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## For Immediate Release

### **NHA applauds DOE-DOI-Army Corps plan to promote hydropower** *Industry agrees with Secretary Chu: "I'm for hydropower, because I'm an environmentalist"*

Washington, D.C. (March 25, 2010) – The National Hydropower Association welcomed the announcement yesterday from the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding a new memorandum of understanding designed to foster development of hydropower resources that will serve the country's energy, environmental, and economic goals.

"Today's announcement is welcome news to the U.S. hydropower industry," said NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci. "Secretary Chu, Secretary Salazar, Assistant Secretary of the Army Darcy, and other officials involved in this effort are showing tremendous leadership by moving beyond the 'business as usual' approach to hydropower issues and seeking ways to expand hydropower's role in serving our country."

Church Ciocci was especially pleased to see the increased level of intergovernmental cooperation outlined in the MOU. NHA has long maintained that more robust cooperation among the many agencies involved in the hydropower licensing and permitting process is key to reducing costs and providing more certainty for developers.

"Both developers and investors want to see a more efficient process," she said. "Right now, our industry is looking at more than 100,000 megawatts of new capacity, so we're also interested in seeing federal incentives that align with the reality of licensing and permitting. We're optimistic that the plan outlined in the MOU will help set us on a course toward that goal."

NHA President Andrew Munro, Director of External Relations for Grant County (WA) PUD, added that he was also pleased to hear both Chu and Salazar stress hydropower's environmental benefits.

"Hearing Secretary Chu say, 'I'm for hydropower, because I'm an environmentalist,' resonated with me, as I'm sure it does with our entire industry," he said. "Current U.S. hydropower generation avoids 225 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually. Installing highly efficient turbines -- as we've already started doing at Grant -- putting turbines on existing non-powered dams, and building other low-impact projects will increase that number, while reducing our overall footprint and enhancing environmental performance."

Munro also applauded the idea that the MOU focuses on an action-oriented approach that begins with data collection.

"Our industry is looking at opportunities to double our generating capacity, employ more than 700,000 Americans, and expand our already significant contribution to climate policy, so we certainly agree with Secretary Chu, Secretary Salazar, and Assistant Secretary Darcy that developing hydropower generation is a national imperative," Munro said. "Now is the time to explore our potential and act."

Both Church Ciocci and Munro added that NHA stands ready to work with the agencies and other stakeholders to build our hydropower resources.

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