

Class I Areas & the Federal Land Managers

Class I areas are afforded the most protection under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program and little air quality deterioration is allowed within these regions. Congress identified mandatory Class I areas throughout the United States based upon national/regional value due to natural, scenic, recreational, and/or historic worth. Figure 1, displays the three, Class I areas that can trigger a review for Missouri applicants: Hercules Glades Wilderness Area, the Mingo Wildlife Refuge and the Upper Buffalo Wilderness Area that is located in the State of Arkansas.





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The Federal Land Managers (FLMs) are required to identify, and subsequently protect, air quality related values (AQRVs) in Federal Class I areas or other federal lands as deemed necessary. In 2010, the FLMs issued revised recommendations for evaluating impacts within Class I areas in the document entitled [“Federal Land Managers’ Air Quality Related Values Work Group \(FLAG\) Phase I Report-Revised \(2010\).”](#)

The FLAG Phase I Report indicates that the permit granting authority should notify the FLM of all applications that fall within 100-kilometers of a Class I area. In addition, notification should be provided for any “large” source that is greater than 100-kilometers from a Class I area. The document suggests that an initial screening test based upon the size and distance of the source should be used to determine if the proposed emissions are large enough to potentially impact a Class I area.

The initial screening test that was developed by the FLMs applies to any source that is greater than 50-kilometers from a Class I area and is based upon the sum of the annual potential to emit from the new source or modification. If the sum of the annual emissions divided by the distance to the Class I area is less than or equal to ten, no further analysis will be necessary provided the FLM concurs with the conclusions that are reached. If, on the other hand, a facility is located within 50-kilometers, an evaluation of Class I impacts will be required regardless of the emissions totals.

It is important to note that an initial screening distance for increment evaluations has not been defined. The requirement to conduct a cumulative increment evaluation will be made on a case by case basis in consultation with the FLM.

The FLM’s for each Class I area noted in Figure 1 are provided below. The department’s Air Pollution Control Program should be copied on all correspondence with the FLM.

Hercules Glades Wilderness Area

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Mingo Wildlife Refuge

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Upper Buffalo Wilderness Area

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