



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

NHA honors eight companies with annual water stewardship awards

Washington, D.C. (April 23, 2013) – The National Hydropower Association today recognized eight companies through its Outstanding Stewards of America's Waters (OSAW) Awards. The winners – PPL, Holtwood, New York Power Authority, Avista, Tacoma Power, the Jordan Hydroelectric Limited Partnership, Chelan County Public Utility District, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation – have developed projects that have provided extraordinary operational, recreational, historical, environmental, or educational value as part of their normal hydropower operations.

"Leading through example, these awardees have raised the bar on excellence for the entire industry," said Linda Church Ciocci, Executive Director of NHA. "The efforts they have put into each of these projects is not only worthy of the prestigious OSAW awards, but is emblematic of the commitment our industry has made to enhance the communities and ecosystems of which we are a part."

Three awards were conferred in the category of Recreational, Environmental & Historical Enhancement:

- **PPL Holtwood** earned an OSAW for their efforts to protect two pairs of nesting bald eagles located the Holtwood Hydropower Expansion project. PPL partnered with state and federal agencies to develop a site-specific adaptive management plan and monitoring studies. Information from these studies will assist regulators, consultants and licensees in understanding how to protect the iconic symbol of the U.S. and how to develop reasonable solutions to avoid disturbing eagles during construction. Media Contact: Ryan Hill (610.774.4033)
- **New York Power Authority's** Great Gorge Railway Trail Stone Stairway is a new recreational feature built as part of the Niagara Power Project relicensing which connects the existing hiking trails at the top and bottom of the Niagara Gorge to form a hiking loop, thereby enhancing the gorge's appeal to everyday users.
- **Avista** was recognized for their successful restoration of two channels downstream of their Upper Falls Development on the Spokane River to look much the way it did long ago, before the channels were altered to divert water to numerous flour and lumber mills, as well as for hydropower generation. The channel restoration used weirs shaped and colored to look like the natural bedrock. Combined, they produce an aesthetically pleasing flow over the falls that viewers can enjoy year-round. Media Contact: Jessie Wuerst (509.495.8578)

Two awards were presented to companies for Operational Excellence:

- **Tacoma Power** won for their Innovative Dam Washer, a self-designed and fabricated remote-controlled pressure washer used to clean the face of a dam to allow safety inspections. Compared to previous moss removal methods, the dam washer increased employee safety and efficiency while reducing costs. Media Contact: Nora Doyle (253.502.8117)

- **Jordan Hydroelectric Limited Partnership** won for the Jordan Hydroelectric Project which is the first hydropower facility of its kind in the country, using vertical turbines installed on an intake tower at a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control dam.

In the category of Public Education, one award was conferred:

- **Chelan County PUD, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation** are being honored for their collaborative education effort. Visitors at Grand Coulee, Chief Joseph, and Rocky Reach Dams on the Columbia River had the opportunity to try a high-tech educational treasure hunt that involved using geocaching technology -- finding hidden clues using GPS (global positioning system) devices or smart phones -- to search for hidden items and learn about clean, renewable hydropower along the way. Media Contact: Chelan: Christy Shearer (509.661.4258)

NHA's OSAW selection panel, which included representatives from across the industry and media interests, determined the OSAW Award winners based on the project or program's initial challenge, innovation, collaboration with stakeholders, and results. The panel judges every project by its own merits.

NHA presented the awards today at the association's annual conference in Washington, D.C.

About the Outstanding Stewards of America's Waters Awards

In 1994, the National Hydropower Association (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 Stewardship 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 the riverine ecosystem.

Beginning in 2007, these two recognition programs were 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).

NHA invites you to learn more about these outstanding endeavors, both past and present, at www.outstandingwaters.org.

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