

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
PUBLIC NOTICE START DATE: JUNE 19, 2023  
REVISED DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: AUGUST 18, 2023

**I. Revised Notice of Public Hearing:** The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will hold a **virtual** public hearing, in lieu of an in-person hearing, to receive comments regarding the proposed Mississippi Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision. (Note that the previously scheduled in-person hearing for July 19, 2023 has been canceled.) The virtual public hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 12:00 PM (Noon) Central Time. Participation in the public hearing will be available online via the Zoom meeting application. To participate in the online hearing, interested persons will need to visit [www.mdeq.ms.gov/air/regional-haze](http://www.mdeq.ms.gov/air/regional-haze) and click the link to register at least two (2) hours prior to the start of the hearing if they wish to attend. Additional instructions for registration and participation will be posted on this website.

**II. Substance of the Proposed Actions:** In Section 169A of the 1977 Amendments to the Clean Air Act (CAA), Congress set forth a program for protecting visibility in Class I areas that calls for the "prevention of any future, and the remedying of any existing, impairment of visibility caused by anthropogenic (manmade) air pollution." In the 1990 Amendments to the CAA, Congress added section 169B and called on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue regional haze rules. The regional haze rule that EPA promulgated on July 1, 1999, revised the existing visibility regulations to integrate provisions addressing regional haze impairment and established a comprehensive visibility protection program for mandatory federal Class I areas. MDEQ submitted the initial regional haze plan to EPA for the first planning period (i.e., 2009-2018) on September 22, 2008. This plan was subsequently approved by EPA on June 27, 2012. Paragraph 40 CFR 51.308(f) of the 1999 rule required states to submit periodic comprehensive revisions of their regional haze plans by July 31, 2018, and every ten years thereafter. This plan revision was prepared for the second planning period, which addresses years 2019 to 2028. The plan revision also addresses the requirement for periodic progress reports pursuant to 40 CFR 51.308(g). A progress report is specifically included in Section 13 of the plan revision narrative.

**III. Manner by which the Public May Comment:** Oral statements recorded during the hearing as well as written statements regarding this proposed action will be considered by the MDEQ. Written statements must be delivered by 5:00 PM on Friday, August 18, 2023, to the attention of Carla Brown at MDEQ, Office of Pollution Control, Air Division, P.O. Box 2261, Jackson, MS 39225 or emailed to [cbrown@mdeq.ms.gov](mailto:cbrown@mdeq.ms.gov). The only matter under consideration is the adoption of the Regional Haze SIP Revision, and comments should be restricted to this matter.

**IV. Additional Information:** A copy of the Regional Haze SIP narrative and related documentation will be available for public review through Friday, August 18, 2023, online at <https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/air/regional-haze/>. This information is also available at the MDEQ office located at 515 E. Amite St., Jackson, MS by contacting the Public Records Officer at 601-961-5171 or by completing the online form available at <https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/about-mdeq/public-records-request/>. Per 40 CFR 51.308(f)(5), the required 60-day Federal Land Manager (FLM) consultation period for the SIP revision was held from December 14, 2022 to February 13, 2023. Comments received from the FLMs are available in Appendix G of the SIP revision. Questions regarding the Regional Haze SIP Revision may be directed to Carla Brown at 601-961-5561 or [cbrown@mdeq.ms.gov](mailto:cbrown@mdeq.ms.gov).