NHA FEDERAL POLICY UPDATE

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NHA-NWHA Northwest Regional Meeting
About NHA

NHA is a forum to unite industry with a common and powerful voice

- Operational Excellence
- Legislative Affairs
- Membership Outreach
- Regulatory Affairs
- Public Affairs
- Research and Development

180 members

Vision

Double America’s largest renewable energy resource – hydropower – in support of a sustainable and secure energy future.
Mission

Champion hydropower, in all of its forms, as America’s premier renewable energy resource. Focus on growth, operational excellence and environmental stewardship.
Building Hydropower’s Reputation


Messaging
- Available
- Reliable
- Affordable
- Sustainable
- Job Creation

New digital presence
- Web site redesign
- Facebook
- Twitter

Advocacy
- Congress
- FERC
- Resource Agencies

Outreach
- National and local media
- Third party groups
- NGOs

Operational Excellence
- HPC
- New Task Group
- Hydro Industry Forum
Policy Priorities

NHA supports a Clean Energy Standard goal of generating 80% of America’s electricity from clean and renewable energy – a goal achievable only with a significant role for hydropower.

What it will take:

A more efficient regulatory process

Economic incentives to support project development

A national clean and renewable electricity standard

Research and development
More efficient regulatory process

**Hydropower Improvement Act (S.629)**

- **Non-powered Dams and Pumped Storage**: FERC to explore 2-year licensing process for development at non-powered dams and for closed-loop pumped storage.

- **Conduit and Small Hydro**: Allows conduit exemptions on federal lands; FERC and federal agencies to adopt MOU to better coordinate reviews.

- **Federal Hydropower Development**: Requires DOE, DOI and Corps of Engineers to report on 2010 MOU to increase federal hydro development. FERC and BuRec to complete new MOU improving coordination and timeliness of non-federal development at Bureau sites.

**Bipartisan and NGO support**

- Introduced by Sen. Murkowski and 8 other Senators from both parties. Working on a House companion bill.
- American Rivers and NHA both testified in support of the bill.
Other Bills

S. 630 -- Marine and Hydrokinetic Renewable Energy Promotion Act of 2011


H.R. 795 – Small-Scale Hydropower Enhancement Act of 2011

Economic Incentives

Fund and extend incentives to provide long-term certainty

- Extension of production and investment tax credits (PTC, ITC) through 2018
- Additional funding for clean renewable energy bonds (CREBs)
- Additional funding for RE equipment manufacturers ITC

Provide parity to hydropower resources

- New ITC and CREBs eligibility for pumped storage
National Energy Standard

Previous RES proposals recognized only certain hydropower projects as renewable.

A Clean Energy Standard is a different policy paradigm than the RES. As such, the treatment and recognition of hydro must be re-evaluated. That includes:

- **Existing hydropower generation** should be counted if generation from other clean resources qualifies (wind, nuclear, etc.). Hydro should be treated equitably in comparison to other existing resources.

- **Pumped storage** will play a critical role to firm and integrate variable resources and increase their contribution to the CES goal. The CES should include a mechanism to provide recognition of clean generation from pumped storage – both existing and new.
R&D Support

Federal and State programs support technology innovation, improved operations and other advancements

NHA advocates for R&D support for all sectors of the waterpower industry – conventional hydropower, pumped storage and marine and hydrokinetics

NHA has sent joint support letters with the environmental NGO community and ocean energy industry in support of DOE waterpower R&D programs
Political Climate

Deficit Reduction
- Intense focus on cutting spending/role of government
- Programs with new costs face greater challenges
- Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction

Legislative Agenda
- FY 2012 funding still not resolved
- Deficit Committee has end of year deadlines
- Renewed focus on jobs agenda

Election Year
- Partisan politics are already playing a role
- 2012 will have limited time in which to get things done
- Focus to shift to the Presidential and Hill races
Regulatory Affairs Activities

FERC MOUs on licensing coordination with Corps and CO issued

FERC NOI on Annual Charges on Federal Lands – NHA comments

Compliance Work Group
  Held 3 conference calls for industry-wide info sharing

“Smarter” Licensing Working Group
  Scoped issues and possible solutions; provided input to NHA work on the HIA and 2-year process

New resource assessments from DOE and BuRec issued
  NHA participated and commented on both
Pumped Storage Activities

FERC Ancillary Services NOI
NHA filed detailed comments on Avista restriction, FERC accounting treatments and proposed new asset class for energy storage

Pumped Storage Workshop held October 3

Pumped storage white paper drafted and under final review
Ocean, Tidal, New Technologies

BOEMRE NOPR on Noncompetitive OCS Leasing
NHA commented and final rule issued

Corps Of Engineers MHK Nation Wide Permits
NHA commented. Final rule not yet issued.
Get involved

Legislative Advocacy
- Write and visit your Members of Congress
- Update them on your projects
- Support the NHA hydro agenda

Strategic Communication
- Engage your public affairs staff in NHA
- Outreach to End Users

Committees and Councils
- Stay tuned to listservs and the website
- Participate in calls, meetings

Events
- 2012 NHA Annual Conference—April 16-18
- 2012 regional meeting planning underway
Contact

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Questions?

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