

Office of the Governor

June 13, 2013

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Bob Perciasepe
Acting Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Docket ID No. EPA-R08-OAR-2012-0026 (EPA revised proposal regarding the Wyoming Regional Haze State Implementation Plan) – State of Wyoming’s request to reschedule public hearing, to hold two public hearings, and to extend public comment period

Dear Acting Administrator Perciasepe,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) gave notice of the agency’s revised proposal regarding the Wyoming Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP) on June 10, 2013. The EPA has scheduled a public hearing for June 24, 2013 on the revised proposal. A June 24th date, which follows the notice by a mere two weeks, provides insufficient time for the State, industry, and the people who live in impacted communities to analyze the new proposal and prepare for the hearing, including testimony.

A rushed hearing is like no hearing at all because the State and others will not have a meaningful opportunity to participate with such short notice. I request that EPA reschedule the public hearing date sixty days later than is currently scheduled. I also request that EPA hold two public hearings in Wyoming to allow for greater public involvement. Lastly, I ask that the deadline for the comment period be extended until thirty days after the last public hearing takes place so the State and others can assimilate the information and submit comprehensive comments.

The EPA has initiated detailed conversations with individuals and groups about the cost of emissions controls and related issues and those conversations have continued for many months. Wyoming, the State most affected by those conversations, has not been contacted and has only weeks to review a radically new proposal that could conceivably result in significant utility rate increases, possible layoffs or even plant closures.

The SIP developed by the State is sensible, follows the intent of the Regional Haze Rule, and

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will accomplish the goals of that rule by the compliance date. The changes in EPA's new proposal would require new and different emissions controls for a number of Wyoming facilities. The controls are more restrictive and will cost industry hundreds of millions of dollars more than under the SIP. These increased costs will ultimately be borne by the ratepayers. We need to be good stewards of the environment, and at the same time we need to balance economic impacts against negligible visibility improvement. EPA's latest proposal, which will profoundly affect Wyoming and surrounding states, needs to be fully reviewed, aired and commented upon – not hurried.

I ask the EPA to accept my three reasonable requests outlined in the second paragraph of this letter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:mdm

cc: The Honorable Mike Enzi, U.S. Senate
The Honorable John Barrasso, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Cynthia Lummis, House of Representatives
Shawn McGrath, Regional Administrator EPA, Region 8 (via Federal Express)
Carl Daly, Director, Air Program EPA, Region 8 (via Federal Express)