**Northwest Public Power Association**

**Resolution 2017-02**

**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 may conserve and manage water to meet the needs of the people and the Nation’s economy; supply renewable power; store water for drinking supply and industrial uses, control floods; develop navigation systems; irrigate farmlands; maintain fisheries; improve water quality; support fish hatcheries; and create recreational opportunities.

In addition to energy, hydropower provides valuable services to the electric grid which support reliability and the integration of wind and solar, including capacity, flexibility, ramping, and frequency response. 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, small, or incremental hydropower, as a renewable, emission-free base load resource.
* NWPPA supports federal incentives for renewable energy that are equally available to hydropower and accessible to public power utilities and rural electric cooperatives.
* NWPPA supports efforts by Congress to modernize hydropower licensing by passing legislation that requires the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to recognize early investments made by a licensee when setting a new license term.
* NWPPA supports reducing the time required for 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 and those not tied to project operations.
* NWPPA supports reforms that require mandatory conditions and prescriptions be accompanied by written rationale tied to project nexus.
* NWPPA supports policies that appropriately incentivize hydropower deployment and gives hydropower full credit as a method of meeting emission reduction goals.
* NWPPA opposes policies aimed at wind and solar that discourage or displace the use of energy efficiency and hydropower.
* NWPPA supports federal investments in advanced hydropower technologies through research, development, and incentives to help achieve national energy independence.
* NWPPA opposes efforts to remove safe and productive dams that provide, or have the potential to provide, economic hydropower generation.

Origination Date: 1997. Revised in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2017.