

Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA)
Western Energy Resource Committee (WERC)
Talking Points - September 2007

Hydropower as a Renewable Resource

Key Messages:

To ALL: Thank the Governors for their unified, bipartisan support for hydropower and recognizing hydropower as a renewable resource (See WGA Policy Resolution 07-16 – Transitioning the West to Clean Energy and Energy Security).

NWPPA has [Resolution 07-7](#) In Support of the Benefits of Hydropower as a Renewable Resource.

WGA Positions:

1. In the WGA Policy Resolution 07-16 (background #2, #3 and #5) the Western Governors' show their support for hydropower as a renewable resource.
2. The Resolution states: "The West has an abundance of traditional natural resources, such as coal and natural gas, and the greatest potential for renewable resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, and hydropower."
3. The Resolution also says, "Nearly 18% of the electricity in territory represented by WGA is from hydropower, which provides electrical generating capacity by utilizing the natural energy created through the West's vast network of streams, rivers, and coastlines."
4. In the WGA Policy Resolution 07-16 (Policy Statement #1) the Western Governors state their support for hydropower research and regulations that will promote the development of small hydropower potential. The Western Governors also support the expansion of the federal production tax credits to include small hydropower, hydropower at non-hydro dams, hydrokinetic/ocean technologies and hydropower that existed prior to 2007 that satisfies one of the following two criteria: 1) increased capacity or 2) used to firm or regulate other renewable energy resources.

NWPPA Positions:

1. NWPPA supports hydropower as a renewable, clean, economically beneficial, cost-effective and safe resource, which should be counted as such in any Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).
2. NWPPA believes the existing benefits of the federal hydropower system should be maintained for consumer-owned utilities. Our western water resources belong to the people. Our water resources are for the greater common good of the people and the environment.
3. NWPPA believes hydropower serves our nation's economy and people by controlling floods, developing navigation systems, irrigating our farms, supporting fish hatcheries and developing recreational opportunities.
4. NWPPA supports sensible, balanced approaches to the construction, modification — including incremental upgrades — and operation of hydropower facilities. Hydropower is the foundation of our Northwest region's energy supply. It aids our businesses and industries in being a viable and competitive force that enhances the strength of the country.

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WGA Management Directive:

WGA's Policy Resolution 07-16 includes a series of management directives.

Directive #3 – “The Western Governors direct the WGA staff to develop a report outlining how to more effectively utilize existing hydropower facilities and more effectively using small hydro potential.”

- As operators of hydropower facilities and recipients of generation from the Federal Columbia River Power System, NWPPA can identify members that are willing to provide WGA staff information to help draft this report.