

# The Value of Hydropower in a Renewable Based Power System

## Legal and Regulatory Issues

National Hydropower Association  
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# Overview

- The Good, the Bad, the Eye of the Beholder
  - The Need
  - New Hydropower Generation
  - Existing Hydropower Generation
- You Decide

# The Need

- Hydropower generation
  - *Is Renewable*
  - Is Flexible & Complementary to Non-hydro Renewables
    - Non-hydro Renewable Generating Capacity is Increasing

# New Hydropower Generation – the Good

- ARRA Funding – Need for New Pumped Storage
  - Significant increase in FERC pumped storage applications
  - Absorb excess generation or negative load
- FERC Small Hydropower Development Initiative (Docket No. AD09-9)
  - December 2, 2009 Technical Conference
  - April 15, 2010 – Action Plan
- March 2010 MOU: Departments of Energy, Interior and Army
  - Feasibility analysis of pumped storage on federal sites
  - Certify hydropower projects for inclusion in RPS

# New Hydropower Generation – the Bad

- Limits on Qualification as Renewable in Most State RPS
- Licensing/Permitting Can Be Difficult and Expensive
- Transmission and Interconnection Issues
- Integration of Variable Resources Issues

# Existing Hydropower Generation – the Good

- Likely Few Licensing or Transmission Issues
- \$30.6 Million ARRA Funding for Upgrades
  - 3 projects at greater than 50 MW
  - 4 projects at 50 MW or less
- \$531 Million CREBs Funding

# Existing Hydropower Generation – the Bad

- Operating Flexibility is Not Unlimited
  - Fish and natural resources
  - Water levels
- Energy is Committed
- Regional Needs
- Integration of Variable Resources Issues

# The Eye of the Beholder

- Is this
  - The best of times for hydropower?
    - or
  - The worst of times?
- You Decide



# Questions?

- Thank you.

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