

THE 2019 SULFUR DIOXIDE MILESTONE REPORT

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1. Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and its impact on visibility
2. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Regional Haze Rule
3. Albuquerque – Bernalillo County's Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP)
4. The 2019 SO₂ Milestone Report on regional emissions
5. Public participation process

What is Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) and how can it impact visibility?

- Gas made up of sulfur and oxygen
- Can be emitted by some human activities
 - Local example: GCC Rio Grande, a Portland cement manufacturing plant in Tijeras
- SO₂ can combine with other substances to form particles in air
 - These particles can obscure visibility (haze)
 - History of visibility problems at national parks / wildernesses

The EPA's Regional Haze Rule

- Protects visibility at certain federal lands
 - Not a public health standard like the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)
- Applies at 156 national parks / wildernesses (Class I Areas)
 - New Mexico has nine Class I Areas
 - Closest one to Albuquerque – Bernalillo County is the Bandelier Wilderness
- States must adopt plans to improve visibility at these areas
 - These plans address human-caused emissions and visibility impairment
 - Goal: natural visibility by 2064

Mandatory Class I Areas

CLASS I AREAS

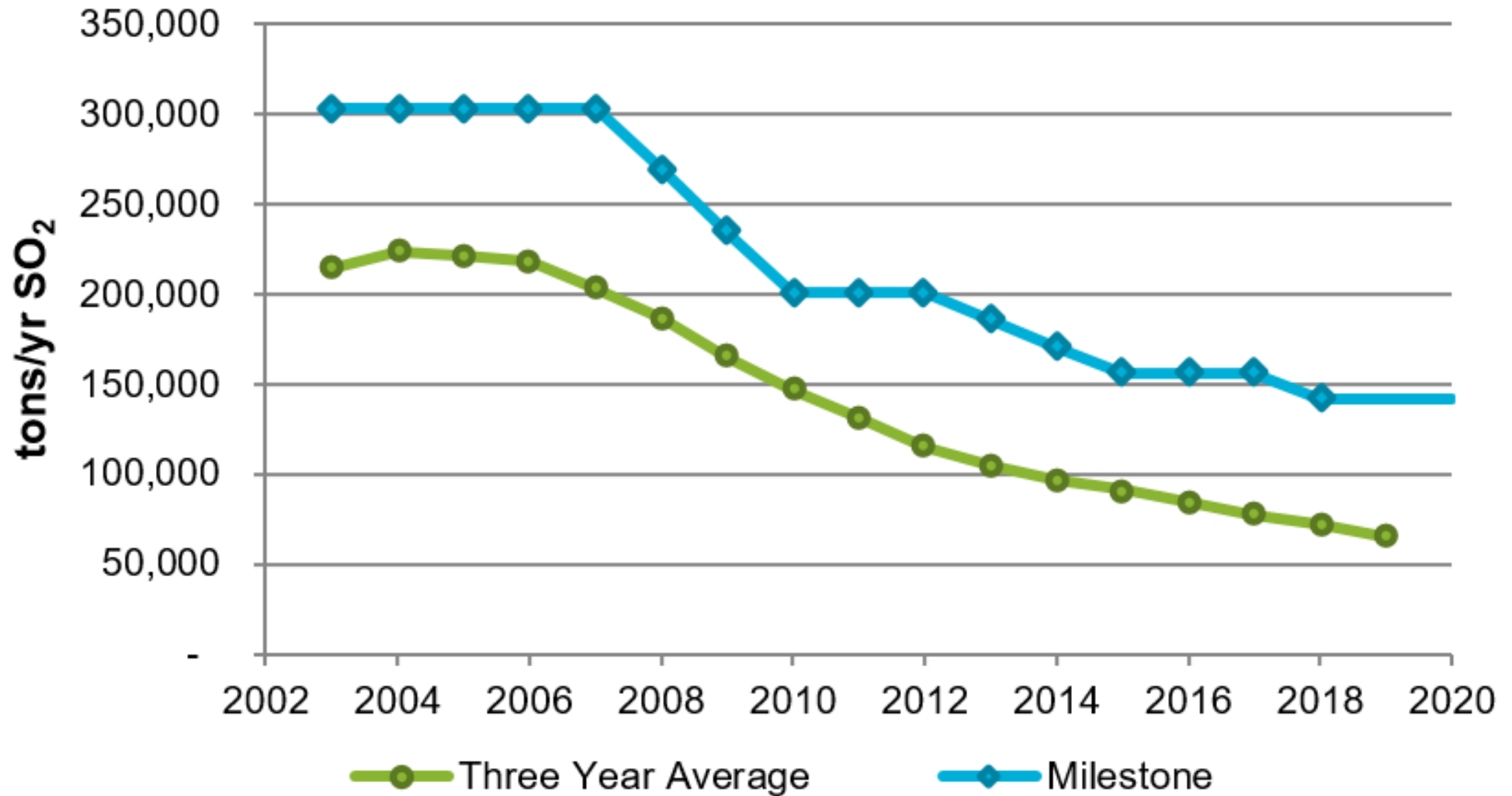


Albuquerque – Bernalillo County's Regional Haze SIP

- First adopted in 2003
 - Revised and subsequently adopted in both 2008 and 2011
 - Approved by EPA in 2012 = Federally enforceable
 - Covers the years 2003 through 2018, but certain provisions continue into future years
- Among other components, it addresses SO₂
 - Set annual milestones for regional (NM, ABQ, UT, WY) emissions from large sources (100+ tons of SO₂ per year)
 - Annual reports from these large sources are required
 - If regional emissions > milestone, activate controls

EMISSION TRENDS

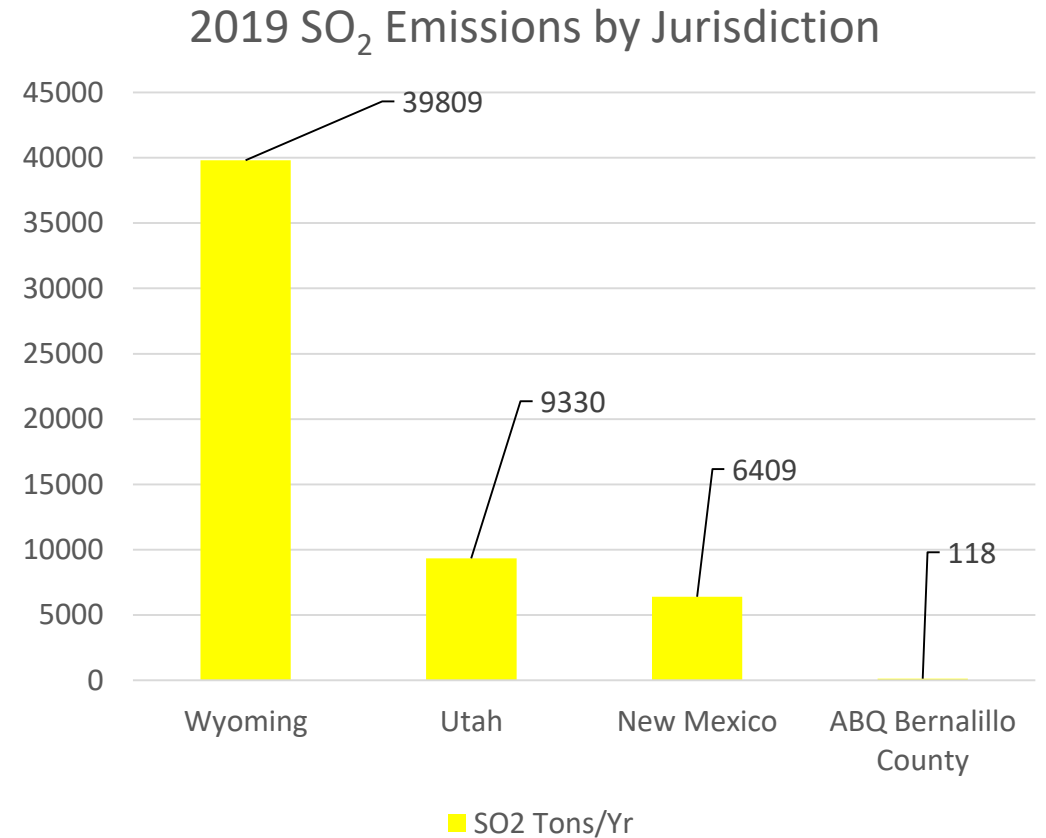
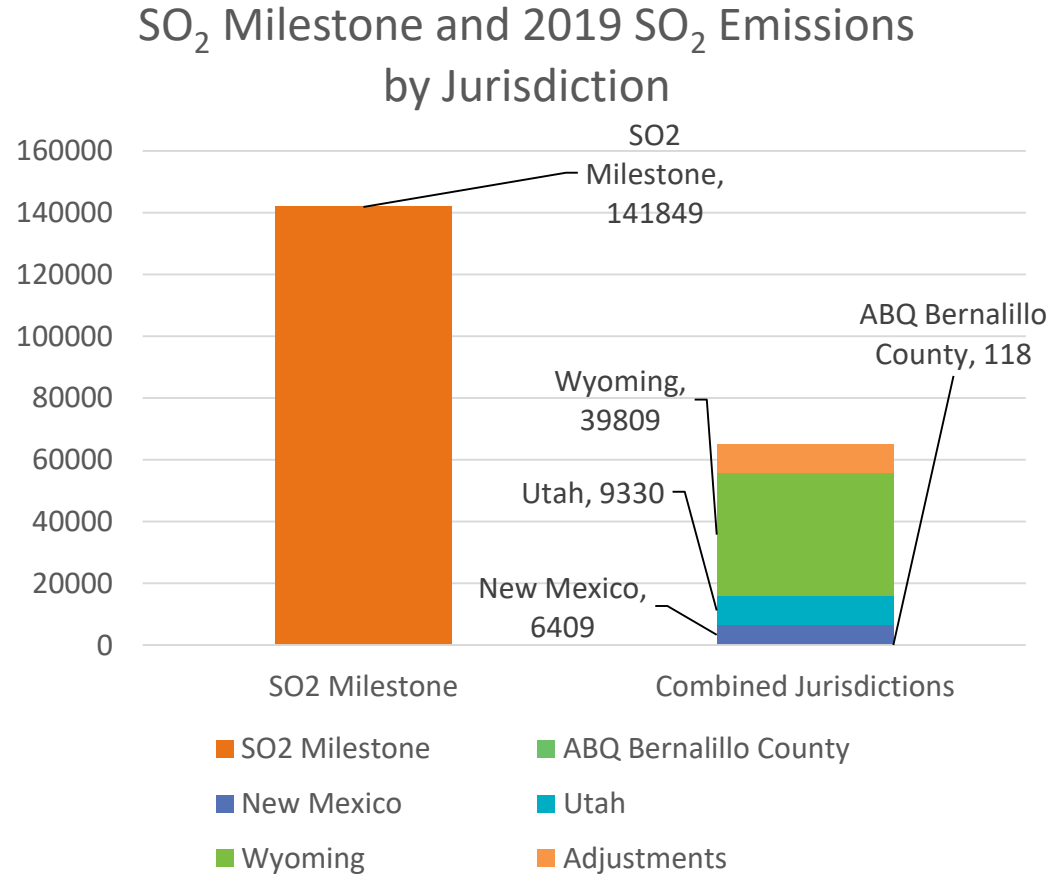
SO₂ Milestones and Emission Trends New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Albuquerque-Bernalillo



