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For Immediate Release

NHA Applauds Passage of FY2012 Energy and Water Budget by House Committee

Washington, D.C. (June 15, 2011) – The following is a statement from Linda Church Ciocci, Executive Director of the National Hydropower Association:

“The National Hydropower Association applauds the House Appropriations Committee’s recommendation of \$50 million for the Department of Energy’s Water Power Program at this morning’s markup. These funds are a vital investment in continued progress for hydropower research and development. We are also pleased to see that the funding has been equally divided between conventional and marine and hydrokinetic technologies.

“The hydropower industry is poised for tremendous growth, both in terms of generation and the economic benefits it provides. Over 1.4 million cumulative jobs could be created in the industry as it seeks to add over 60,000 MW of new capacity in the future. Continued funding of the Water Power Program helps to lower costs, improve operations and remove market-entry barriers to help make these goals a reality.

“Research and development of more efficient and environmentally-friendly turbines allows the hydropower industry to maximize its contribution to the country’s renewable energy portfolio. It will also allow DOE to continue its important role in gathering baseline industry data, developing updated resource assessments and new growth analyses, studying project operations for maximization of both energy and environmental values, as well as studying new issues that may affect the industry.

“Additionally, there is immense potential for new marine and hydrokinetic technologies to power America’s low carbon future. Ocean, tidal, hydrokinetics and wave power generation can add nearly 16,000 MW of capacity by 2025, so long as the right policies are enacted. Funding research and development seeking to bring these technologies to market certainly qualifies as such.

“We urge final passage of the Energy and Water Budget by the full House of Representatives and look forward to timely Senate action.”

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