



USACE Hydropower – Renewable, Reliable Energy for America

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the largest owner-operator of hydroelectric power plants in the United States and one of the largest in the world. USACE currently operates 356 hydroelectric generating units at 75 multipurpose reservoirs, having a total installed capacity of 23,900 megawatts with approximately 60 percent located in the Pacific Northwest. This capability generates about 25 percent of America’s hydroelectric power and represents approximately 3 percent of the country’s total electric-generating capacity.

Funding

The President’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 includes \$4.6 billion in gross discretionary funding for the Civil Works program of USACE, and includes \$196 million for the Hydropower Program. The Budget supports the priority operations and maintenance work necessary to maintain safe project operation and avoid plant closure. The Budget was developed using a risk management approach, and focuses investment on increasing project reliability, as well as continuing safe and efficient operations at USACE hydropower facilities across the Nation. USACE’s hydroelectric plants, built as an additional benefit to projects whose primary purposes are commercial navigation and/or flood damage reduction, produce over 70 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year. This renewable energy from hydropower generation avoids approximately 40.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions annually. Hydropower is a clean, economical domestic energy source that can contribute to the Nation’s energy security. Hydropower can serve a valuable role in meeting peak energy demands and energy reserve needs to protect the national power system’s reliability and stability.

The USACE Hydropower Program uses risk management processes (e.g., monitoring, examination, and analysis) to decide where and when to invest in maintenance and repair in order to assure safe operations and provide national economic benefits. USACE continues to work closely with Power Marketing Administrations and their customers to identify both funding priorities and opportunities for direct non-Federal financing of hydropower improvements. USACE hydropower plants enable a response to rapid fluctuations in the Nations’ power grid caused by other intermittent renewable resources such as wind and solar power. These ancillary support services provided by USACE hydropower plants stabilize the grid and are essential for the smooth electrical integration of other renewable energy resources.

Program Objectives

- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of existing USACE hydropower capability.
- Recapitalize and upgrade projects where the investment will provide a high return to the Nation.

Key Messages	Facts & Figures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USACE is the largest owner-operator of hydroelectric power plants in the United States and one of the largest in the world. • USACE hydropower plants produce over 70 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. • USACE hydropower is the largest producer of renewable energy in the United States. • USACE hydropower plants provide clean, low-cost energy to communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USACE operates 75 hydropower plants with a rated capacity of 23,900 Megawatts (MW). • USACE owns and operates 356 hydroelectric generating units that represent 25 percent of the nation’s hydropower capability and 3 percent of the total electric capability. • USACE has 59 non-Federal FERC-licensed hydropower plants operating on its facilities with a total capacity of 2,104 MW.