

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20585

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

June 14, 2010

Dear Secretaries Salazar and Chu and Assistant Secretary Darcy:

The Hydropower Reform Coalition (HRC) and the National Hydropower Association (NHA) call on the Departments of Energy and Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers to support the creation of a National Hydropower Coordinating Collaborative. Such a Collaborative would serve as an open, neutral forum that would promote transparent dialogue and collaboration among federal and state agencies, environmental NGOs, the hydropower industry, and other stakeholders with an interest in hydropower.

Your agencies' Memorandum of Understanding for Hydropower (MOU) established a goal of simultaneously increasing both hydropower production and environmental protection. Many of your MOU's action items have a significant public outreach component, and during the MOU signing ceremony, parties discussed the importance of this outreach. HRC and NHA agree that collaboration among all relevant federal and state agencies, the environmental community, the hydropower industry, and other stakeholders is critical as your agencies implement the MOU. Our organizations believe that a National Hydropower Coordinating Collaborative would provide an excellent venue for your agencies to conduct this outreach, incorporating a broad range of views that can inform your decision-making.

The National Wind Coordinating Collaborative may prove to be an instructive model when developing the National Hydropower Coordinating Collaborative. For example, the Wind Collaborative is comprised of representatives from the utility, wind industry, environmental, consumer, regulatory, power marketer, agricultural, tribal, economic development, and state and federal government sectors with the goal to identify issues that impact the use of the resource, establish dialogue with key stakeholders, and catalyze appropriate activities.

We look forward to participating in the timely implementation of your agencies' MOU, and hope that you will support this National Hydropower Coordinating Collaborative concept. Please feel free to contact either the HRC or NHA with any questions.

Sincerely,



John Seebach
Chair
Hydropower Reform Coalition



Linda Church Ciocci
Executive Director
National Hydropower Association

CC: Under Secretary Kristina Johnson, Department of Energy
Assistant Secretary Anne Castle, Department of the Interior
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Rock Salt, Department of the Army