



# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

### America's hydropower industry converges on Washington to stake a claim for country's largest renewable energy source

*Gathering focuses on job creation, new technologies and hydropower's place in a clean economy*

Washington, D.C. (April 26, 2010) -- With the Senate poised to introduce sweeping climate and energy legislation, the National Hydropower Association kicked off an expanded annual conference showcasing the next generation of sustainable American hydropower and its unique role in a clean energy future.

Hydropower already provides more than two-thirds of renewable generation in the United States and 7% of the country's electricity overall. The industry this week will unveil the policy agenda that will allow the U.S. to double hydropower generation and create hundreds of thousands of American jobs. Highest on the list: enacting a strong renewable electricity standard that includes pumped storage technology, tax credit parity with other renewables, and a revamped and simplified regulatory approval process.

"We're here to mark a new era of American hydropower," **NHA President Andrew Munro** emphasized as the conference opened. "The shift to a low-emission economy cannot happen without hydropower. The future of our industry has never looked so promising."

NHA members range in size from Fortune 500 companies to family-owned small businesses, including both public and investor-owned utilities, independent power producers, developers, manufacturers, environmental and engineering consultants, and attorneys from across the United States and Canada.

**NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci** noted the unique potential of hydropower among clean energy sources. "No other source of energy offers the complete package like hydropower. It's renewable, reliable, affordable, and poised to grow in environmentally-friendly ways. Simply by adding power generation to existing dams, we have the ability to transform the way our country is powered and revitalize local economies in every state."

NHA will also release a new study this week from **Navigant Consulting, Inc.**, on the job-creation potential of hydropower under a "weak" and "strong" national Renewable Electricity Standard. The study found that:

- Over 1.4 million cumulative direct, indirect and induced jobs can be created in the hydropower sector if the federal government enacts a 25% by 2025 RES;
- About half of these jobs would be in supporting industries like transportation, electrical services, and related segments of the economy; and
- The study also underscores the importance of pumped storage to hydropower industry job creation, while pointing to the need for federal policies that encourage private investment and greater deployment of the technology.

The hydropower industry has been energized by several recent supportive moves from the Obama Administration. In March, Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Assistant Secretary of the Army Jo-Ellen Darcy signed a Memorandum of Understanding to increase hydropower generation at federal facilities. This is a major step forward for the federal government, the largest owner of hydropower in the United States.

NHA's annual conference will feature presentations from government and industry leaders including:

- **Under Secretary of Energy Dr. Kristina M. Johnson**, Department of Energy
- **Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)**, the recipient of NHA's annual Legislator of the Year Award
- **Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army Terrence C. "Rock" Salt**, Department of Defense
- **Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science John Tubbs**, Department of the Interior

"Hydropower companies want to create new jobs, and we're ready to go, but we need real, national policy commitments and the market certainty they bring," **NHA President Munro** reiterated. "Hydropower puts people to work, reduces carbon emissions, balances supply and demand for our nation's electricity grid and has a proven track record of keeping energy bills low. This is common sense."

More information on NHA's annual conference is available at [www.nationalhydroconference.com](http://www.nationalhydroconference.com).

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