



STATEMENT

One Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. · Suite 850 · Washington, D.C., 20001-202/682-1700 · www.hydro.org

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kristen Nelson
301/654-2003 · kristen@hydro.org

NHA Welcomes President Obama and Urges His Continued Support for America's Largest Renewable Resource

Washington, DC (January 21, 2009) – The following is a statement from National Hydropower Association executive director Linda Church Ciocci on the inauguration of President Barack Obama:

"The National Hydropower Association congratulates Barack Obama on becoming the 44th President of the United States. President Obama takes office in a time when the country is facing critical challenges in our energy, environmental, and economic sectors. On behalf of the U.S. hydropower industry, we offer NHA's support for addressing these challenges.

"We believe that both the President and Congress understand the important role that hydropower and other renewables can -- and must -- play if we are to put the nation on a path toward energy independence, prosperity, and a clean, sustainable environment.

"President Obama has stated his support for hydropower many times, including during a visit to NHA member Voith Siemens Hydro in September. As he told workers at the York, Pennsylvania, hydropower manufacturing plant, 'We can't drill our way out of this problem. That's where this [hydro] facility comes in.'

"We agree with President Obama that hydropower must be a part of our energy strategy, and we call on him to make that happen by including hydropower in his plan to double our renewable-energy resources. Just as he pledged to those Pennsylvania workers that he would include hydropower in his campaign initiatives, we ask him to include hydropower in his administration's policies now.

"Hydropower is America's largest renewable-energy resource, and its use and development offer solutions for many of the country's most pressing needs. Hydropower resources provide about 8 percent of U.S. electricity, while avoiding approximately 225 million tons of carbon dioxide gases each year. And, unlike so many other sectors, the U.S. hydropower industry continues to create jobs and bolster the economy throughout the country.

"As the President looks at energy strategies, economic plans, and public works initiatives that will prepare us for the future, we urge him to consider hydropower projects, just as his predecessors turned to hydropower development during tough economic times 75 years ago.

"The U.S. hydropower industry stands ready to work with the President, the new administration, and the 111th Congress on all efforts that will bring hydropower's benefits to all Americans."

###