



# STATEMENT

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## For Immediate Release

### Statement on TCR Electric Power Sector Protocol

Washington, DC (April 3, 2009) – The National Hydropower Association today filed comments on The Climate Registry's (TCR) Electric Power Sector Protocol (ESPS). The protocol offers clarification for industry companies that participate in TCR's voluntary greenhouse gas emissions program. The following is a statement by NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci on the program.

"The National Hydropower Association is pleased to participate in The Climate Registry's public comment process on the draft Electric Power Sector Protocol for reporting greenhouse gases. As representatives of America's largest renewable-energy resource, we in the hydropower industry are committed to the growth and operation of clean energy resources, and we respect the work TCR and other organizations are doing in this area.

"Hydropower helps avoid approximately 225 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States each year. With new technologies and applications in development, we anticipate doubling hydropower's installed capacity, increasing hydropower's contribution to the clean energy mix dramatically.

"NHA is dedicated to expanding hydropower's role in our national climate strategy, and we're committed to learning more about issues like reservoir emissions. We're working closely with national and international organizations to learn more, and we're advocating for national research on this important issue.

"Right now, some of the most comprehensive studies of reservoir emissions suggest that CO2 emissions from most reservoirs are equal to surrounding natural lakes and waterways within 10 years of operation. Other studies suggest that some reservoirs may even be carbon sinks.

"But, NHA believes that we still need additional research before dismissing this issue or establishing policies on it. As a result, in our comments on the draft ESPS, we are recommending that TCR remove references to reporting reservoir emissions. Setting measurement standards now, before we understand the issue fully or even have agreement on measurement methodologies, would be premature and could prove counter-productive to the development of climate-friendly water-power resources.

"We also note that few U.S. reservoirs are solely devoted to hydropower generation. These reservoirs also provide recreational sites, flood control, water supply, fish and wildlife ponds, navigation, fire protection, and other uses. Any analysis of reservoir emissions should take into account all a reservoir's uses, rather than attributing possible GHG emissions to hydropower generation alone.

"We're pleased to see TCR's draft approach open a dialogue about this important issue, and we hope that it will help focus the scientific community's efforts to learn more about reservoir emissions. We need to act on this issue, but we believe that a comprehensive national study is the right next action, rather than a measurement protocol based on uncertain science.

"NHA looks forward to working with TCR and other organizations to gain a greater understanding of this issue and build our clean-energy future."

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