

03/14/2025

Kevin J. McOmber
Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

Re: Georgia's Regional Haze Progress Report for the Second Planning Period

Dear Mr. McOmber:

With this letter, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is submitting for approval the Regional Haze Progress Report for the Second Planning Period, which includes the years 2019 to 2028. This progress report was prepared in accordance with regulatory requirements in 40 CFR 51.308(g) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) guidance for implementing the rule to comply with Section 169 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The Regional Haze Rule requires each state to periodically submit a report to the EPA evaluating progress towards reasonable progress goals (RPGs). Visibility improvements are measured through RPGs that apply to each mandatory Class I Federal area located within the State and to each mandatory Class I Federal area located outside the State that may be affected by emissions from within the State.

Georgia EPD prepared a long-term strategy in order to establish RPGs for three Class I areas within its borders: Cohutta Wilderness Area, Okefenokee National Wilderness Area, and Wolf Island National Wilderness Area. The predicted reductions in visibility impairment are expected to result from implementation of existing and planned emission control programs. This document is intended to address the requirements of 40 CFR 51.308(g) requiring periodic reports evaluating progress toward RPGs.

Georgia's Regional Haze Progress Report includes the following elements:

- A progress report addressing the requirements of 40 CFR 51.308(g)(1) through (5) and 40 CFR 51.308(h); and
- Documentation of consultation with other states, EPA, and Federal Land Managers (FLMs).

On November 12, 2024, Georgia EPD submitted the draft report to FLMs from the following agencies: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), and U.S. Forest Service (FS). On November 19, 2024, the NPS notified Georgia EPD that they did not plan on providing consultation feedback on the progress report. On December 12, 2024, the FWS notified

Georgia EPD that they did not plan on providing formal comments on the progress report. The FS did not provide any comments to Georgia EPD. Records of Georgia EPD's FLM consultation correspondence is included in Appendix A of the Regional Haze Progress Report.

On January 28, 2025, Georgia EPD issued a public notice via GovDelivery.com requesting comments on the proposed progress report. The public comment period ended on February 28, 2025. In a letter dated February 24, 2025, EPA notified Georgia EPD that they had no comments on the progress report. EPA's no comment letter has been included in Appendix B of the Regional Haze Progress Report. No public comments were received during the comment period.

This progress report is being submitted via EPA's State Planning Electronic Collaboration System (SPeCS).

We look forward to your review and approval of this progress report. Should you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact Elisabeth Munsey at Elisabeth.Munsey@dnr.ga.gov or (470) 251-4736.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey W. Cown
Director

JWC:db
Enclosures

c: Brad Akers, EPA Region 4
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