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For Immediate Release

NHA honors three companies with annual water stewardship awards

Washington, D.C. (April 17, 2012) – The National Hydropower Association today recognized three companies through its Outstanding Stewards of America’s Waters (OSAW) Awards. The winners – New York Power Authority, PPL Montana, and Tacoma Power – have developed projects that have provided extraordinary recreational, historical, environmental, or educational value as part of their normal hydropower operations.

“Leading through example, these awardees have raised the bar on excellence for the entire industry,” said Linda Church Ciocci, Executive Director of NHA. “The efforts they have put into each of these projects is not only worthy of the prestigious OSAW awards, but is emblematic of the commitment our industry has made to enhance the communities and ecosystems of which we are a part.”

Two awards were conferred in the category of Recreational, Environmental & Historical Enhancement:

- **New York Power Authority** won for their Little Beaver Island Habitat Improvement Project in New York. This critical habitat in the Niagara River was restored to its original wetland state, increasing bio-diversity while providing additional recreational benefits to the community.
- **PPL Montana** was recognized for its Thompson Falls Upstream Fish Passageway. The project provides bull trout and other fish species access to hundreds of miles of the upstream Clark Fork River and its tributaries and is the first full-height fish passage ladder in the United States built specifically to aid the passage of bull trout, a threatened species.

In the category of Public Education, one award was conferred:

- **Tacoma Power**’s innovative Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery Visitor Center in Washington State allows guests to explore the connection between salmon and the five “Hs” – hatcheries, habitat, high seas, harvest and hydropower – through hands-on exhibits that appeal to people of all ages, including a custom-built marble run that takes them through each stage of a salmon’s life.

NHA’s OSAW selection panel, which includes representatives from across the industry and media interests, determined the OSAW Award winners based on the project or program’s initial challenge, innovation, collaboration with stakeholders, and results. The panel judges every project by its own merits.

NHA presented the awards today at the association’s annual conference in Washington, D.C.

NHA invites you to learn more about these outstanding endeavors, both past and present, at www.outstandingwaters.org.

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