



The National Hydropower Association, Inc.

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM FOR NHA BOARD ELECTIONS

Name: *Douglas A. Spaulding, P.E.*

Title: *Principal -Owner*



Company: *Nelson Energy*

Address: *1030 Tyrol Trail, Minneapolis, MN, 55416*

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Type of Company (independent power producer, investor owned utility, municipal utility, manufacturer, equipment supplier, engineering firm, law firm or other):

Project Developer and Independent Consultant

- **Please circle appropriate description. Your company is:**

Nelson Energy is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Nelson's project development portfolio has included projects in Minnesota, Iowa, Louisiana and Alabama. As an independent consultant, I have provided services for projects located in a 27 states throughout the US.

- **Please circle:**

Northwest	West	Southwest	<u>Midwest</u>
Middle Atlantic	Northeast	Southeast	

- **How long have you been with your present company? And do you have their support for you to take on this role and to travel to 3-4 board meetings?**

I founded Nelson Energy 21 years ago and have been affiliated with it for this entire period. As the owner of Nelson, I am able to commit Nelson Energy's total support for my participation in the NHA board meetings and activities

- **How long have you been in your present position?**
- *As indicated above, I have served as the Principal at Nelson Energy since 2005*
- **Briefly describe the responsibilities of your position and of your department or division as appropriate.**

Over the last 21 years, through my role at Nelson Energy, I have focused on two areas in the hydroelectric industry,--project development and technical consultation. As a developer of hydro at existing dams, Nelson has identified, licensed and developed hydroelectric potential at five dams with a total capacity of 146 MW. Two of these projects are in operation and three are currently under design. In the role of an independent consultant, I have conducted consultant inspections, facilitated numerous Potential Failure Mode Analyses (PFMA) evaluations, served on the Board of Consultants for two FERC projects and also served on the review panels for over 20 Corps of Engineers Independent External Peer Review (IEPR) evaluations on Corps projects throughout the United States.

- **Your work experience has provided you with an opportunity to develop important skills. As an NHA board of director, particular leadership and management skills are necessary to ensure that the Association receives policy direction and that it stays on course in responding to member's needs. Briefly describe the strengths and / or particular skills you would bring to the Board of Directors.**
- *As an active member of NHA for over 35 years, I have hands-on experience with the many issues currently confronting the hydroelectric industry and the board. In the past I have served in several roles in NHA including as an advisory board member in 2019. As described below, my background includes a wide range of experience in the hydroelectric industry as an owner, consultant and developer. This diverse background includes development of conventional hydro and pumped storage projects, management of relicensing for small hydro projects and implementation of the continuing and expanding requirements related to dam safety. I believe that my background and experience will allow me to provide experienced input on the many issues currently confronting the board and will provide a voice for the developers of small hydro projects. which is largely absent from the current board*

Over the past 45 years my professional career has focused on many aspects of hydroelectric generation including relicensing, dam safety, pumped storage development and conventional hydro development.

Relicensing -*As an independent consultant, I served as the owner's manager for the relicensing of five hydroelectric projects. This role included managing agency consultation, negotiation of study requirements, consultant selection and the compilation of study results into license applications.*

Dam Safety-*While serving with the Corps of Engineers, I managed the National Dam Safety program for the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota. I also have served as the FERC independent consultant on inspections of over 50 hydroelectric projects throughout the United States and have served as the facilitator for Potential Failure Mode Analyses for over 40 projects.*

Pumped Storage Development- *In the early 1990s I managed the development of a 1000 MW closed-loop pumped storage project in Oregon. This development, which was funded by Voith, Siemens and Independent Hydro Developers, proceeded through the licensing process and the development of an EIS, but was unfortunately terminated by the deregulation of the California power market. More recently I developed the DOE prize-winning concept of utilizing tunnel-boring machines to excavate large scale underground pumped storage projects.*

Conventional Hydro Development- *After forming Nelson Energy, I managed the development and licensing of five conventional hydroelectric projects with a total generating licensed capacity of 146 MW. Two of these projects are in operation and three are currently*

under design and development. I also served as a champion and focused lobbyist for the recently enacted Build More Hydro legislation

- **Have you been actively involved in NHA over the last several years, served on committees, etc?**

My recent involvement has included serving as an advisory member to the NHA Board of Directors in 2019, serving two years as a co-chair of the New Hydropower Development Roundtable, and actively participating in the Legislative Affairs Committee. In this latter role I actively lobbied for passage of the "Build More Hydro" legislation. Nelson Energy engaged a lobbyist for a three-year effort to support passage of this legislation which extended the FERC licenses for 38 projects in 15 states.

- **If you are elected to the board, what are the specific priorities that you would pursue?**

The current composition of the NHA board includes many very qualified experienced members, many of whom represent large operating utilities or larger development companies focused on the development of large pumped storage projects or acquisition of existing hydro assets. They provide expertise that is well informed and qualified to address the critical issues related to maintenance of existing hydro assets, regulatory challenges associated with relicensing and dam safety and the challenges to move large pumped storage projects forward. Issues specifically related to small hydro developers, however, are largely unrepresented.

The current FERC licensing process is a long, cumbersome and time-consuming undertaking. Typically, in the last 20 years licensees of small hydro projects have been either small independent hydroelectric developers or municipal entities. Regulated utilities and large private development companies have not been willing to invest in the licensing process which often extends over 5 to 10 years and can cost millions of dollars. Small hydroelectric developers with lower overhead, can carry forward the licensing process more economically and typically move several projects forward concurrently. Municipal entities have the assurance of a long-term client base and can justify the development of a generation facility with an estimated lifespan of over 100 years.

As a board member, I will serve as a voice for the smaller hydro developer community. The passage of the "Build More Hydro" legislation is an example of the contribution that NHA can make in support of small hydro development. I will also strongly support a shared focus with both the existing hydro community and the pumped storage developers to enact legislation to revise and streamline the licensing and relicensing process. I believe that this effort is critical to both maintain existing hydroelectric projects and to promote the expansion of both conventional hydro and pumped storage.

- **Is there anything you would like to add?**

I believe that my diverse experience in many aspects of the hydroelectric industry will provide me with the background to contribute in many ways to both the board and to the NHA. Membership.

- **Gender Identification-** *Male*
- **Age** *>70*
- **Race** *White*