STATEMENT OF THE MID-ATLANTIC / NORTHEAST VISIBILITY UNION (MANE-VU)
CONCERNING A REQUEST FOR A COURSE OF ACTION BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)
TOWARD ASSURING REASONABLE PROGRESS

The US Clean Air Act and the EPA Regional Haze rule require States that are reasonably anticipated to cause or contribute to impairment of visibility in mandatory Class I Federal areas to implement reasonable measures to reduce visibility impairment within the national parks and wilderness areas designated as mandatory Class I Federal areas.

Most pollutants that affect visibility also cause unhealthy concentrations of ozone and fine particles, and contribute to other adverse environmental impacts. In order to assure protection of public health and the environment, air pollutant emission reductions required to meet the 2018 reasonable progress goal for regional haze should be achieved as soon as practicable.

MANE-VU assessments indicate that sulfur dioxide emissions from power plants in a broad region of the Eastern US are the most important contributor to regional haze at mandatory Class I Federal areas within MANE-VU.

By 2018, emissions from these plants will be substantially reduced under requirements of EPA’s Clean Air Interstate Rule. This will result in improved visibility at MANE-VU Class I areas.

However, even after implementation of the CAIR rule, emissions from power plants will remain a substantial source of pollutants contributing to visibility impairment in MANE-VU Class I areas.

Furthermore, under more stringent national ambient air quality standards, these same pollutants will continue to contribute to ozone pollution and fine particle pollution in nonattainment areas within the region.

Therefore, it is an important responsibility of both EPA and the MANE-VU states to determine whether additional emissions reductions at power

444 North Capitol Street, NW ~ Suite 638 ~ Washington, DC 20001
202.508.3840 p ~ 202.508.3841 f
www.mane-vu.org
plants should be a part of a reasonably available strategy to improve visibility in the MANE-VU region.

MANE-VU sponsored additional modeling using the Integrated Planning Model (IPM\textsuperscript{®}). Results of this modeling indicate that an additional 18\% emissions reduction in SO2 emissions beyond CAIR levels could be achieved by 2018 at a reasonable cost.

The MANE-VU states and tribes request that EPA work with the eastern Regional Planning Organizations to develop a proposal for tightening the CAIR program to achieve an additional 18\% reduction in SO2 by no later than 2018.

Adopted by the MANE-VU States and Tribes on June 20, 2007

David Littell, Commissioner – Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection Chair