



STATEMENT

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For Immediate Release

NHA Statement Applauding New FERC Tools for Small Hydro Development

Washington, D.C. (April 20, 2010) – The following is a statement by NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci in response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) recent announcement that it is taking administrative steps to aid small hydropower project developers:

"The National Hydropower Association applauds FERC's recent announcement committing to greater outreach to developers and introducing new web-based enhancements designed to ease the small hydro licensing process. We thank FERC for listening to the industry's comments at the Small Hydro workshop in December 2009 and acting on our input so quickly.

"While this action is a good first step in improving the process – and we commend FERC's leadership – NHA also urges the Commission to continue its efforts on small hydropower, especially with regard to regulatory issues not addressed through the recent announcement.

"NHA stands ready to work with the Commission, other agencies, and stakeholders to implement an even more effective process for small hydro projects. As FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff notes, small hydropower has an important role to play in this country's energy future. We look forward to supporting future actions by the Commission to help break down regulatory barriers and ensure responsible development of small hydropower resources in an efficient manner."