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For Immediate Release

Flexibility key as FERC seeks pilot projects for expedited licensing

Statement of NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci

Washington, D.C. (January 8, 2014) – The following is a statement of Linda Church Ciocci, Executive Director of the National Hydropower Association, on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) notice soliciting pilot hydropower projects to test a two-year licensing process:

“NHA is pleased the Commission is moving expeditiously to implement the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act’s direction to develop and implement a pilot program for a two-year licensing process. Tapping the potential at our nation’s existing non-powered dams and increasing our renewable energy storage capacity with closed-loop pumped storage projects are essential to meeting the nation’s clean energy goals.

“With the unanimous passage of the HREA, Congress sent a clear message that these are low-impact projects and that opportunities exist to reduce unnecessary costs and delays inherent in the current federal regulatory regime. Doing so will make the development of these projects more competitive with other energy sources and provide additional, reliable clean energy to more American families and businesses.

“Successfully implementing a two-year licensing process will require flexibility on the part of all parties involved – from FERC’s interpretation of its eligibility criteria contained in the notice, to the engagement of other agencies and stakeholders in the process.

“NHA looks forward to continue its work its members, the Commission, policymakers, and stakeholders to develop and test a two-year licensing process in the timeline laid out by Congress.”

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