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For Immediate Release

Statement of NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocchi on Abiquiu Hydropower Project Upgrade

Washington, D.C. (April 22, 2011) – The following is a statement from Linda Church Ciocchi, Executive Director of the National Hydropower Association, on the completion and operation of the Abiquiu Hydropower Project in New Mexico:

“The National Hydropower Association congratulates Los Alamos County for the completion of the first hydropower project funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. More importantly, the \$4.5 million investment has increased capacity at the Abiquiu project by 22 percent. Over 1,000 New Mexican homes will now have access to the most affordable generation resource in the country.

“As policymakers call for cleaner, more sustainable electricity resources, hydropower is primed to be tapped. The remarkable thing about Abiquiu is that generation was increased through the installation of a new low-flow turbine which utilized existing infrastructure. NHA estimates that similar upgrades could add nearly 9,000 MW of capacity across the country. If we are to meet President Obama’s 80 percent clean energy goal by 2035, projects like Abiquiu are essential.

“Aside from low-cost, clean electricity, hydropower provides jobs to America’s economic recovery. Studies have shown that with the right policies, hydropower could create over 3,000 cumulative new jobs in New Mexico alone. This project represents a first step to realizing that economic goal.

“As we move into a new chapter in America’s energy history, the hydropower industry stands ready to meet America’s increasing demand for clean energy and fuel its economic recovery.”

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