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For Immediate Release

Green, Clean, Sustainable Benefits Flow from Hydropower on Earth Day *NHA Launches Series of Events Highlighting Hydro's Clean Energy Benefits*

****EDITORS NOTE: Events starting this week (4/24)****

Washington, D.C. (April 22, 2009) – As the world marks Earth Day, the National Hydropower Association is pleased to celebrate the environmental and clean-energy benefits offered by America's largest renewable-energy resource. Here are the facts and some upcoming events where you can learn more

- **Clean energy** -- Hydropower generates between 6 and 8 percent of all U.S. electricity annually. That equals almost three-quarters of all renewable-energy generation in the United States. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is currently considering projects that could expand hydropower resources by more than a third in the next few years. Within the next generation, U.S. installed hydro capacity can double.
- **Clean air** -- Using hydropower resources to generate electricity avoids approximately 225 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually in the United States. As more water power resources come on line, we'll be able to avoid even more fossil-related emissions, as well as securing more clean, affordable, domestic energy resources.
- **Strong economy** -- Hydropower is a growing sector that continues to add jobs, attract investment, and bring new resources to communities around the country. Thanks to favorable tax incentives in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and growing demand for clean, renewable energy, companies are adding or expanding their hydropower portfolios. In early April, for example, PPL announced that it plans to re-open expansion plans at its Holtwood facility in Pennsylvania. Construction could begin as soon as February 2010, bringing much-needed jobs and affordable, sustainable energy resources to the region.
- **Doubling renewable-energy generation** – By doubling its own resources, the hydropower industry is embracing President Obama's call to double renewable-energy generation. Hydropower also enables other renewable resources to join the grid, since it can "firm" variable energy resources, such as wind. When the wind dies down and wind generation decreases, hydropower assets can instantly increase their generation to stabilize the electric grid. Pumped-storage technologies also offer the only large-scale energy storage options available today, which will allow utilities to take advantage of generation from variable resources when during non-peak times. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates we will need an additional 50 gigawatts of storage capacity.
- **Sustainable water management** -- Only 3 percent of the country's 77,000 dams generate hydropower today, but hydro industry developers are eager to reach out to dam owners, including the federal government, to turn these in-place assets into clean-energy resources *without expanding a site's environmental footprint*. Dams that generate hydropower are among the most stringently regulated and maintained civil facilities in the country, so installing hydropower at existing non-powered dams could also improve dam safety throughout the United States.

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The National Hydropower Association will be offering more information about hydropower's many benefits at several upcoming events:

THIS WEEK:

- **The Role of Energy Storage in a Clean-Energy Economy** -- Friday, April 24, 3-4 p.m., 122 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

NHA and the Business Council for Sustainable Energy are presenting a panel looking at energy storage options -- an increasingly important issue as wind and other variable renewable-energy technologies expand their generation. Pumped storage, a hydropower technology, is the only currently available, utility-scale storage technology available today.

NEXT MONTH:

- **NHA Annual Conference** -- May 11-13, 2009, Capital Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.

NHA invites all of those with an interest in clean, affordable, domestic water power to attend its annual conference, *Tapping the Future: Hydropower, Energy Demand, and Water Supply*. The conference will include expert panelists on key policy and scientific issues related to energy and water issues.

On May 11, 1:30 p.m., NHA will present Sen. Maria Cantwell with its Legislator of the Year Award during the opening plenary session.

(Media please contact NHA for information about registration and credentialing.)

- **Outstanding Stewards of America's Waters Awards** -- May 11, 2009, 12-1 p.m., 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

NHA will honor four of the country's leading hydropower companies for excellence in clean-energy hydropower generation at an event featuring the House Hydropower Caucus.

- **Congressional Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Expo and Forum** -- May 14, 2009, 9 a.m. -5 p.m., Caucus Room, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

NHA will exhibit and participate in the Sustainable Energy Coalition's 12th annual event on Capitol Hill aimed at educating legislators and policymakers about clean-energy benefits.

FUTURE:

- Visit NHA at www.hydro.org for more upcoming events and other information about hydropower.

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