



STATEMENT

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For Immediate Release

NHA Applauds FERC-Colorado MOU on Small Hydro *MOU creates a path to more federal-state licensing efficiency*

Washington, D.C. (August 26, 2010) – National Hydropower Association Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci made the following statement on yesterday's announcement from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the State of Colorado regarding their new memorandum of understanding on small hydropower projects:

"NHA welcomes the news that FERC and the State of Colorado have signed a memorandum of understanding simplifying the procedures for developing small -scale hydropower projects in Colorado. This pilot program will be an important step toward an efficient licensing process that recognizes the needs of small developers, while encouraging the growth of new clean energy resources.

"As FERC points out in the MOU, this effort could help realize some of the 1,400 megawatts of potential small hydro capacity in Colorado. That is an important step to doubling our national hydropower capacity and creating some 1.4 million jobs in our industry.

"We also see this MOU as an important development in terms of fostering better intergovernmental cooperation. Just as the MOU signed earlier this year by the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers established an important precedent on the federal side, this MOU between FERC and Colorado could help create a more efficient, effective bridge between federal regulators and the states.

"We are especially pleased that this pilot program will offer assistance to small developers, who often face considerable challenges in navigating a complex process that involves many parties and stakeholders. We hope the pilot program will lead to an effective approach that can be replicated throughout the country, and we urge every state to consider similar efforts that support small hydropower development.

"NHA looks forward to working with FERC, Colorado, and other stakeholders as this program moves forward. We applaud this, and other efforts, to put hydropower to work for America."

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