

July 25, 2022

Chairman Joe Manchin  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr.  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member John Barrasso  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
1035 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Manchin, Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Barrasso, and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

The undersigned hydropower companies and organizations write today to urge Congress to enact significant reforms to the hydropower licensing and relicensing process this year.

Hydropower provides more than six percent of U.S. electricity generation, including more than 30 percent of renewable power generation. Pumped storage hydropower accounts for 94 percent of U.S. energy storage. Both hydropower and pumped storage are sources of dispatchable, low-cost electricity that ensure a more reliable electric grid moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Hydropower dams also provide important non-power benefits to communities, such as navigation, recreation, and water storage for drinking water and agriculture.

Hydropower and pumped storage, and the benefits they provide, are jeopardized by the lengthy and uncertain federal licensing and relicensing approval timeline. Hydropower licensing regularly takes 5 – 7 years; relicensing an existing hydropower facility takes 7.6 years on average, with some projects extending to 10 years and beyond. In a highly competitive energy market environment, this uncertainty negatively impacts investment decisions in the hydropower sector.

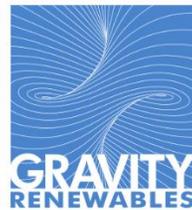
By 2030, 281 existing hydropower and pumped storage facilities, accounting for 13.8 GW, are set to have their licenses expire. This represents about 30 percent of the roughly 1,000 active FERC licenses. By 2035, licenses for 45 percent of facilities will expire. These numbers underscore the importance of Congress acting now to provide regulatory certainty for hydropower and pumped storage facilities.

In response to the threat posed by looming relicensing, the hydropower industry, environmental organizations, dam safety advocates, and tribal representatives, have negotiated a holistic licensing reform package that creates common ground among these interests to preserve and enhance the hydropower fleet while ensuring that environmental concerns are addressed, and the rights of tribal nations are respected. We believe this compromise reform proposal will help ensure the long-term viability of the hydropower industry by reducing administrative uncertainty and red tape in the licensing and relicensing process. We support the proposal, which was the

product of a careful negotiation, and urge swift action by Congress to adopt the package without delay.

Hydropower is critical for ensuring grid reliability, reducing carbon emissions and energy costs, and meeting our nation's climate goals. Now is the time to fix the longstanding issues associated with the hydropower licensing and relicensing processes and ensure hydropower's place as an essential asset for our nation's clean energy future.

Sincerely,

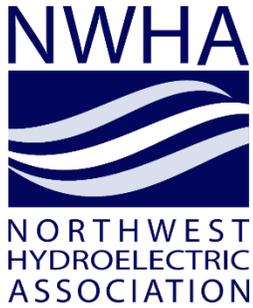
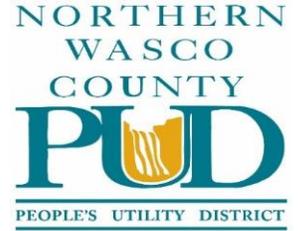




Northbrook Energy, LLC



Seattle City Light



PUGET SOUND ENERGY

Rye Development



Southeast Alaska Power Agency



Southern Company

