Congress struggles to finish energy tax bill before recess

**Breaking News:** Tonight, by a vote of 93-2, the Senate passed compromise legislation that includes an extension of the renewable energy tax incentives.

The compromise Senate language includes:

- A two-year extension of the PTC for hydropower
- $800 million for the CREBs program
- Inclusion of marine and hydrokinetic energy resources
- Inclusion of new language for hydropower development at non-powered dams.

Now passed, the Senate and the House must reach a deal to iron out differences between their respective versions of the bill. On the Senate floor, Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) urged his Senate colleagues to call their House counterparts in support of the Senate language. Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) echoed Reid’s call noting the package is a good compromise between the two chambers on the “pay for” issue.

Final congressional action on the bill may come as early as the end of the week. However, with the proposed $700 billion bailout of the financial sector added to the growing list of priority legislative items to address, the legislative schedule is extremely fluid and subject to change.

The House and the Senate were both expected to recess on Friday, but now may stay in session throughout the weekend. NHA will continue to monitor the
situation and provide updates to the membership as details become available.

Stay tuned to the Listservs for the latest information.

Congressional hydropower caucus touts benefits of resource at first briefing

To officially kickoff the establishment of the Congressional Hydropower Caucus, NHA arrived on Capitol Hill on Sep. 16, to speak to the group on the power of moving water.

The one-hour briefing *Hydropower 101* marked the first activity of the newly formed Congressional Hydropower Caucus, established this summer following a congressional hearing on hydropower’s role in America’s energy mix.

**Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)**, one of four caucus co-chairs, began the event with remarks on the importance of hydropower to the economic vitality of her district in eastern Washington State. She also cautioned that hydropower should not be overlooked as Congress works to address climate change and energy independence.

**Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)**, another co-chair, echoed many of McMorris’ Rodgers points in his opening statement and expressed his support for the resource.

NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci then took the stage and delivered the keynote presentation on the basics of the hydropower industry. Church Ciocci specifically emphasized that many myths surround hydropower and that one of the most important jobs of the caucus is to help dispel those myths – especially the misconception that hydropower is a tapped out resource.

Moreover, Church Ciocci explained that hydropower provides many ancillary benefits including the ability to integrate intermittent renewable energy resources such as wind and solar into the grid. Ciocci stated that hydro and intermittent renewables are a perfect marriage.

The assembled group then heard from two additional Caucus members. **Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE)** stated that hydropower was an exciting technology that brings many benefits to his district and **Rep. Todd Platts (R-PA)** touted hydro’s ability to create jobs highlighting the growth at the two turbine manufacturers in his district, Voith Siemens Hydro and American Hydro.

The second half of the briefing featured representatives from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the American Public Power
Association (APPA), and the Edison Electric Institute (EEI). The trades delivered short presentations that highlighted the importance of hydropower to their sectors of the industry.

A question and answer period rounded out the event.

NHA is working with the Congressional Hydropower Caucus to promote the benefits of hydropower, in all of its forms, and to ensure that the Caucus is a strong voice on Capitol Hill. Stay tuned for information on future Caucus events as they become available.

DOE announces clean tech waterpower project R&D funding

NHA congratulates the industry members and academic institutions who received funding through the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Research & Development Clean Technology Water Power Project awards. Five of the 14 winning projects DOE selected involve NHA member organizations.

“We’re pleased to congratulate all the winners,” said NHA executive director Linda Church Ciocci. “We also salute DOE’s efforts to further the Advanced Energy Initiative, which provides crucial funding for the development of new waterpower technologies, as well as other renewable energy resources. Public-private partnerships like these are critical to the R&D we need as an industry to grow. NHA has worked very hard to build congressional support for this program and we are delighted to see the important work of our vision realized through these awards.”

