



# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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## NHA member Voith Siemens Welcomes Obama

- Presidential candidate Barack Obama (D-IL) expresses firm support for hydropower at campaign stop at NHA member Voith Siemens' York, Pennsylvania, turbine manufacturing plant.
- Obama viewed advanced, fish-friendly, hydropower turbine technologies and saw firsthand how the hydropower industry creates jobs across America, while also serving the country's energy, environmental, and economic goals.
- NHA and its members stand ready to work with all public officials who support clean, affordable, renewable hydropower.

**Washington, DC (September 5, 2008)** – The National Hydropower Association today praised presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) for demonstrating his commitment to hydropower by visiting the York, Pennsylvania, turbine manufacturing plant owned by NHA member Voith Siemens.

"We applaud Senator Obama for making this visit and underscoring hydropower's role in the energy mix," said NHA executive director Linda Church Ciocchi. "We're pleased for every opportunity we have to reach out to all public officials where we can provide them with information about America's largest renewable energy resource."

During the visit, Obama spoke to plant workers and Voith Siemens officials, toured the facility, and held a "town meeting" event. During that event, he described his commitment to renewable energy.

"That's where this facility comes in," Obama said. "We've got to learn to harness clean, renewable energy...and it means hydro."

Hydropower provides about 8 percent of America's electricity, making it our largest renewable energy resource. Through new technologies, such as Voith Siemens' advanced turbines, and new applications, such as tidal, wave, and instream hydrokinetic approaches, the industry could double its output in the next 20 years.

"We support Senator Obama's call for more investment in renewable energy technologies, including the fish-friendly hydropower turbines he saw in Pennsylvania," Church Ciocchi said. "The hydropower industry has tremendous growth potential using applications like these, but we need development incentives, such as long-term extension of the Production Tax Credit, to make it happen. NHA is looking to Congress and a new administration to extend this provision."

Church Ciocci noted that hydropower's benefits support a strong, bipartisan slate of objectives:

- **Clean, renewable energy resource growth** – Hydropower avoids 225 million metric tons of carbon-dioxide emissions that electricity generation from fossil fuels would produce. Hydropower produces no hazardous, radioactive, or toxic wastes.
- **Domestic job growth and investment** – Expanding America's hydropower resources adds jobs throughout the industry, including long-term, skilled manufacturing jobs in all regions. Hydropower development is attracting investment in U.S. energy projects from around the world.
- **Increased domestic energy production** – Hydropower has the potential to double in the next 20 years – through new technologies and better efficiency, not new large-scale dams – but federal support is critical for making this happen.
- **Energy security** – Hydropower is America's largest renewable resource, providing 8 percent of all U.S. electricity – enough to power homes in the country's 10 largest cities. Hydropower is a domestic, affordable, secure resource.

Church Ciocci said she hopes both candidates will make the time to view other water-powered facilities and meet with other hydropower industry workers, too.

"NHA members have facilities throughout the country – from some of the oldest power-generating plants in the United States to the newest, cutting-edge technologies," she said. "We invite both candidates to see any or all them. As they learn more about hydropower's benefits – and as the public hears how hydropower serves the country's energy, economic, and environmental goals – we know that hydropower will be a solid part of both their energy strategies."

Church Ciocci noted that the National Hydropower Association does not endorse presidential candidates, preferring to endorse policies that support the development of sound energy policy through hydropower development instead.

"We endorse policy that supports hydropower's role in America's energy mix," said Church Ciocci. "That's a bipartisan, visionary, and proven path to the future."

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