**Northwest Public Power Association**

**Resolution 2016-02**

**In Support of All Hydropower**

**Background**

NWPPA supports hydropower, the foundation of the region’s energy supply, as a renewable, clean, economically beneficial, cost-effective, carbon-free and safe energy resource.  Multi-purpose dams serve the nation’s economy and people by supplying renewable power, controlling floods, developing navigation systems, irrigating farmlands, supporting fish hatcheries and creating recreational opportunities.  Hydroelectric generation also keeps the air and water clean by reducing the need to burn and import fossil fuels. Hydropower is the Nation’s largest renewable and carbon-free resource, represents a significant portion of electrical generation capacity, and its expansion can be a major source of job creation in the United States.

**NWPPA’s Position**

* NWPPA supports Congress recognizing all hydropower, not just new or incremental hydropower, as a renewable, emission-free base load resource and one that facilitates integration of other emission-free energy resources.
* NWPPA supports efforts by Congress to modernize hydropower licensing by passing legislation that reduces the length of time it takes to license a project and recognizes “early action” in setting license terms.
* NWPPA supports reducing the hydropower licensing process by better coordinating federal authorizations, adding schedule discipline, improving trial-type hearings and fact-finding, requiring agencies to equally consider other public purposes of a project when setting conditions, and reducing duplicative study requests.
* NWPPA supports reforms that require mandatory conditions and prescriptions to have a substantial project nexus.
* NWPPA supports policies that appropriately incentivize hydropower deployment and gives hydropower full credit as a method of meeting emission reduction goals.
* NWPPA supports federal investments in advanced hydropower technologies through research, development, and incentives to help achieve national energy independence.

NWPPA supports federal incentives for renewable energy that are equally available to hydropower and accessible for both public and private sectors.

Origination Date: 1997. Revised in 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2016.