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For Immediate Release

NHA Applauds FERC Workshop, Offers Recommendations on Small Hydro *Small hydro major part of industry effort to create 700,000 more jobs by 2025*

Washington, D.C. (December 4, 2009) – NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocchi and Mark Stover, Vice President of NHA member Hydro Green Energy, this week offered federal regulators the U.S. hydropower industry's perspective on how small hydropower can help meet the nation's clean energy, environmental, and employment goals, while at the same time reaching the industry's goal to double U.S. hydropower capacity and create over 700,000 new jobs by 2025.

"NHA has taken up the challenge you posed to our industry to double hydropower's contribution," Church Ciocchi told FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff during FERC's workshop on small hydro. "NHA's new vision calls for the development of another 96,000 megawatts of clean energy...This translates to 700,000 cumulative jobs."

NHA applauded FERC's interest in developing U.S. hydropower resources, as demonstrated through events and workshops like these. The industry itself is also positioning for the future and focusing its efforts on supporting national energy, environmental, and economic priorities through the development of additional hydropower resources.

For example, Church Ciocchi noted that NHA's recently-created Small Hydro Council is crafting recommendations for refining the licensing process in ways that reduce barriers to development and speed these renewable energy resources into service, while preserving the strong environmental and societal commitments all hydropower facilities share. NHA also is working with conservationists to ensure that new policies reflect the priorities of all stakeholders.

Church Ciocchi noted that small hydropower projects face unique challenges, since they don't enjoy the economies of scale larger plants do. She called for consideration of measures that will "reduce delays, expedite process, and keep costs reasonable, all while preserving environmental protection and working closely with all stakeholders."

Hydro Green Energy, which opened the first FERC-licensed hydrokinetic facility in the United States earlier this year, provides a great case study on how innovation and commitment to the goals Church Ciocchi mentioned can spur development.

Hydro Green's Stover told the workshop that his company now has 23 projects in 11 states that can provide nearly 500 MW of clean, renewable energy. Each project is expected to create over 160 jobs.

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Stover said he believes the industry is prepared to start work on new small hydro facilities if the development process provides the stability and speed that investors demand.

"It's clear that industry interest in low-head/small hydro is at its highest since the 1980s. We're seeing dozens of preliminary permits before FERC, many projects in licensing – including ours – and several projects under construction."

Both Church Ciocchi and Stover stressed that the time is right for hydropower development in the United States.

"The United States has enormous potential hydro resources and we are prepared to move forward," Church Ciocchi said. "We must all work together – developers, federal and state regulators, and other stakeholders – to accelerate deployment of these sources and realize the clean energy, jobs, and environmental benefits this industry provides."