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## For Immediate Release

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## Hydropower Interests Gather in Massachusetts to Promote America's Leading Renewable Resource

**Washington, DC (September 12, 2008)** – The National Hydropower Association was joined by Massachusetts officials from state and local government at NHA's Northeast Regional Meeting in Holyoke, MA on Wednesday.

Among the officials addressing the group included Holyoke Mayor Michael J. Sullivan and Elizabeth Cardona, director of Governor Deval Patrick's (D-MA) Western Massachusetts office. The event, hosted and co-sponsored by NHA member Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E), took place at Delaney House in Holyoke.

"We were delighted to see Mayor Sullivan, Ms. Cardona, and other officials join us at the meeting," said Linda Church Ciocchi, NHA's executive director. "Massachusetts has become a leader in promoting renewable energy technology and clearly recognizes that hydropower is a clean, affordable, domestic source. We believe that this viewpoint is beginning to resonate on all levels."

Church Ciocchi noted that during a campaign stop in Pennsylvania last week, Democratic candidate Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) visited NHA member Voith Siemens, where he also endorsed hydropower's contribution to the country's energy strategy. NHA says bipartisan Congressional support for hydropower is also growing.

"Looking at the jobs creation, new investment, and resource development taking place in Massachusetts and other states with vibrant hydropower interests, public officials at all levels are seeing just how extensive hydropower's benefits are," Church Ciocchi said.

Holyoke provides an example that demonstrates Church Ciocchi's point. In 2005, HG&E invested more than a million dollars in state-of-the-art technologies that improve fish passage and overall efficiency at its Hadley Dam, not far from the meeting site. Meeting participants toured the facility on Tuesday night.

"Holyoke Gas & Electric is proud of its state-of-the-art fishway and was pleased to show it off to our industry peers," said James Lavelle, General Manager of HG&E. "The Fishway is just one example of how HG&E is continuously reinvesting in Holyoke's well-known historic waterpower system in ways that ensure that it will continue to provide clean power to the region and balance river needs."

In addition to the comments from the Massachusetts officials, participants heard comments from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), ISO New England, and others.

Brookfield Renewable Power and TransCanada co-chaired the meeting, which was also sponsored by Alden Research Laboratory, Devine Tarbell and Associates, Inc., EPRO/TRC, Inc., Full Spectrum Communications, GEI Consultants, Hiscock & Barclay LLP, Kleinschmidt Associates, Normandeau Associates, Pierce Atwood LLP, and Voith Siemens Hydro Power Generation.

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