



Newsrelease

For immediate release

Waterpower Strategy Required

Pent-up demand in response to Feed-in-Tariff Program

Ontario Waterpower Association

Association Headquarters

380 Armour Road

Suite 210

Peterborough, Ontario

K9H 7L7

Tel: 705 • 743 • 1500

Toll free: 866 • 743 • 1500

Fax: 705 • 743 • 1570

www.owa.ca

April 8, 2010 – Toronto – The Ontario Waterpower Association (OWA) is pleased that almost two hundred (200) megawatts of new waterpower projects have been included among the contracts announced today by the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, the Honourable Brad Duguid, under the Feed-in-Tariff Program. However, the OWA is encouraging the province to take a more strategic approach to the procurement of renewable energy on a go-forward basis.

“Today’s announcement is an important first step in realizing Ontario’s significant untapped waterpower potential”, said Paul Norris, President of the Ontario Waterpower Association. “Expediting enabling transmission and reducing regulatory burden will be key to increasing the contribution of flexible waterpower from hundreds to thousands of new megawatts.”

The announcement included the offering of contracts for forty-six (46) waterpower development proposals representing one hundred and ninety-two (192) megawatts, a significant percentage of the projects that were able to apply, evidence of the pent-up demand for investment. Waterpower has been significantly under-represented in previous procurements due largely to the misalignment of provincial policies.

“Waterpower is absolutely critical to ensuring the reliability of our electricity system and the integration of other renewables” added Ian Kerr, Chair of the OWA Board of Directors. “Our neighbouring provinces are reaping the benefits of waterpower-specific strategies developed many years ago. Focused and targeted policy and procurement is required to ensure that Ontario realizes its waterpower potential.”

The OPA’s proposed Integrated Power System Plan included an additional 3,000 MW of waterpower, and identified hydroelectricity as a preferred renewable energy source. The plan also acknowledged the significant role pumped storage can and should play in our province’s power system.

The Ontario Waterpower Association was formed in May 2001 and represents more than 95% of Ontario waterpower producers. Waterpower is clean, renewable and accounts for more than one quarter of Ontario’s energy mix. It is of critical importance in responding to daily and weekly changes in demand. Almost 200 facilities are distributed across Ontario - a strategic security advantage. For more information, contact Paul Norris, OWA President at 705-743-1500.