



Press Release

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DOE R&D Budget Delays Hydropower Industry Benefits for All Americans

The National Hydropower Association expresses its strong disappointment over the significant funding cut proposed for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) research and development program that supports conventional hydropower and new ocean, tidal, and instream hydrokinetic resources.

DOE requested only \$3 million dollars for the FY 2009 program – a whopping 70% cut from the \$10 million appropriated by Congress for FY 2008.

“New reports demonstrate that hydropower and new waterpower technologies could offer Americans 95,000 megawatts of clean, climate-friendly electricity as well as jobs and investments that support local communities. We need federal R&D support to make this potential a reality, to conduct more detailed resource assessments and technical feasibility studies, and to gather environmental impact data,” stated Linda Church Ciocci, NHA executive director.

DOE Secretary Samuel Bodman this week told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee that the DOE is “...accelerating the development of clean and renewable energy technologies to dramatically increase the amount of clean energy produced in the United States.”

Unfortunately, the cuts to the DOE water power R&D program tell another story.

“For the last several years, the Department has zeroed out funding for hydropower and new waterpower R&D initiatives. We believe Congress has made abundantly clear its strong support for this program through directives contained in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, and its FY2008 appropriations. By choosing to cut funding once again for FY 2009, the DOE will stifle, not stimulate, the growth of these cutting edge renewable energy technologies,” added Church Ciocci.

NHA urges Congress to restore funding for hydropower and water power R&D initiatives, which directly support the development and deployment of new clean technologies that will meet both the nation’s increasing energy demands and climate change goals.

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NHA is a non-profit national association dedicated exclusively to advancing the interests of the U.S. hydropower industry, including the new waterpower technologies – ocean, tidal and instream hydrokinetic technologies. The association represents 61 percent of domestic, non-federal conventional hydroelectric capacity in the U.S. Its membership consists of more than 140 organizations including public utilities, investor-owned utilities, independent power producers, developers, equipment manufacturers, environmental and engineering consultants, and attorneys.