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For Immediate Release

Missouri River Energy Services breaks ground on new hydropower project *Statement of NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci*

Washington, D.C. (August 13, 2014) – The following is a statement of Linda Church Ciocci, Executive Director of the National Hydropower Association, on today's groundbreaking of Red Rock Hydroelectric Project in Iowa:

"NHA congratulates Missouri River Energy Services for breaking ground on their Red Rock Hydroelectric Project today. Once completed, it will be the second largest hydropower project in Iowa and provide enough affordable clean energy to meet the needs of 18,000 American homes.

"Building on an Army Corps of Engineers dam, MRES is maximizing the public benefit of existing non-powered water infrastructure by adding clean, reliable power. With only 3 percent of the nation's dams equipped to generate electricity, the Department of Energy estimates this type of low-impact development could add 12,000 MW of hydropower capacity to the nation's grid.

"Hydropower has a vital role to play in the nation's clean energy future, as it has over the past century. This project's inclusion in President Barack Obama's Climate Action Plan ensured that environmental reviews were balanced with the goals of reducing carbon emissions and providing additional clean energy in a timely manner. NHA looks forward to working with Congress, the administration, and other stakeholders to further striking that balance throughout the hydropower licensing process."

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