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New President Remarks
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I consider it a great honor to be chosen to serve as president of the National Hydropower Association, and I dedicate myself to doing the best job I can over the coming year.

For more than 25 years, I have worked in hydro. It has been a tremendous experience. Throughout the 1980s, I watched the “hydro gold rush” unfold ... and then retreat. Following passage of the Electric Consumers Protection Act in 1986, I saw our industry constrict as the full implications of the Act became apparent.

Yet, more than anything else, that legislation thrust our industry into the realities that we would need to face in the 21st century. It was this wake-up call that succeeded in bringing together people from our previously sleepy industry to advocate for hydro.

Throughout my journey, I have been privileged to associate with many great people ... people working earnestly to solve real problems.

Today is a very exciting time in hydro. While it may seem surprising from our perspective in the United States, more hydropower is now under development worldwide than at any time in history. In addition, here at home, there’s more activity focused on new projects and project improvements than at any time in *recent* history.

This did not “just happen.” For more than 20 years, the U.S. National Hydropower Association – as well as regional, other national, and international associations – have worked diligently to pave a solid path for hydropower’s future – a future where the sound, sustainable production of hydroelectricity is a vital contributor to human welfare.

As we all know, hydropower makes eminent good sense: it’s renewable, it’s domestic, and has minimal emissions. With good design and modern technology, hydro can provide much needed energy – and without undue environmental effects.

There are numerous opportunities for enhancing hydropower’s contributions – including upgrades and incremental additions, conduit applications, development at existing dams ... *and* new projects. We also can foster cutting-edge technologies that will someday make important contributions to electricity supply.

Does this sound rosy? Of course, it does!

It will be necessary for us to take important and difficult steps to help usher in the industry’s promising future.

The situation we face is that:

--Most people in the U.S. are quite favorable toward hydropower – yet, many of our policy makers are less than enthusiastic.

--The Department of Energy has no – *zero, nada* – budget for pursuing hydro R&D. This in spite of favorable results and promising directions of federal R&D that was previously supported – in particular for advanced turbines that can produce more electricity with less water *and* can solve environmental problems.

-- And, in spite of improvements, the process for licensing remains extremely costly and time consuming. Are the results we are getting today commensurate to the efforts required?

--And now, as we are getting serious about emerging ocean, tidal, and kinetic technologies, the threat looms of passing on to them a legacy of a balkanized and possibly even hostile approval processes. Do we really want this?

Hydro and new water-based technologies have so much to contribute: Any way you look at it, there are opportunities for tens of thousands of new megawatts from both conventional and new resources!

How can we possibly get from here to there?

I believe it's by: Communicating. Educating. Informing.

Capitol Hill needs to know about hydro. More than 140 senators and representatives in the new Democratic congress are on committees having influence over policies affecting hydro. These congressmen and women need to know what hydro can do – how hydro can help our nation address its energy problems!

NHA already has stepped up its government affairs program, and will need to continue to strengthen its capabilities.

Agencies also need to know more about hydro. Many agencies have single purpose agendas. We need to understand their agendas, and they need to know how we can work together to address their concerns. If we don't have immediate solutions, let's work on finding solutions.

The environmental community needs to be better informed about hydro. A top environmental concern today – many declare it the Number One concern – is global warming. It's time that our industry work more collaboratively to pursue constructive approaches to climate change concerns. In addressing the problem of reducing CO₂ emissions, the benefits of hydropower are huge. Yet, in today's world, we cannot assume that these benefits will be recognized; our earnest efforts are needed.

Even the hydropower community needs to know more about hydro. Each of us – that's me *and* you – needs to be prepared to tell hydropower's story. If possible, we need to come to Washington and speak to our elected officials. We also need to be active in our local communities. And, at the very least, we need to be able to write or e-mail policymakers to share with them our views about hydropower and its benefits. Further,

we need to know *why* we are supporting organizations such as the National Hydropower Association.

In less than two years, the U.S. will have a presidential election. As a new political future takes shape between now and then, hydro can start laying ground to become a more meaningful part of our nation's energy future – rather than being ignored, as often in the past. However, we *must* get the right messages to the right people. That's something we need to be doing *now*. The possibilities are electrifying – and, I hope, *hydro* electrifying. Yet, it won't happen *unless* we as an industry work together – to reach, to stretch to meet this challenge. We need to ratchet up our commitment to match the opportunity before us.

I ask each of you to work with me in pushing through to the other side. It's more than just doing good business and providing good service – it's about our future, our children's and our grandchildren's future.

I'm looking forward to doing my best as we face this challenge, and I look forward to working with each of you ... to lead hydro to a better future for everyone.

Thank you.