



## **Senator Thune Leads Bipartisan Group on Letter to the EPA regarding Regional Haze Issue**

Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) is pleased to honor Sen. John Thune for leading the South Dakota and North Dakota delegation in sending a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the regional haze issue in Wyoming.

Sens. Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), and Reps. Kristi Noem (R-SD) and Kevin Cramer (R-ND) all signed on to the letter. Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN) sent his own letter to the EPA regarding the same issue.

The regional haze issue directly affects the Laramie River Station (LRS) and is an issue of major concern for MRES and its members.

Under the Clean Air Act, emissions restrictions are established to protect visibility in National Parks and other “Class 1” areas. In general, these regional haze standards are set by the states, with the federal EPA rarely intervening.

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (Wyoming DEQ) – which has primary responsibility for setting regional haze standards for LRS – entered a settlement agreement with the plant’s owners requiring installation of low-NOx burners with overfire air and non-selective catalytic reduction (NSCR). These improvements are estimated to cost more than \$60 million and will improve visibility at Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota.

In its initial review, EPA determined that installation of NSCR’s was okay and installation of selective catalytic reduction (SCR) was too costly to justify the incremental improvement in visibility. Unfortunately, in December 2012, EPA notified Wyoming DEQ that it was reconsidering the issue and in May 2013 EPA issued a new proposal rejecting key elements of the Wyoming plan and requiring the installation of SCR. SCR’s will cost \$750 million with very little improvement.

MRES and its members thank Sen. Thune for his lead on this letter. We also thank the others from the South Dakota delegation, the entire North Dakota delegation, and Rep. Peterson for also bringing this important, and potentially very costly, issue to the attention of the EPA.