities are implicated.

Why is this such a noteworthy accomplishment? This is the culmination of years of extensive analysis and outreach with multiple stakeholders working to balance competing interests. The NGS is the largest coal plant west of the Mississippi, is located on tribal lands, employs over 500 Native Americans, and has six different owners - including DOI's Bureau of Reclamation, the Salt River Project, the LA Department of Water and Power, Arizona Public Service, NV Energy and Tucson Electric Power. It is truly one of the most complex situations I have ever been involved with.

Another noteworthy part of this decision is that what we finalized was not our proposal, but an alternative developed by the Technical Work Group on NGS, made up of representatives from the Salt River Project, the DOI, the Navajo Nation, the Gila River Indian Community, the Environmental Defense Fund and others. This group developed an agreement that formed the basis of a Supplemental Proposal last October. The agreement, known as "better than BART" (BART = Best Available Retrofit Technology) will allow more flexibility and provide lower lifetime emissions of NOx from this power plant. Region 9 held five public hearings across Arizona, including the Navajo and Hopi Reservations, held 50 (50!) tribal consultations, and sorted through over 77,000 comments. A big thanks to the Region 9 project lead, Anita Lee, and the many others in Region 9, OGC, and OAR who contributed to the success of this effort.

This decision is the latest in the series of Regional Haze decisions EPA has made over the past several years to implement the visibility provisions of the Clean Air Act. In most cases we have approved state plans, but in a few situations we have promulgated FIPs or partial FIPs for states and, in the case of NGS and the Four Corners plant, which are both in Indian Country, EPA has promulgated FIPs as the original regulating agency. NGS is just one example of stakeholders working together to develop a plan that makes sense for them and meets the requirements of the Act. Altogether, the plans developed by the states and EPA will reduce pollution across the country by thousands of tons, protecting our country's most wild and special places, and improving public health along the way.

Janet