

Invitation to Participate



2009 Outstanding Stewards of America's Waters Awards

Entries Due: December 15, 2008

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How the OSAW Awards Support Your Goals and Priorities

Hydropower is America's largest renewable energy resource. Being the biggest – and staying on top – requires exceptional effort by companies throughout the industry. And, as the National Hydropower Association's Outstanding Stewards of America's Waters (OSAW) Awards program demonstrates, companies around the country are pursuing initiatives every day that deserve special recognition.

We invite companies throughout the hydropower industry to nominate their projects and initiatives for consideration under the OSAW Awards. Here's why:

- **You've earned the distinction** – When companies compete through the OSAW Awards, judges review their applications based on an objective scale of pre-established criteria. OSAW winners know that they've matched efforts against the best in the industry.
- **Great work deserves recognition** – NHA works closely with OSAW winners to promote their achievements through both regional and national media. Your key stakeholders learn that your work is on the leading edge of the entire national hydropower industry.
- **OSAW honors your leadership** – You'll receive your OSAW Award at the NHA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., where the entire hydropower industry – as well as key national leaders – will be in attendance. OSAW is true national recognition.
- **OSAW extends your project's impact** – Information you provide for OSAW judging becomes part of the industry's knowledge-base and its outreach resources. (Except, of course, for company-proprietary info.) By sharing your experiences, story, and findings, you contribute to the growth of the entire hydropower sector.

So, please take the time now to learn more about the OSAW Awards and identify the projects your company is pursuing that merit this special recognition. Through OSAW, you'll be able to multiply the benefits of your efforts immediately.

Background

Hydropower's proven track record of providing a domestic source of clean, renewable, and reliable electricity for more than 125 years is no accident. It has taken hard work, perseverance, creativity, innovation, and a collaborative spirit. Today, these same values drive a new generation of hydropower projects that harness the power of oceans, tides, man-made conduits, and other waterways, in addition to rivers. Hydropower, defined as deriving power from any source of moving water, is an integral part of America's energy future.

In 1994, NHA created the Hydro Achievement Awards to recognize organizations and projects committed to excellence in the development and operation of hydropower. In 1999, NHA added the Outstanding Stewards of America's Rivers (OSAR) Report to profile the best examples of hydropower's ability to generate clean, renewable, reliable, and affordable electricity while protecting riverine ecosystems.

In 2007, the two programs merged to more effectively provide recognition to deserving organizations and to reflect the changing nature of the hydropower industry, particularly the fact that hydropower can be used in various waterways. The new award program is called the Outstanding Stewards of America's Waters (OSAW).

Up to three awards will be presented from three categories. For each entry, the submitted accomplishment must be clearly identifiable and completed. Applications will be judged based on information provided for activities undertaken in the year 2008.

2009 NHA OSAW Award Categories

Operational Excellence

This category focuses on leading projects that add value to the hydropower industry and demonstrate significant technical contributions. This includes but is not limited to improving efficiency, safety, security, innovation, contribution to electric system operations, and overall operational effectiveness of hydroelectric assets. This may be applied to engineering, construction, hydraulics, dam safety, land use, licensing, operations, maintenance, and/or economic utilization. Examples include innovative use of new technologies and/or waterways, mitigation facilities, upgrades and improvements, and the use of technological tools in licensing, etc. Projects include:

- Civil dam safety improvements
- Upgrades and improvements
- Development of new waterpower generation technologies
- Installation of new, unique waterpower generation
- Use of technological tools in licensing
- Security innovations
- Personnel safety programs
- Employee training and succession planning programs
- Innovative labor practices and union agreements
- Staffing and organizational innovations
- Operations systems innovations
- Hydrological optimization and water management applications
- Equipment and systems modification
- New hydropower technologies, such as hydrokinetic, tidal, ocean, in-stream, wave and/or conduit applications
- Life extension and work planning activities
- Management practices
- Improved unit availability
- Union agreements
- Employee transition programs
- Training programs

2009 NHA OSAW Award Categories - cont'd

Public Education

This category highlights programs that effectively communicate and promote the benefits of hydropower to an outside audience. Examples include;

