



PRESS RELEASE

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

NHA Annual Conference draws hydropower industry to nation's capital

Washington, D.C. (April 16, 2012) – The National Hydropower Association commenced its annual conference this morning at the Capital Hilton, gathering industry leaders, federal and state agency representatives and other stakeholders just blocks from the White House to chart the course forward for one of the nation's most robust industries.

The policy-oriented conference agenda will bring the more than 500 attendees together to focus on a range of issues facing the industry today, including transmission planning, valuing hydro's integration role, compliance issues, and financing needs.

"These are exciting times for the hydropower industry. We have demonstrated beyond any doubt that hydropower is already the backbone of our country's clean energy resources and has much more to offer. And folks have taken note," said NHA President David Moller. "Policymakers on the Hill and in the Administration are listening to what we have to say, they're seeking our input, and they're giving serious consideration to our key policy goals."

Hydropower represents the largest share of renewable electricity generation in the United States, nearly double the combined generation of other renewables sources. The industry believes their contribution could double, and along with it add 1.4 million cumulative jobs, by 2025. All of that is achievable with the right policies in place.

"Bringing the industry together in D.C. is vital to reaching our full potential. Conference attendees are the best positioned to tell Congress what it will take to continue the trend of growth we've seen in recent years," said Linda Church Ciocci, NHA Executive Director. "It also puts our members and the regulatory agencies in the same room. With a tenth of the U.S. hydropower power capacity awaiting relicensing, now is the time for all segments of the industry to engage."

Lawmakers have shown unprecedented support for hydropower since the industry gathered last year. Bipartisan legislation has been introduced in both houses of Congress to achieve a more efficient regulatory process for certain projects and incentivize development. Even during a time of fiscal restraint, Congress approved the largest federal investment in hydropower research and development in nearly a decade.

Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of Interior kicks off the conference with a speech at the opening plenary session on Monday afternoon, April 16. Jose Zayas, Program Manager for the Department of Energy's Wind and Water Power Program, also addresses the annual conference at the opening session. Tuesday will feature Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner

Cheryl LaFleur, who will deliver a speech about the integral role hydropower plays in transmission planning and policy.

The conference will conclude on Wednesday with a panel discussion between renewable energy leaders on the challenges of promoting the growth of clean energy as the United States faces new federal budget realities. The panel will be moderated by NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci and will include Denise Bode, President & CEO of the American Wind Energy Association; Rhone Resch, President & CEO of the Solar Energy Industries Association; Dr. Kristina Johnson, CEO of Enduring Energy and former U.S. Under Secretary of Energy; and Lauren Bazel, Special Assistant, Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction Office of Senator John Kerry (D-MA).

For more information about the annual conference, being held April 16-18, 2012 at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C., please visit www.nationalhydroconference.com.

For more information on NHA, please visit www.hydro.org.

###