



# Press Release

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## **NHA Commends Chicago Climate Exchange for Recognizing Hydropower's Greenhouse Gas Offset Value**

Washington, DC – This week the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) approved hydropower resources generated at Chelan County Public Utility District's Rocky Reach Dam as an eligible greenhouse gas offset. CCX uses offsets as one mechanism in its trading program that allows participants to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Chelan PUD recently joined the CCX as a participating member and registered the offsets.

"Adding hydropower to the list of eligible offsets establishes an important precedent for other regions tackling climate change programs," said Linda Church Ciocci, executive director of the National Hydropower Association. "We are very pleased to see the CCX recognize what we have known all along, that hydropower should and will play an important role in helping the country meet climate change goals."

According to Chelan PUD, the approximately 1.75 million additional megawatt hours generated at the dam as a result of operational and equipment efficiency improvements since 2003 are eligible to be traded as carbon offset credits.

CCX Chairman and CEO Richard Sandor said, "This project is the first of its kind to achieve no net impact on fish while producing more energy and is a win-win increasing energy output and improving environmental quality."

A March 2007 report issued by the Electric Power Research Institute found that approximately 90,000 megawatts of potential exists from untapped clean hydropower generation in the United States. This additional renewable power is available through a variety of resources including efficiency improvements and additions of capacity at existing hydropower facilities; development at non-powered dams; energy from new hydrokinetic resources such as ocean, tidal and instream technologies; conduit power; and new conventional hydropower facilities.

Added Ciocci, "As the EPRI report demonstrates, the hydropower industry has so much room to grow. Not only is there tremendous amount of potential still available, but also a significant climate benefit to pursuing the development of this clean, renewable power."

For more information about the Chelan PUD project and the CCX, please see Chelan's press release on the announcement at <http://www.chelanpud.org/5041.html>.

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*NHA is a non-profit national association dedicated exclusively to advancing the interests of the U.S. hydropower industry, including the new waterpower technologies – ocean, tidal and instream hydrokinetic technologies. The association represents 61 percent of domestic, non-federal conventional hydroelectric capacity in the U.S. Its membership consists of more than 140 organizations including public utilities, investor-owned utilities, independent power producers, developers, equipment manufacturers, environmental and engineering consultants, and attorneys.*