Ciocci continued

Winning projects of NHA members include:

- Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) – (1) fish-friendly turbine development & deployment and (2) Wave Energy Resource Assessment and GIS database

- Lockheed Martin – Advanced Composite Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion cold water pipe project

- Pacific Gas & Electric Company – WaveConnect Wave Energy in-water testing and demonstration
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- Snohomish (WA) Public Utility District #1 – tidal energy in-water testing in Puget Sound
- Verdant Power – Improved structure and fabrication of large, high-power kinetic hydropower rotors

NHA is a strong supporter of DOE’s hydropower initiatives, from advocating for funding on Capitol Hill to encouraging public-private cooperation. NHA continues to work on Capitol Hill to increase appropriations to the DOE waterpower R&D program, which will allow the Department to meet the high demand from industry for the program.

In fact, dozens of additional ocean, tidal and hydrokinetic projects as well as conventional hydropower initiatives did not receive any funding in this cycle due to the lack of adequate funding.

For FY 2009 NHA requested $54 million in order to remedy this situation. The House has already approved $40 million and the Senate Appropriations Committee has approved $30 million. Action on a continuing resolution to fund the federal government, including the DOE program has been delayed and the final figures for the program are uncertain. However, NHA is confident that the program will continue to receive funds and hopes to build on the momentum established during this year’s appropriations process.

For more information on the DOE program and the announcement of the awards, please see http://www.eere.energy.gov/.

EPRI, DOE R&D workshop scheduled

The Department of Energy’s Hydropower Technologies Program and EPRI are sponsoring an R&D workshop on Oct. 29 and 30 at FERC headquarters in Washington, DC.

The workshop is designed to identify R&D needs for the suite of technologies comprising DOE’s Hydropower Technologies Program which range from conventional facilities to new ocean, tidal and instream hydrokinetic devices.
NHA has been working with EPRI, DOE, the Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition and other interested parties to establish a forum where industry members, developers, academics, and government officials can come together to discuss the future of the waterpower industry.

The two-day event will include a plenary session during which broad perspectives on research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D) issues including environmental, manufacturing, investment, and regulation will be discussed. Following the plenary session, the participants will attend breakout sessions under the conventional/pumped storage track or the ocean energy track. The forum will conclude with a session to prioritize the RDD&D needs identified throughout the forum. These priorities could very well guide the development of a DOE program in the future and that is why it is critical that industry members plan to attend.

Registration is required and information regarding registration is available on a first come, first serve basis at http://guest.event.com/i.aspx?5S_M3,f2b68267-cd77-4f4c-b37b-719a1e3305aa.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Church Ciocci at linda@hydro.org or Jeff Leahey at jeff@hydro.org.

2009 OSAW awards: showcasing our success

It’s that time of year again – the Outstanding Stewards of America’s Waters (OSAW) Award applications will soon hit NHA members’ mailboxes.

As the year comes to an end, NHA encourages members to start thinking about the good work they have done throughout 2008 to improve the environment, educate the public, or enhance operations at their hydropower projects.

The OSAW Awards represent the very best of the industry and provide important examples of excellence. OSAW Award winners gain recognition for their efforts within the hydropower industry, the renewable energy community and the public at large. NHA promotes winners at industry conferences such as HydroVision, Waterpower, and the Renewable Energy Expo on Capitol Hill. In addition, recipients leverage their award within their organizations and their communities.

The journey from applicant to OSAW Award winner involves submitting an application and CD with the project description to NHA staff. When preparing
their submissions, applicants designate one of three categories under which their project is judged. The three categories are operational excellence; public education; and recreational, environmental, and historical enhancement. Additional details and examples of accomplishments in these categories will be provided in the 2009 OSAW Award application.

For examples of previous OSAW winners, please see [www.outstandingwaters.org](http://www.outstandingwaters.org). Stay tuned to NHA Today and the Listservs for updates on the OSAW Awards process. In addition, NHA staff is looking for suggestions to enhance the visibility of the OSAW Awards in the media and to Congress. If anyone has any recommendations, please feel free to contact NHA’s John Rastler at john@hydro.org or Diane Lear at diane@hydro.org.

