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## For Immediate Release

### The hydropower trend is growth, not removal

Washington, DC (September 19, 2011) – The following is a Letter to the Editor that NHA Executive Director submitted to the Washington Post on September 19, 2011 in response to an article that appeared on their website on September 16, 2011:

“The September 16<sup>th</sup> article “Elwha Dam Removal Illustrates Growing Trend” discussed the increased removal of unneeded dams, many of which are small, produce no power, or had already outlived their usefulness. In most cases, and when all parties agree that a dam no longer serves society the way intended, removal makes sense.

But across the country there’s another trend happening at vitally important water infrastructure: growth. America’s hydropower industry is growing, creating jobs by modernizing, expanding and converting existing facilities that not currently producing electricity. Developing clean, renewable energy at projects like these is an area of common ground between the National Hydropower Association and environmental groups like American Rivers. Both groups have supported legislation that would encourage this low-impact development.

In addition to helping slow climate change (the number one threat to river ecosystems) and providing some of America’s cheapest electricity, the hydropower industry hydropower could support another 1.4 million cumulative jobs by 2025, while simultaneously increasing capacity by 60,000 MW. From AMP’s new projects on the Ohio River to Hydro Green’s development in Alabama and Alstom’s turbine upgrades in Washington State, America is increasing its use of domestic hydropower resources, not removing them.”

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