

## **Northwest Public Power Association Resolution 2019-02**

## **In Support of All Hydropower as a Renewable Resource**

## Background

NWPPA supports hydropower, the foundation of the Northwest region's energy supply, as a clean renewable, cost-effective, carbon-free and safe energy resource. Multi-purpose dams conserve and manage water to meet the needs of the people and the Nation's economy.

In addition to energy, hydropower provides valuable services to the electric grid which support reliability and the integration of renewable resources including wind and solar through capacity, flexibility, ramping, and frequency response. Hydroelectric generation also keeps the air and water clean with zero carbon emissions, thus by reducing the need to burn and import additional fossil fuels.

Hydropower is the Nation's largest renewable and carbon-free resource, represents a significant portion of electrical generation capacity. The Department of Energy's *2016 Hydropower Vision* report found that hydropower could grow from 101 GW to nearly 150 GW by 2050. However, public policy and market design are not keeping up with the needs of the future grid, threatening the viability of new and even *existing* hydropower projects. If public policy and market design fail to recognize hydropower's value to the electric grid, reinvestment in these resources is at risk.

A key benefit of the federal hydropower system is clean air, substantial production of energy, and no greenhouse gas emissions. This gives the Northwest an environmental edge unmatched elsewhere in the country, where power production is largely based on fossil fuels. Hydro generation is unique in its ability to instantly increase or decrease generation in maintaining the constant balance of generation and loads, or electric demand which is necessary for power system reliability.

## **NWPPA's Position**

- NWPPA supports Congress recognizing all hydropower, including existing hydropower, as a renewable resource.
  - NWPPA supports market design that values hydropower's baseload availability, flexible capacity, other ancillary services and carbon-free attributes.

- 38     • NWPPA supports federal incentives for renewable energy that are equally available to  
39        hydropower and accessible to public power utilities and rural electric cooperatives.
- 40     • NWPPA supports efforts by Congress to modernize hydropower licensing by designating  
41        Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as the lead agency for purposes of  
42        coordinating all federal authorizations and complying with the National Environmental  
43        Policy Act.
- 44     • NWPPA supports reducing the time required for hydropower licensing process by better  
45        coordinating federal authorizations, adding schedule discipline, improving trial-type  
46        hearings and fact-finding, requiring agencies to equally consider other public purposes  
47        of a project when setting conditions, and reducing duplicative study requests and those  
48        not tied to project operations.
- 49     • NWPPA supports hydropower regulatory reforms that require mandatory conditions  
50        and prescriptions be accompanied by written rationale tied to each prescribed project  
51        nexus.
- 52     • NWPPA supports effective FERC implementation of new Federal Power Act section 36,  
53        which will encourage pre-licensing investments at existing hydropower projects by  
54        crediting them toward longer license terms.
- 55     • NWPPA supports federal investments in advanced hydropower technologies through  
56        research, development, and incentives. A major opportunity for increasing hydro-  
57        system output is reducing unplanned outages and increasing hydropower's contribution  
58        to grid reliability and resiliency.
- 59     • NWPPA opposes efforts to remove safe and productive dams that provide, or have the  
60        potential to provide, economic hydropower generation.

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62              Origination Date: 1997. Revised in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.