

From: JS
To: ME; KM
Date: 2/20/2008 11:41:04 AM
Subject: Fwd: 2007-016-SIP-NR

Regional Haze comment letter received via eComments system.

>>> TRRules 2/20/2008 10:44 AM >>>

>>> <info@cleanhouston.org> 2/20/2008 10:02 AM >>>
02/20/2008 10:02 AM

This email is a confirmation of the comment that was submitted for the referenced rulemaking.

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Rule: 2007-016-SIP-NR

Comments:

The Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA) requires the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to adopt regulations to reduce visibility impairment resulting "from manmade air pollution."

After nearly a decade since a federal mandate to improve air quality, the state plan to reduce pollutants that obscure the vistas of Big Bend and Guadalupe National Parks is inadequate with regards to its current compliance dates. The TCEQ's deadlines to reduce haze to levels that comply with the Clean Air Act of 2064 for Big Bend and 2080 for Guadalupe are unacceptable as these are among Texas' treasures. Texans should not have to wait this long.

According to the Sierra Club, reduction in emissions from coal fired power plants would allow TCEQ to revise the SIP to make improvements in visibility within as little as five years. An interagency study in 2004 found that sulfur emissions from coal fired power plants contributed to a larger proportion of haze in Big Bend than previously suspected.

CLEAN urges TCEQ to not to wait any longer and take action to reduce emissions it can control to protect our national parks.