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25 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. · Suite 450 · Washington, D.C., 20001 · 202/682-1700 · www.hydro.org

Media Contact: Matthew Nocella
202/682-1700 ex. 21 · matt@hydro.org

For Immediate Release

Statement of NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocchi on Advanced Hydropower Awards

Washington, D.C. (September 7, 2011) – The following is a statement by Linda Church Ciocchi, NHA Executive Director, on yesterday’s announcement by the Departments of Energy and the Interior of nearly \$17 million to develop advanced hydropower technologies:

“These awards are wonderful news for an industry that is always looking to innovate. The Interior and Energy Departments address key areas of interest for the industry with this announcement: small hydro commercialization, environmental mitigation and natural resource protection, and pumped storage development. This important investment by the federal government is yet another step toward full deployment of the nation’s untapped hydropower resources along with the economic and jobs benefits to communities across the country.

“The growth that can be realized through the development of more cost-effective small hydropower technologies is extraordinary. Significant potential in the United States exists in low-head hydro applications, but barriers prevent these technologies from being brought to market. This funding helps remove those barriers and advance small hydro deployment.

“The hydropower industry is committed to operational excellence and natural resource protection. Through previous federally-supported research, the industry developed new advanced turbine designs and employed new operational regimes that increase both safe and effective fish passage and electricity generation. With this additional funding, the industry will continue to build upon these successes.

“As the country moves to integrate more variable renewable resources like solar and wind, pumped storage hydropower provides the needed firming and other grid benefits to ensure reliable and stable service customers have come to expect. The investment DOE and DOI is making will help the industry to better quantify these benefits of pumped storage and bring new projects online.

“NHA would like to extend special congratulations to its members, Hydro Green Energy, Natel Energy, Sacramento Municipal Utility District and the Electric Power Research Institute, who were among the recipients. We look forward to seeing the results of their endeavors.

“Hydropower is the most available, reliable, affordable and sustainable resource in the country and further federal investment is critical to realizing its full potential.”

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