



# STATEMENT

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## For Immediate Release

### **Statement from Linda Church Ciocci, Executive Director, National Hydropower Association on the Consumers Energy and Detroit Edison Upgrade Project at Ludington Pumped Storage Plant**

Washington, D.C. (February 8, 2011) – “The National Hydropower Association congratulates Consumers Energy and Detroit Edison on their announcement of a major modernization project at the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant in northwestern Michigan. The project builds upon existing hydro infrastructure to expand clean, renewable electric generating capacity and create more jobs. Over a six-year timeframe, the Ludington project is expected to create 100 construction jobs annually and generate \$800 million in economic activity, ultimately expanding the facility’s generating capacity by 300 MW or 16 percent.

“Projects like Ludington demonstrate how the hydropower industry can grow sustainably by increasing efficiency and adding additional generating capacity at existing facilities. With the right policies in place and with projects like Ludington in the pipeline, the U.S. could add 60,000 MW of new hydro capacity by 2025 and meet 20 percent of President Obama’s 80 percent clean energy goal by 2035.

“Ludington is also an example of the unparalleled contribution pumped storage facilities make to the reliability of our electricity supply as the only grid-scale energy storage solution in use today. Pumped storage projects allow more renewables like wind and solar to come online, while increasing the efficiency of traditional energy resources.

“NHA celebrates this next phase of development at Ludington and the positive economic and environmental impacts it will have for the surrounding region.”