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For Immediate Release

Congress approves water resources bill with boost for hydropower

Statement of NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci

Washington, D.C. (May 22, 2014) – The following is a statement of Linda Church Ciocci, Executive Director of the National Hydropower Association, on the passage of the Water Resources Reform & Development Act, which includes provisions to boost the development of hydropower at Army Corps of Engineer’s facilities.

"I applaud the diligence and determination of House and Senate negotiators to reach bipartisan agreement on a critical piece of legislation to improve the nation’s water infrastructure. The hydropower industry is particularly pleased to see the inclusion of language that directs the Army Corps of Engineers to make hydropower development at its facilities a priority.

“The United States has a remarkable opportunity to develop hydropower at the nation’s existing non-powered dams. Non-powered dams owned and operated by the Army Corps represent a potential addition of over 8,000 MW of new clean, reliable hydropower. This legislation sets us on the path to realize that potential, especially as the Department of Energy has set a goal of doubling the nation’s hydropower.

“We continue to see Congress enact policy that looks to hydropower as a solution to the nation's energy, economic, and environmental challenges. Just last August, Congress passed and the president signed two bills into law, enacting regulatory changes that expedite the licensing process for certain types of hydropower projects. We look forward to working with policymakers to further promote this bipartisan renewable energy resource.”

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