



# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

### Statement of NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocchi on the groundbreaking of Willow Island Hydropower Project

Washington, D.C. (August 3, 2011) – On July 21, 2011, American Municipal Power (AMP) broke ground on its 35 MW Willow Island Hydroelectric project on the Ohio River. The project is the fourth of a potential six projects that AMP is developing on existing dams in the region.

The following is a statement by Linda Church Ciocchi, Executive Director of the National Hydropower Association, on the groundbreaking:

“NHA congratulates American Municipal Power for breaking ground at the Willow Island Hydroelectric plant on the Ohio River last month.

“The Ohio River area is one of the hardest hit by current economic conditions. But, hydropower presents an opportunity for investment and economic growth there and throughout the country.

“With a \$300 million investment in the region, AMP will create between 200 and 400 construction jobs and up to nine permanent operating positions. And the hydro supply chain runs deeper: nearly 50 new jobs were created at the Hannibal, OH plant of Voith Hydro, which manufactures the equipment for AMP’s facilities.

“Additionally, the 35 MW of new capacity will make clean, low-cost hydropower available to more American families. Approximately 3,000 households in the area will have access to the most affordable generation resource in the country once operations begin in 2014.

“AMP’s work is illustrative of the broader potential benefits that hydropower development holds for the country. With the right policies in place we could create over 1.4 million cumulative new jobs and develop over 60,000 MW of hydropower by 2025. The majority of that can be achieved without the construction of new dams, just like the Willow Island Project.

“NHA will continue to work with federal policymakers and industry to ensure the growth of the hydropower industry and the expansion of its benefits to more Americans. We look forward to the commencement of Willow Island operations in 2014.”

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