

NHA Media Contact:

Matthew Nocella

Assistant Manager of Strategic Communications

matt@hydro.org

202.682.1700 ext 21

202.378.3116

Key Messages – The Benefits of Hydropower

1. **Renewable American hydropower is low-cost, reliable, clean energy now and for the future.** Hydropower is already the nation's largest renewable electricity resource and plays an integral role in our nation's diverse energy portfolio. Long project lifespans and zero fuel costs provide electricity at low costs to tens of millions of Americans from coast-to-coast.
2. **Hydropower is sustainable.** Requiring nothing more than the flow of moving water, hydropower does not produce air pollution or toxic byproducts and helps us avoid hundreds of millions of metric tons of carbon emissions each year. Additionally, the industry invests millions of dollars every year on environmental improvements to mitigate the impacts of hydropower and enhance the water resource.
3. **Hydropower has room to grow.** A Navigant Consulting study found that we could add 60,000 MW of hydropower in the U.S. with the right policies in place. Such expansion could help to support up to 1.7 million American jobs.
4. **Americans support maintaining and expanding hydropower in the United States.** Eighty-one percent of Americans believe the existing hydropower fleet of 100,000 MW should be maintained and 75 percent believe we should be working to expand that capacity. They also believe by large margins we should be enacting policy to support that growth.

Key Messages – Dam Removal

1. **Dams are more than hydropower.** Dams are multipurpose tools that provide navigation, irrigation, flood control, recreation, and hydropower generation. Sometimes all five. In fact, only 3 percent of the nation's 80,000 dams generate electricity.
2. **Powering dams makes them safer.** Hydropower dams are generally safer. Private investment helps maintain the infrastructure and the federal regulatory process increases the public safety and reduces the overall environmental impact when compared to a dam without power.
3. **The trend is toward more hydropower in the United States.** Policymakers and the environmental community are looking to hydropower to meet our nation's energy and environmental challenges by maximizing the public benefit of existing water infrastructure. Last year the Congress unanimously passed, and the President signed into law, a bill that seeks to expedite licensing for building hydropower on the nation's non-powered dams. The bill was not only supported by the hydropower industry, but also American Rivers, the nation's leading conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring America's rivers.
4. **It may make sense for some dams to be removed, but not all dams.** There are certainly dams in the United States that are candidates for removal for varying reasons. Any dam removal decision that will impact hydropower generation needs to be apolitical and based on sound science. It must also take into account the loss of generation and the source of the replacement power.