



STATEMENT

One Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. · Suite 850 · Washington, D.C., 20001-202/682-1700 · www.hydro.org

Contact: Kristen Nelson
301/654-2003 · kristen@hydro.org

For Immediate Release

Hydro industry leaders offer solutions and insights for addressing national priorities at NHA fly-in event

Washington, DC (March 5, 2009) – Hydropower industry executives offered solutions and insights for meeting America's most critical goals during meetings this week with senior administration officials, key legislators, and top regulators.

The discussions took place as part of the National Hydropower Association's inaugural hydropower executive leadership forum and fly-in, an event designed to introduce new officials and members of the 111th Congress to the leaders of America's largest renewable energy industry.

"The hydropower industry is in the unique position of being able to offer solutions to some of the most significant issues our country faces today," said NHA executive director Linda Church Ciocci. "We have the tools to expand our national renewable energy portfolio and support environmental goals, while creating more jobs and encouraging investment in all regions. As an industry, we want to serve our country."

According to Church Ciocci, the industry leaders focused on five key areas during their discussions with policymakers:

- How incentives will attract and stabilize investment, while creating long-term, family-supporting jobs
- How hydropower is a fundamental building block for both climate and energy policies
- How federal R&D partners can accelerate technology development and double the clean-energy capacity of the U.S. hydropower industry
- How hydropower's pivotal role in energy transmission and storage will serve the 21st century energy infrastructure
- And, how increased intergovernmental cooperation can make the permitting and licensing of hydropower resources more effective and more efficient.

NHA president Rick Miller, Senior Vice President of Hydropower Services, HDR|DTA, reported that he and his colleagues found policymakers receptive to hearing how the industry can play a role in all these policy areas.

"It was a great dialogue. We've gained important insights into how we can work in partnership with the public sector on policies that will leverage hydropower's many benefits," Miller said. "At the same, we've also been able to offer a new perspective on hydropower, and in particular on pumped storage, by speaking with this high-level, unified voice through NHA."

Miller noted that participants included NHA members in all areas of the hydropower industry from across the country, including generators, developers, manufacturers, engineering and environmental consultants, and others.

"It's important policymakers realize that the hydropower industry isn't comprised of just one technology or one approach," Miller said. "We encompass all kinds of technology, including conventional, hydrokinetic, ocean, tidal, pumped storage, and other applications. But, we share a common goal of growing a water-power industry that benefits all Americans."

Church Ciocci added that this event is the first in a series of activities planned as NHA launches its new CEO Council to ensure that key policies reflect the benefits the hydropower industry offers.

"Over the past year, we've found increasing support for our messages both in Congress, with the public, and among environmental groups. Now, as the Obama administration and the 111th Congress start work, we plan to keep the momentum going by advocating for policies that expand hydropower's role in all key energy, environmental, and economic legislation," she said.

###