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For Immediate Release

Statement of NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocchi on H.R. 795, the Small-Scale Hydropower Enhancement Act of 2011

Washington, D.C. (May 13, 2011) – The following is a statement from Linda Church Ciocchi, Executive Director of the National Hydropower Association:

“NHA is proud to announce its support for Representative Adrian Smith’s Small-Scale Hydropower Enhancement Act of 2011. Reducing the cost and delays for new hydropower generation is key to meeting America’s clean energy goals. This legislation strikes a balance between these aims and ensuring that public participation is maintained and federal and state environmental standards are met.

“This bipartisan bill removes from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission jurisdiction certain small conduit hydropower projects. It also directs the Interior Department to further study potential of small hydropower at federal facilities.

“The expansion of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 hydropower study to include projects with less than 1 MW of capacity is important, as NHA believes there is tremendous untapped hydropower potential throughout the federal system, particularly from these types of small projects.

“I applaud Rep. Smith and the co-sponsors – Reps. Jim Costa, Jeff Fortenberry, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Dennis Cardoza, Steve Pearce and Tom McClintock – for their initiative and leadership on this issue.

“With this legislation, we move one step closer to realizing the full potential of hydropower in the United States.”

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