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For Immediate Release:

U.S. Energy Department Unveils Hydropower Vision Report

Report outlines roadmap to increase hydropower by 50GW by 2050

Minneapolis, MN – Recognizing the untapped potential of hydropower to lessen the nation’s carbon footprint, the U.S. Department of Energy today released the *Hydropower Vision* report – a comprehensive, first-of-its-kind roadmap that offers a 360-degree view of the hydropower industry. The report offers pathways for tapping into hydropower’s potential to increase installed capacity by nearly 50 GW by 2050.

Among the report’s findings, it identifies growth potential in the following areas:

- 4.8 GW of new development on non-powered dams
- 6.3 GW in upgrades on existing hydropower
- 35.5 GW of new pumped storage projects
- 1.75 GW in new stream-reach development

“The Hydropower Vision report fundamentally hits the reset button for our industry by ushering in a new way of thinking about hydropower, while fracturing misconceptions that we don’t have room to grow sustainably, **said Linda Church Ciocci, NHA’s Executive Director.** “Clean and renewable hydropower isn’t tapped out, and it can play a larger role in helping the nation meet its clean energy needs.

The report also finds that increasing hydropower by 50GW will contribute to a healthier America. All told, it would reduce greenhouse gases emissions by 5.6 billion metric tons. Moreover, the country would benefit from \$209 billion in savings from avoided global damages from GHG emissions and \$58 billion savings in avoided mortality, morbidity, and economic damages from emissions reductions.

“Each clean and renewable megawatt we add would have a positive impact on the communities we serve,” **added Ciocci.** “The economic and societal benefits of both existing and potential new hydropower are substantial. 50 by 2050 will result in nearly 5 million fewer cases of acute respiratory symptoms and 750,000 fewer cases of childhood asthma.

Today, pumped storage hydropower represents 97% of the nation’s energy storage. Increasing pumped storage’s capacity by 35.5 gigawatts by 2050 would more than double the nation’s energy storage capacity. At the same time, pumped storage enables greater integration of renewables (wind/solar) into the grid by utilizing excess generation, and being ready to produce power during low

wind and solar generation periods. PSH also has the ability to quickly ramp electricity generation up in response to periods of peak demand.

While the promise of hydropower is great, today it can take ten years or more to license a hydropower project. Hydropower is severely handicapped by an outdated licensing process, conflicting priorities, competing agency authorities, and deferred decision-making.

“This report puts the need to modernize our licensing process into clearer focus. The status quo is hampering the development of hydropower,” **Ciucci continued**. “We can’t reach 50 by 2050 without a licensing process that is timely, coherent and more collaborative. With this new roadmap in hand, we need to unlock hydropower’s ability to secure our clean energy future”

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