- School curriculum
- Educational videos
- Public education materials
- Learning centers
- Kiosks
- Other outreach programs
- Interactive media

Recreational, Environmental & Historical Enhancement

This category covers projects that provide enhanced recreational opportunities for the general public, offer measurable benefits that mitigate, conserve, preserve, or enhance the natural resources, and/or conserve historical aspects of hydropower facilities and their integration with the surrounding community. Examples include:

- Flows for whitewater and flat-water boating
- Interpretive programs
- Enhanced fishing access
- Hiking trails
- Campgrounds and picnic areas
- Use of technology to improve water quality
- Establishment or enhancement of aquatic or terrestrial habitat
- Protection or restoration of fisheries, vegetation, or wildlife
- Implementation of environmental management systems
- Historic preservation or enhancement of infrastructure at or near a hydropower project
- Climate change mitigation

2008 NHA OSAW Judging Panel

Entries will be judged by a 5 or 6 member committee composed of the following:

- A representative from NHA Board of Directors
- NHA's Public Affairs Committee Chair or a NHA member chosen ad hoc by NHA's Executive Director
- The editor of *Hydro Review Magazine*
- At least one, and no more than 3, representatives from the environmental and/or recreational communities

Application Eligibility

- Specific projects, programs, activities or events (collectively referred to as accomplishments) pertaining to hydropower in the United States or Canada that meet the four category criteria.
- Application for a specific accomplishment may be submitted in only one category; however, an applicant may apply for different accomplishments.
- An accomplishment, or the intended effect or result of an accomplishment, must have occurred or have been substantially realized at the time of submission.
- Willingness to participate in communication activities.

Helpful Hints - 2009 OSAW Awards

- Organizations are invited and encouraged to apply for multiple awards. However, each submission needs to be in its own binder.
- The majority of the material for which the award application is based should have taken place in 2008. Continuation of activities which have previously received an award (a Hydro Achievement, OSAR or OSAW) will not be considered unless a significant expansion from the original scope is clearly demonstrated and can be well documented.
- Stay away from industry-only verbiage. The content needs to be easily communicated to a lay audience.
- Even though Section 3 asks for quotes from stakeholders, the collaborative process needs to be a theme that is interwoven throughout the application.
- Submissions should tell a story, be compelling and interesting.

Judging Criteria

Challenge (25%)

Difficulty; complexity, impact, and resourcefulness in confronting obstacles

Innovation (25%)

Originality of a solution or application of an existing technique; pioneering the use of materials and/or methods; unique mix of techniques, materials, and/or equipment; etc.

Results (25%)

Demonstration of measurable, quantifiable results, including cost effectiveness; goal setting and measurable results; impact of the results on advancing social, environmental, and/or economic needs. Did the results adhere to budgets and/or time schedules?

Cooperation/Collaboration (25%)

Commitment to involve all stakeholders; examples of fostering communication, cooperation, and understanding among diverse interests and viewpoints; etc.

Guidelines: Submitting an Entry

How to Apply:

Applicants must submit:

- ONE separate, hard bound copy in a 1½ inch 3-ring binder, including an electronic version (CD) of the entry
- And EIGHT separately packaged electronic versions of the entry on CD.

Send entry hard copy and **9** electronic copies of your application to:

ATTN: Hydro Awards
National Hydropower Association
One Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 850
Washington, DC 20001

Organizations are invited and encouraged to apply for several awards. However, each submission needs to be in its own binder and on its own CD.