2019 SO₂ Milestone Report on Regional Emissions

- Report is a “backstop” to existing emission controls
 - If milestone is exceeded, then an emissions trading program (20.11.46 NMAC) is activated in the region
 - 2018 SO₂ Regional Milestone: 141,849 tons
 - If annual regional emissions are below milestone, then participating states (NM, ABQ, UT, WY) continue with current processes
 - 2019 SO₂ Regional Emissions: 65,001 tons (76,847 tons *below* milestone)
- Albuquerque – Bernalillo County participated starting with the 2018 Report because one source (GCC Rio Grande Inc.) had actual SO₂ emissions > 100 tons per year
 - GCC 2018 SO₂ emissions: 126 tons per year
 - GCC 2019 SO₂ emissions: 118 tons per year

The 2019 Milestone has not been Exceeded



Therefore: the backstop SO₂ emissions trading program is not triggered.

Public Participation Process for 2019 Report

- Public comment period: March 1 to March 31, 2021
- Notice of public comment: ABQ Journal, website, email listserv
- Air Board meetings:
 - March 10, 2021: in person (virtual) public comment on draft report
 - April 14, 2021: review / consider approval of final report
- Submit final report to EPA
- EHD notice of final determination that milestone has been met



QUESTIONS?

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REFERENCES

- Albuquerque Journal. *Notice of Availability for Public Comment: Draft 2019 Regional Sulfur Dioxide Emissions and Milestone Report*. March 1, 2021. <https://d3el53au0d7w62.cloudfront.net/wp-content/gallery/legalads/03-01-2021-CABQ-NOTICE-OF-AVAILABILITY-FOR-PUBLIC-COMMENT-1510604.pdf.pdf>
- Air Quality Control Board's Website. *Legal Notices*. February 25, 2021. <http://www.cabq.gov/airquality/air-quality-control-board/public-review-drafts/legal-notices>
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