

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR HYDROPOWER

Two-Year Progress Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the U.S. Department of the Army (through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), U.S. Department of Energy, and U.S. Department of the Interior signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Hydropower two years ago, these agencies have endeavored to advance their mutual goals for the development of clean, reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable hydropower generation in the United States. The MOU for Hydropower contains 13 high-level goals and 17 specific action items that are specifically targeted to help meet those goals. Through collaboration and partnerships with other federal agencies, the hydropower industry, the research community, and numerous stakeholders, these agencies have been able to succeed in the majority of their efforts. From March 2010 to March 2012, the three agencies have succeeded in accomplishing the following:

- Complete numerous publically available assessments of different hydropower resources, including the construction of a database for all existing U.S. hydropower infrastructure.
- Collaborate to develop tools for optimizing the operation of hydropower facilities and evaluating the potential for state-of-the-art upgrades and modernizations.
- Fund several research projects that aim to develop and demonstrate new hydropower generation technologies and minimize the environmental impacts of hydropower facilities.
- Work together to produce a report that examines the potential effects of climate change on water available for hydropower generation at federal facilities.



Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; Steven Chu, Secretary of Energy; and Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior signing the Memorandum of Understanding for Hydropower on March 24, 2010.

- Coordinate a stakeholder-driven, basin-scale opportunity assessment in the Deschutes River basin in the Pacific Northwest, with the goal of identifying opportunities for increasing both hydropower production and environmental services.
- Establish a Federal Inland Hydropower Working Group, including staff from 15 federal entities that are involved with hydropower in order to share information and increase collaboration.
- Host research and development workshops on key areas for the development of new hydropower generation.
- Initiate several new studies on pumped storage and the ancillary grid services that can be provided by hydropower.
- Improve the licensing process for the development of new, privately owned hydropower generation at existing federal dams and water infrastructure.

Progress Report available for download at water.energy.gov



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