**A copy of the entry form and an outline of the entry are included in the appendix of this publication.*

Entries must include the following information:

- 1) One-page entry form (Appendix A).
- 2) List of the companies, organizations, project owners, stakeholders, etc., involved in the project and a description of the role of each.
- 3) A verifiable quote or supporting letter from a source other than the applicant, who was involved in or in a position to observe the accomplishment.
- 4) A summary (**not more than 250 words**) of the key features and highlights of the accomplishment.
- 5) A description (**not to exceed 4 pages**) of how the four criteria were met.
- 6) High resolution photographs, graphics, maps and other visuals to complement the written description may be included.
- 7) Permission and/or approval from company, stakeholders and other parties to use photos, graphics, maps and other visuals in NHA advertising platforms

2009 NHA OSAW Timeline

- Applications are due ***December 15, 2008***. All applications will be retained by NHA and added to the association's reference library, which is available to all members.
- Winners will be notified the week of ***February 8th, 2009***.
- The award ceremony will take place during the **2009 Annual NHA Conference, May 11 – 13, 2009**, in Washington, DC.

APPENDIX A

2009 NHA AWARDS PROGRAM ENTRY FORM

(To complete this page type in the shaded areas)

Company name: [shaded]

Address: [shaded]

City: [shaded] State: [shaded] Zip: [shaded]

Contact Person: [shaded]

Phone: [shaded]

Email: [shaded]

Award category (Choose Category):

Category 1: **Operational Excellence**

Category 2: **Public Education**

Category 3: **Recreational, Environmental & Historical Enhancement**

Project/Program name: [shaded]

Project Information:

Name and description (i.e. # of developments, operation, license status):

[shaded]

Location, if applicable including river (with river mile or number of miles from headwater), state(s) relevant to project, county or town where project is located):

[shaded]

Capacity, if applicable (in Megawatts): [shaded]

Number of tons of carbon avoided annually through non-fossil electric generation, if applicable:

[shaded]

Return this form with award entry to:

ATTN: 2008 NHA OSAW Awards

National Hydropower Association (NHA)

One Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Suite 850

Washington, DC 20001

APPENDIX B

Entry Outline - 2009 OSAW Awards

Section 1

A completed copy of the entry form.

Section 2

A 250 word summary of the entry. This section will be used to describe the project in marketing pieces.

Section 3

Two quotes from stakeholders lauding the positive attributes and/or the collaborative process used in solving the challenge.

Section 4

A two-page synopsis of the project with the following headings:

- **Background:** Include any necessary historical information that might be useful for the judges to understand the context of the challenge.
- **Challenge:** What was the challenge? Include a detailed description of its complexities and ramifications. Previous solutions attempted? How long has this been a challenge? Goals and evaluation methods?
- **Innovation:** What were the specific and unique innovations used to solve the problem? What were some of the tactics used? How were the innovations executed? What materials and/or methods used?
- **Results:** What were the quantifiable results, including the cost-effectiveness, impact on stakeholders, and goals achieved.

Section 5

Supporting materials including photographs, collateral materials, press clippings, drawings, etc.

Electronic Version

This should be on a CD and written using Microsoft Word. Photographs should be 300 dpi jpeg images. Collateral material included in Section 5 should be scanned and sent as a PDF.

APPENDIX C

Past OSAW Award Winners

2008 OSAW Winners		
<u>Recreational & Environmental Enhancement</u>	Seattle City Light	Skagit Hydroelectric Project: Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program
<u>Recreational & Environmental Enhancement</u>	Yuba County Water Authority	Narrows 2 Hydro Power Plant Flow Bypass Project
<u>Recreational & Environmental Enhancement</u>	Brookfield Power	School Street Hydroelectric Generating Facility – Recreational and Historical Enhancements
<u>Operational Excellence</u>	Chelan County PUD #1	Comprehensive Utility Security Program
<u>Operational Excellence</u>	San Diego County Water Authority	Rancho Penasquitos Pressure Control Hydroelectric Facility

2007 OSAW Winners		
<u>Recreational & Environmental Enhancement</u>	Avista Utilities	Clark Fork Project, Oreille Lake Trout Suppression
<u>Recreational & Environmental Enhancement</u>	New York Power Authority (NYPA)	St. Lawrence – FDR Project – Upstream Passage Facility for American Eel
<u>Recreational & Environmental Enhancement</u>	Southern Company Generation	Renew Our Rivers: A New Beginning in 2006
<u>Operational Excellence</u>	Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC	A Cooperative Basin-Wide Approach for Improving Water Management