In the meantime, start thinking about the story your organization wants to share with the rest of the industry and the audience beyond.

Gearing up for the Hydraulic Power Committee fall meeting

Over sixty participants are expected to gather in Lancaster, PA for the Hydraulic Power Committee (HPC) fall meeting Oct. 6 – 8. Hosted by Exelon, PPL Holtwood, and Safe Harbor Water Power Corporation, this year’s meeting will include tours of 3 unique hydroelectric facilities along a stretch of the Susquehanna River. Outages will be underway at Conowingo, Holtwood and Safe Harbor, so the plant tours will be especially interesting.

The 3-day event will include a dam safety update from Bill Allerton, Supervisor, Dam Safety Engineering of FERC, NHA legislative and regulatory updates, worker safety survey results, a session on wind/hydro integration issues and the ever popular hot topics sessions.

Also of interest to attendees, American Hydro and Voith Siemens will be offering a private tour of their manufacturing plants. If you are interested in participating, please contact Diane Hake (717.755.5300 or dhake@ahydro.com) or Coby Leber (717.792.7201 or Coby.Leber@VS-hydro.com) directly for more information.

The HPC provides a secure forum for hydro owners and operators to exchange information and share ideas relating to the technical aspects of operating hydroelectric projects. Membership to the HPC is free to all NHA members. Though there is no registration fee for this event, participants are responsible
for their travel and lodging expenses.

In addition, meeting expenses will be distributed among the participants at the conclusion of the event. Costs are deferred by the generous support of member companies, Voith Siemens Hydro Power Generation, American Hydro Corporation, Devine Tarbell & Associates and Mead and Hunt.

**Reserve your spot for the meeting on-line** by clicking here, or on-line registration can be accessed on the events tab at www.hydro.org. This meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for participants to informally discuss O&M, safety and license compliance issues and to share best practices.

Hydropower professionals gather in Massachusetts

NHA was joined by Massachusetts officials from state and local government at the Northeast Regional Meeting in Holyoke, MA Sep. 10. Among the officials addressing the group were Holyoke Mayor Michael J. Sullivan and Elizabeth Cardona, Director of Governor Deval Patrick’s (D-MA) Western Massachusetts office.

James M. Lavelle, Manager of Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E), the meeting’s host, welcomed an enthusiastic group of nearly one hundred.

“We were delighted to see Mayor Sullivan, Ms. Cardona, and other officials join us at the meeting,” said Linda Church Ciocci, NHA’s executive Director. “Massachusetts has become a leader in promoting renewable energy technology and clearly recognizes that hydropower is a clean, affordable, domestic source.”

The meeting included a roundtable discussion covering new project development in the northeast. Participants also heard from FERC Regional Engineer, Peter Valeri on dam safety issues, and Raymond Hepper, Vice-President of ISO New England on ISO markets. In addition to the meeting, early arrivals had an opportunity to tour HG&E’s state-of-the-art fish passage technologies at its Hadley Dam.

NHA is able to provide these regional meetings at no cost to attendees, through the generous support of member companies. NHA thanks the host of the northeast regional meeting, Holyoke Gas & Electric, and sponsors: GEI Consultants, TransCanada, Brookfield Renewable Power, Pierce Atwood LLP, Hiscock & Barclay LLP, Kleinschmidt Associates, Devine Tarbell & Associates, Inc., Voith Siemens Hydro Power Generation, Full Spectrum
Communications, EPRO/TRC, Alden Research Laboratory, Inc., and Normandeau Associates.

Two more regional meetings will be held this year. Puget Sound Energy will host the northwest meeting on Oct. 23 in Bellevue, WA and Southern Company will host the southeast meeting on Dec. 3 in Birmingham, AL. Details and online registration is available at http://www.hydro.org/events/events.php

NHA newsfeed is hungry for readers

Anyone visiting NHA’s website recently has probably noticed a box in the upper left corner with scrolling news blurbs. “Hydro in the Headlines” is designed to provide members with the latest hydropower-related news.

