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For Immediate Release

NHA Recognizes Seven Industry Achievements for Outstanding Accomplishment

Record number of applications for 2011 award cycle

Washington, D.C. (April 5, 2011) -- The National Hydropower Association today honored the exceptional programs and practices of seven hydropower organizations through its annual Outstanding Stewards of America's Waters (OSAW) Awards. The winners -- Ameren Missouri, Grant County Public Utility District, Brookfield Renewable Power, Turlock Irrigation District, Portland General Electric Company, Puget Sound Energy, and South Carolina Gas & Electric Company, -- have established significant, innovative projects that serve as models for the hydro industry.

"The OSAW awards showcase the hydro industry's most exciting and creative solutions to fulfilling its responsibilities as stewards of our water resources," said NHA Executive Director Linda Church Ciocci. "NHA recognized this year's winners for creating innovative and proven approaches that will raise the entire industry's performance, as well as fulfilling their regulatory commitments."

NHA conferred two awards in the Operational Excellence category this year:

- **Ameren Missouri** won for Optimizing Efficient Operation and Dispatch of Osage Plant Turbines at the Osage Project in Missouri. After its 2007 FERC relicensing process, Ameren Missouri had new environmental standards to fulfill, specifically regarding dissolved oxygen levels, among other areas. They successfully utilized several proven technologies, along with considerable innovative control techniques to greatly increase generation capability while meeting all new environmental requirements. Completed in 2010, Ameren Missouri was also able to increase generation output by 20.5% and achieve their goals in a cost-effective manner. For more information on the Osage Project and Ameren Missouri's programs and services at Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks, visit www.AmerenMissouri.com/lake.
- **Grant County Public Utility District** won for its Wanapum Dam Fish Bypass system on the Wanapum Dam in central Washington. After years of research, modeling, and testing, this innovative system was developed, exceeding new licensing requirements with a 98% survival rate for sockeye salmon and a 99% survival rate for steelhead. This system also allowed the project to generate more electricity, without using additional water resources. To learn more about the system, please visit: <http://www.gcpud.org/>.

In the category of Public Education, NHA conferred two awards this year:

- **Brookfield Renewable Power** won for its Public Safety Outreach Program. With the goal of creating a program to help reduce public safety accidents and to expand the general public's awareness of the potential risks associated with recreational activities by river environments, particularly when in close proximity to hydropower operations, Brookfield launched a remarkably dynamic campaign

that included: advertisements in newspapers and tourism/sports publications; public service announcements (PSA) aired on radio/television stations; educational posters; and safety presentations. To learn more visit: <http://www.brookfieldpower.com/>.

- **Turlock Irrigation District** won for the Dexter Duck Swim Safe Safety Tips Animated Video, which is used as an education tool throughout classrooms in its 662 square mile service area. The innovative and fun public safety video teaches pre-school to sixth grade students about water safety near hydropower facilities and is available to view online at: <http://www.tid.com/news-resources/videos>.

NHA conferred three awards in the category of Recreational, Environmental, and Historical Enhancement this year:

- **Portland General Electric Company** won for the design and implementation of the Pelton Round Butte Selective Water Withdrawal Project and Fish Collection Facility at the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project near Madras, OR. This innovative and collaborative facility is unlike any other worldwide. After 15 years of planning and implementation, during its first year of operation in 2010, more than 100,000 fish passed through the structure. To learn more about this accomplishment, visit: <http://www.portlandgeneral.com/default.aspx>.
- **Puget Sound Energy** won for the recovery of Baker River sockeye salmon at the Baker River Hydroelectric Project. Beginning in 1978, Puget Sound Energy embarked on collaborative and innovative efforts to protect the imperiled salmon population at the site. After decades of work, a record seven times the annual average run of sockeye salmon returned in 2010. To learn more about this achievement, please visit: <http://www.pse.com/Pages/default.aspx>.
- **South Carolina Gas & Electric Company** won for its Saluda Hydroelectric Project Tree House Archaeological Project in South Carolina. The Tree House Site is a large, well preserved, deeply stratified archaeological site with prehistoric occupants ranging from approximately 13,500 to 700 years ago. From 2008-2010, over 37,000 artifacts were excavated. Preserving this incredible history for generations to come, SCE&G is creating displays for two facilities which will attract over 400,000 visitors annually. To learn more about this project, please visit: www.sceg.com.

NHA's OSAW selection panel, which includes representatives from across the industry and media interests, determined the OSAW Award winners based on the project or program's initial challenge, innovation, collaboration with stakeholders, and results. The panel judges every project by its own merits.

NHA presented the awards today at the association's annual conference in Washington, D.C.

For more details on the 2011 OSAW winners, see www.outstandingwaters.org.

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