



# PRESS RELEASE

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

**Media Contact:** LeRoy Coleman  
(202) 750-8405 · LeRoy@hydro.org

## For Immediate Release

### NHA Announces 2016 Outstanding Stewards of America's Waters Award Winners

Washington, D.C. (April 26, 2016) – The National Hydropower Association today recognized five companies through its Outstanding Stewards of America's Waters (OSAW) Awards. The winners – Tacoma Power, Ocean Renewable Power Company, Duke Energy, Avista, and Grant County PUD – developed projects that have provided extraordinary recreational, historical, environmental, or educational value.

“The hydropower industry takes pride in good water stewardship, and this year's OSAW winners demonstrated their commitment to sustainability, the environment and improving the communities they serve,” **said Linda Church Ciocci, Executive Director of NHA.** “From creating recreational opportunities, to powering remote villages, these projects are a good example of the value of hydropower brings to local communities.”

Three awards were conferred for Recreational, Environmental & Historical Enhancement. This category recognizes hydropower projects that provide enhanced recreational opportunities for the general public, offer measurable benefits that mitigate, conserve, preserve, or enhance the natural resources, or conserve historical aspects of hydropower facilities and their integration with the surrounding community. Winners include:

#### **Tacoma Power - Floating Fish Collector**

Utilizing new technology to return salmon populations to the watershed, Tacoma Power developed the Floating Fish Collector at the Cushman Hydroelectric Project. Their innovative system pumps water to screens off fish, while the surface-to-floor nets guide smolts toward the collector, preventing them from reaching the turbines. This dynamic project is a leap forward in technology and design, ultimately helping restore fish populations on the North Fork Skokomish River.

#### **Duke Energy – Pines Recreation Area and High Falls Trail Project**

Duke Energy successfully developed the Pines Recreation Area and High Falls Trail as part of the West Fork Hydroelectric Project. Visitors now have access to a hiking and whitewater boating access trail, fishing pier, picnic facilities, educational and historical signage, and a swim beach – an engineering marvel, completed with a first-ever design using a concrete cloth material and rock-filled wire gabion baskets.

#### **Avista Corporation - Huntington Park and Spokane Tribal Gathering Place Renovation**

The Spokane Tribal Gathering Place, previously a parking lot, connects the newly transformed Huntington Park to the City of Spokane's Riverfront Park, allowing the public access to the Spokane River Lower Falls for the first time in 100 years. Today, visitors can access the Lower Falls and along the way experience interpretive signs, sculptures, and artifacts that depict the area's history, including Native American, European American and hydroelectric development.

One company received the OSAW for Operational Excellence. This category recognizes waterpower projects that add value to the industry through technical contributions, innovation, engineering, upgrades and improvements, or technology breakthroughs for new hydropower or marine hydrokinetic technologies.

### **Ocean Renewable Power Company – RivGen® Power System Commercialization Project**

Ocean Renewable Power Company successfully deployed the RivGen® Power System, a submersible hydrokinetic system designed for river and shallow tidal applications. RivGen supplied one-third of the power for the remote Alaskan village of Igiugig – demonstrating the viability of the marine energy technology for rural communities worldwide.

And finally, one company received the award for Public Education. This category recognizes programs that effectively communicate and promote the benefits of hydropower to an outside audience.

### **Grant County PUD – Wanapum Dam Video Tour**

Grant County PUD crafted an innovative and concise video to educate the public on the value of hydropower. A capstone of its new fish and hydro interpretive center, the video distills hydropower’s technical language into a 3D virtual tour of how Wanapum Dam meets the renewable energy needs of millions of customers throughout the Pacific Northwest.

### **About the Outstanding Stewards of America’s Waters Awards**

In 1994, the National Hydropower Association (NHA) created the Hydro Achievement Awards to recognize organizations and projects committed to excellence in the development and operation of hydropower. In 1999, NHA added the Outstanding Stewardship of America’s Rivers (OSAR) Report to profile the best examples of hydropower’s ability to generate clean, renewable, reliable and affordable electricity while protecting the riverine ecosystem. Beginning in 2007, these two recognition programs were merged to more effectively provide recognition to deserving organizations and to reflect the changing nature of the hydropower industry, particularly the fact that hydropower can be used in various waterways. The new award program is called the Outstanding Stewards of America’s Waters (OSAW).

OSAW Awards are given out in three distinct categories:

- Operational Excellence: projects that add value to the hydropower industry through technical contributions, innovation, engineering, upgrades and improvements or technology breakthroughs for new hydropower technologies
- Recreational, Environmental & Historical Enhancement: projects that provide enhanced recreational opportunities for the general public, offer measurable benefits that mitigate, conserve, preserve, or enhance the natural resources, or conserve historical aspects of hydropower facilities and their integration with the surrounding community.
- Public Education: programs that effectively communicate and promote the benefits of hydropower through mediums such as curriculum, learning centers, videos or outreach programs.

NHA invites you to learn more about these outstanding endeavors, both past and present, at [www.hydro.org/osaw](http://www.hydro.org/osaw).

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