NHA acquired the news feed service in July from Meltwater News, a company that provides media monitoring services to a diverse set of clients throughout the world.

Disseminating news and sharing positive messages about hydropower is one of NHA’s core functions. In order for NHA to achieve the legislative goals set forth this year, the public needs to be educated about the multiple benefits of the hydropower resource. One of easiest ways to do this is to check the news feed and share relevant information with your communications team, your local media, and your elected officials.

With the newsfeed’s trial period halfway over, NHA is asking members, and their public affairs professionals to weigh in on this feature. Do you read it? Are the articles informative?

NHA staff would like your feedback as we determine whether to keep this feature a part of NHA’s website. NHA staff will distribute a quick survey to obtain your reaction to the service. Also, please feel free to send any suggestions or comments regarding this feature directly to NHA’s John Rastler at john@hydro.org.
NHA welcomes new member

Pemberton Power is a privately funded company engaged in the business of acquiring and building a portfolio of grassroots projects in the renewable energy sector. Its focus is to provide renewable energy to the mining and metal industries in the Americas by leveraging its strong equity and financing abilities along with its significant mining and exploration experience. PPC’s current focus is on small hydro and geothermal power projects with a future installed capacity of 5 to 50 MW. It also has experience in launching, operating and managing public companies, assessing the economic viability of potential projects and sourcing expertise in project management and engineering.

Pemberton Power is a Canadian based company with Joel Jeangrand as its president who is experienced internationally with over 20 years of corporate and business development. If you are interested in discussing a potential project, please contact him at +1 (778) 329-4443.

NHA has learned . . .

1) The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) will hold its 67th Annual Meeting Oct. 19-23 at the Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center in Rehoboth Beach, DE.

Of particular interest to NHA members is the American Eel Management Board Meeting, which will be held from 12:30pm - 2:30pm on Thursday, Oct. 23. The Shad and River Herring Management Board will hold its meeting from 10:45am - 11:45am on the same day.

The final agenda will be posted to the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under “Breaking News” two weeks prior to the meeting.

A block of rooms is being held at the Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center at (800.422.0600). Hotel reservations must be made before Oct. 1, 2008. Room availability is not guaranteed beyond this date. If you have any problems at all regarding accommodations contact ASMFC’s Linda Schwab at 202.889.6400 x303 or lschwab@asmfc.org.

2) FERC will hold a compliance summit on Oct. 21 and 22 at the AED Conference Center in Washington, DC. The summit runs from 9:00am - 4:45pm on Oct. 21 and 8:00 am -12:15pm on Oct. 22. FERC Commissioner Jon
Wellinghoff will give the keynote address.

The summit will provide attendees with the latest updates on enforcement developments, NERC reliability requirements, compliance systems for gas and electricity trading, mitigating factors in enforcement actions, and what to do when faced with an audit or investigation.

In addition, the summit features two pre-conference forums. One is devoted to establishing a NERC compliance program while the other focuses on establishing an energy compliance program.

To register, call (201) 871-0474 or visit www.pmaconference.com.


Flow 2008 organizers recently posted abstracts of presentations that will be delivered at this year’s event. The abstracts can be viewed at http://www.instreamflowcouncil.org/flow2008/docs/flow2008_abstracts.pdf

Flow 2008 will feature panel discussions, case studies, interactive sessions as well as opportunities to network and exchange scientific information. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about instream flow policy, dialogue and science. Stakeholders from industry, government, academia and the environmental community are encouraged to attend. Harvard Law School Professor Larry Susskind will also lead a session on collaborative instream flow problem-solving. In addition, three pre-conference workshops will be held on Monday, Oct. 6.

Please visit www.instreamflowcouncil.org for additional information.