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Regional Haze/Clean Air Act: U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Reopens Public Comment Period for Proposed Arkansas Federal Implementation Plan (Limited to Certain Calculations)

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The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") in an April 4th Federal Register Notice announced the reopening of the comment period for a proposed rule to establish a Clean Air Act Federal Implementation Plan ("FIP") to address regional haze and visibility transport requirements for the State of Arkansas. See 81 Fed. Reg. 19097.

EPA states that the reopening of the comment period is limited to the agency's calculations of revised RPGs for Arkansas' Class I areas.

A FIP is a federally implemented plan to achieve air quality standards.

EPA published in the Federal Register on April 8, 2015 a proposal to establish a FIP for the State of Arkansas addressing regional haze and visibility transport. See 80 Fed. Reg. 18944. The proposed FIP would include emission limits for sources in Arkansas.

EPA states that it is announcing the availability in the docket supplemental information on which it relied in preparing the proposed Arkansas FIP. This information is stated to have been inadvertently omitted from the docket at the time the FIP was proposed. The agency further notes:

In our proposed rule published on April 8, 2015, we proposed revised RPGs for the 20% worst days for Arkansas' Class I areas, the Caney Creek and Upper Buffalo Wilderness Areas (80 FR at 18998). Our revised RPGs and our methodology for calculating the revised RPGs were discussed in detail in our proposal and in our technical support documentation, which was made available in the docket when the proposed rule was published on April 8, 2015. However, a spreadsheet containing the actual calculations of our revised RPGs was inadvertently omitted from the docket. Therefore, the reopening of the comment period is strictly limited to our calculations of the revised RPGs, as presented in the spreadsheet we are making available at this time in the docket. The reopening of the comment period does not apply to our general methodology for calculating the revised RPGs, to the numerical values of the revised RPGs, or to any other aspects or portions of our proposed rule, for which we have previously provided opportunity for public comment.

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