

Figure 21. National Park/Federal Lands and Nearby Urban Area Trends in Fourth Highest Daily Maximum 8-Hour Ozone from 1990–2003.

Looking Toward the Future

Reductions in NO_x and VOC emissions associated with upcoming national and regional regulations should result in major improvements in ozone levels over the next 10 to 20 years. EPA estimates that regulations for mobile and stationary sources will cut NO_x emissions by 7 million tons annually in 2015 from 2001 levels. VOC emissions will be cut by 3 million tons annually in 2015 compared to 2001 levels. New national mobile source regulations, which will reduce both NO_x and VOCs, will affect heavy-duty diesel engines, highway vehicles, and other mobile sources. As Figure 22 shows, most of the NO_x and VOC reductions for mobile sources are associated with continuing improvements in on-road vehicles. National and regional control programs to reduce utility emissions, in particular the NO_x SIP Call, will reduce NO_x emissions from electric generating units and industrial boilers across the East. In fact, reductions can already be seen in 2003, where NO_x emissions from electric utilities and on-road motor vehicles are 1.4 million tons less than 2001 levels. For VOCs, 2003 emissions from on-road motor vehicles are nearly 1 million tons less than 2001 levels.

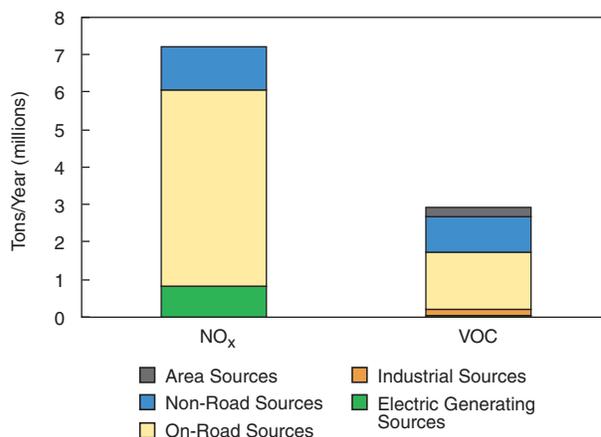


Figure 22. Expected Reductions in NO_x and VOCs in 2015.