CURRENT HYDROPOWER ISSUES

REGIONAL

**NW POWER COUNCIL REGIONAL HYDROPOWER POTENTIAL SCOPEING STUDY**

NWHA was awarded a contract in August to complete a review of existing national and regional hydropower studies to assess the viability of hydro projects ready to move forward in the next 20 years. In addition to the study review a survey was sent out yesterday to secure information on real projects; and we will do a review of existing FERC applications as well. We appreciate your responses. The results will be reviewed for inclusion in the Council’s Seventh Power Plan. There will be a two hour webinar on the results later this fall. The study will be completed September 30th.

**PROTECTED AREAS REVISIONS**

The NW Power Council’s Protected Areas rules for the Fish and Wildlife Plan are in the process of being updated by the Council. The comment period has closed and the Council is reviewing comments to determine which areas of the plan will be revised. A major issue has been providing a review of run-of-the-river projects which are in the protected areas and therefore unavailable to move forward in the Northwest on any of the many streams
and rivers mapped as Protected Areas. Our organization and several others have requested that the original intent of the Power Act be implemented to provide a process for such projects to be reviewed as often the benefits outweigh impacts. There should be a resolution soon. Go to: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/protectedareas/88-22/

OREGON INITIATIVE PROCESS
While there was earlier a threatened initiative to bring all the federal projects into Oregon’s RPS, that is now dead. A resolution was worked out to allow the petitioners to use some RECS over a short period of time before implementing enough renewable resources to meet their RPS requirement. There will be no initiative on the 2014 ballot; House Bill 4126 captures the compromise. https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Measures/Text/HB 4126/Enrolled

OREGON COMMUNITY HYDROPOWER
SB 1520 provides for a community-based renewable energy projects at the local level, such as within a county or some other configuration. The Oregon Department of Energy is undergoing a rulemaking as to which projects can be a part of that program and the proposed rules set a cap of $750,000 on any project to be included. This does not follow the earlier SB 838 definition which
included projects up to 20 MWs and would tend to limit the community projects to individual solar or other similar projects.

https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Measures/Text/SB1520/Enrolled

NATIONAL

**SMALL HYDROPOWER ASSESSMENT**

The Hydro Research Foundation has been funded to develop the NEW HYDROPOWER INNOVATION COLLABORATIVE. The Hydro Research Foundation supports graduate level students to receive fellowships for endeavors in the hydropower field. The website is: http://www.hydrofoundation.org/.

The foundation provides research in coordination with governments, private industry and others. The current collaborative commissioned by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory on behalf of the US DOE, attempts to look at making changes in hydropower development by:

- Reducing the cost and time to deploy new hydropower resources
- Identifying technology innovations
- Identifying policy innovations
• Developing an on-line technology resource for developers and industry
• Providing current information to industry, DOE and Congress

Part of the project includes an innovative hydropower technology catalog (available on the website) regarding operation and maintenance of hydropower facilities, engineering and other development aspects. That is now available.

The New Pathways Report, an idea book, and a Policy Agenda (compilation of policy, financial, and regulatory improvements recommended) will be available later in September. There is also a vendors’ catalog which provides resources for products and services. Interested vendors should contact the Foundation to be considered for inclusion. Contact Deborah Linke for further questions.

Deborah Linke
Deborah@hydrofoundation.org 720-722-0473

LOW IMPACT HYDROPOWER INSTITUTE (LIHI)
LIHI is now accepting comments on proposed program changes. Nothing in the program has been changed since its year 2000 inception. Climate change conditions
have driven more renewable energy resources and LIHI proposes a number of changes to certify projects accordingly:

- Dam removal criteria will be moved to future definition of eligibility.
- Fish passage criteria will be split into two separate criteria, one for upstream and the other for downstream passage.
- There will be more ways to satisfy each goal, a “menu of options.”

Comments are being sought on what kinds of hydropower projects should be included for certification: conduit facilities, new hydro at existing non-powered dams, pumped storage, new diversions.


Comments should be sent to: criteriarevision2014lowimpacthydro.org.

LEGISLATION
There are some incentive legislative pieces before Congress dealing with tax breaks but like all other Congressional legislation, nothing is moving and with elections in November, nothing is likely.

**RULEMAKINGS**
There are a number of rulemakings on water quality issues and due to the complexity, recommend you visit our website for detail. We and the National Hydropower Association have considerable concern in regard to the 111(d) rule which is extremely complicated and does not treat hydropower as a compliance option to meet reduction of CO2 emission standards. We are a part of the working group at NHA and will report back to the membership as the rulemaking continues.

**QUESTIONS:**
Contact Jan Lee at Northwest Hydroelectric Association  
jan@nwhydro.org  (503) 545-9420