

Photo from Grand River Dam Authority

View of the control center at the Robert S. Kerr Dam on Lake Hudson, Oklahoma



LPPC PERMITTING REFORM PRIORITIES: HYDRO-RELICENSING

LPPC member utilities produce roughly 40% of the non-federal hydropower generation in the nation¹

(59% own hydropower; 76% have it in their portfolio)

[Click here to watch the video:](#)



LPPC member utilities own and operate 12.8 gigawatts of hydropower capacity, producing approximately 52.5 terawatt-hours a year, enough to serve roughly 5 million American homes.² 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.

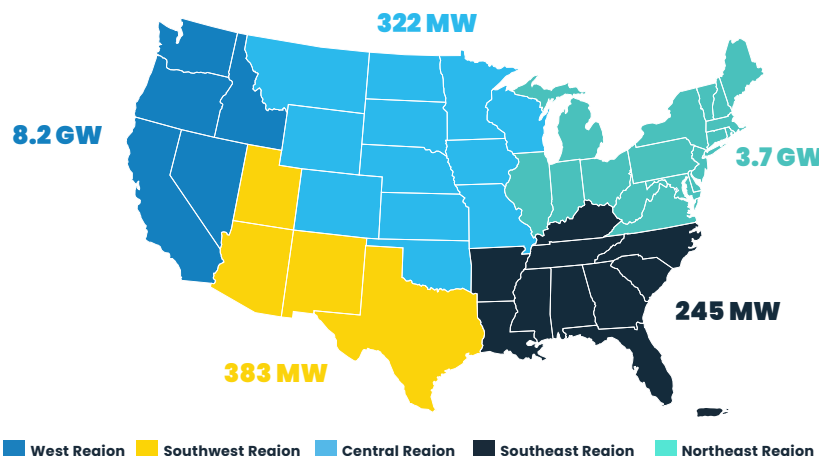
Accessing Energy at a Time of Need

Utilities need hydropower relicensing reform to reduce the time and cost necessary to relicense a facility that already exists. Both are often 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 who depend on them.

Figure 1: LPPC Member-Owned Hydropower Capacity by Region



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 be 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.



We've been involved in a hydropower relicensing project for several years now through FERC, and the interesting part about this for our utility is that we were created by the Oklahoma state legislature in 1935, they started construction of our (Pensacola) dam in 1938 and it was finished in 1940. We can't relicense that facility in the same period of time and it costs nearly as much in real dollars to relicense it as it did to build it."

Dan Sullivan, President & CEO, Grand River Dam Authority

A BROKEN RELICENSING PROCESS

[Click here to watch the video:](#)



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.

Sources:

¹ Existing Hydropower Assets (EHA) Plant Database, 2025, and EHA Annual Capacity Factor Database, 2005–2024, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) for DOE's Water Power Technologies Office

² EHA Annual Capacity Factor Database (ORNL), 2025 | Three-year average net generation, 2022–2024 | Assumes average U.S. household electricity use at 10,500 kWh/year, (EIA - Electricity Use in Homes)