

LPPC PERMITTING REFORM PRIORITIES: HYDRO-RELICENSING

LPPC member utilities represent roughly one-quarter of the non-federal hydropower generation in the nation

(56% own, operate, or contract for hydropower)

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LPPC member utilities own, operate, or contract for more than 17 gigawatts of hydropower generation the equivalent of powering 13 million American homes. Our members have harnessed the benefits of this resource

for over a century. Hydropower plays a critical role in providing affordable, reliable, and sustainable generation to the communities LPPC member utilities serve.

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Accessing Energy at a Time of Need

Utilities need hydropower relicensing reform to reduce the time and cost necessary to relicense a facility that already exists, much of which is driven by conditions unrelated to the project's own effects.

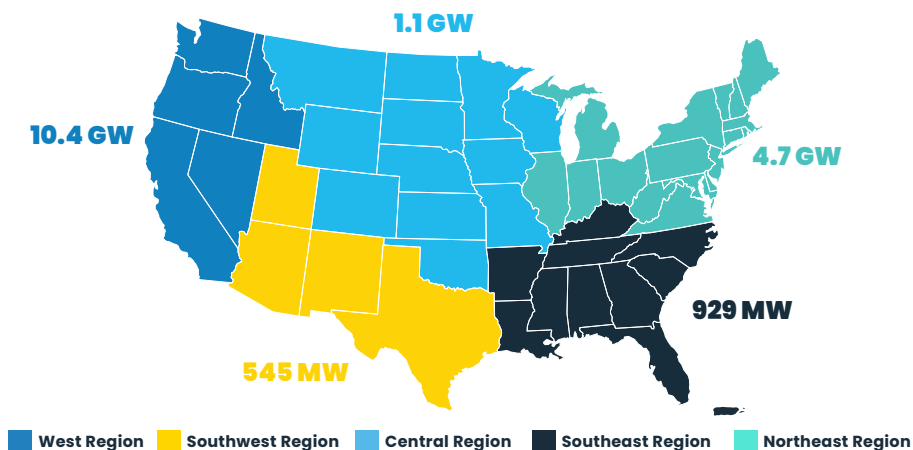
In many cases, these proceedings are cumulatively longer and more costly than the initial construction of the facilities.

Despite having some of the most robust environmental sustainability programs in the U.S. aimed at protecting fish and wildlife species, water conservation, public recreation, and commercial navigation, hydropower facilities continue to face delays on relicensing that impact critical facilities and the millions of Americans that depend on them.

LPPC Joins the National Hydropower Association (NHA) in Endorsing the Hydropower Licensing Affordability Act (H.R. 9337/S. 5048)

H.R. 9337/S. 5048 requires that mandatory conditions imposed under Sections 18 and 4(e) of the Federal Power Act are directly tied to a project's direct adverse effects, ensuring that conditions are targeted, evidence-based, and focused on mitigating project-specific effects rather than addressing broader policy objectives.

Figure 1: LPPC Member Utilities Hydropower Capacity by Region



A BROKEN RELICENSING PROCESS

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Tom Falcone
President, LPPC



LPPC members have spent decades working with federal agencies and stakeholders to develop license conditions that protect fish, wildlife habitat, and public lands, and we strongly support those efforts.

This bill keeps the focus on a project's demonstrated effects, protecting important environmental resources while helping keep costs fair for the customer-owners of our public power utilities.

We thank Representative Bentz and Senators Steve Daines, Jim Risch, and Lisa Murkowski for their leadership on this important legislation."

The Bottom Line

LPPC member utilities have spent **decades and hundreds of millions of customer dollars relicensing existing facilities**. Conditions that reach beyond a project's own effects extend these proceedings and drive up their cost, and customers pay for both. This Congress should include the *Hydropower Licensing Affordability Act* in any permitting reform legislation to tie license conditions to a project's direct adverse effects, reducing the time and cost of relicensing while protecting our natural resources.

¹ LPPC Member Current & Projected Large-Load Capacity | Capital Investment and Large Load Growth Survey, November 2025

² U.S. Hydropower Market Report | DOE Office Water Power Technologies Office, 2023