

## **Background**

The [Low Impact Hydro Institute \(LIHI\)](#) was created in 1999 by the conservation group American Rivers. LIHI is a non-profit focused on using voluntary market approaches to reducing the impacts of hydropower through the certification of hydropower projects that have reduced their environmental impact pursuant to specific certification criteria. The Institute's Governing Board and Advisory Panel includes members from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, National Resources Defense Council, Union of Concerned Scientists, Portland General Electric, Bonneville Power Administration, and United States Department of Fish and Wildlife among others.

## **Certification Process**

The Institute utilizes an approach to certification that requires prospective projects to meet requirements in eight categories:

1. River flows,
2. Water quality,
3. Fish passage and protection,
4. Watershed protection
5. Threatened and endangered species protection,
6. Cultural resource protection,
7. Recreation, and
8. Facilities recommended for removal.

Projects must meet standards established for all eight criteria to be certified. Certification determinations are made based on the most recent and stringent mitigation standards for the hydropower project by state and federal agencies. If mitigation standards are not available from state or federal resource agencies LIHI will work to establish other criteria to meet the same objectives.

To begin the process an applicant fills out a certification questionnaire and provides supporting information which is then sent to LIHI. The full application is posted on the LIHI webpage for a 60 day comment period. The full application with public comments is sent to an application reviewer who reviews the application and conducts any factual investigation necessary to provide a certification recommendation. The Governing Board then makes a preliminary certification recommendation that is posted on the LIHI website for 30 days. If no concerns are raised, the certification decision becomes final after the 30 day period. LIHI has established a review process both the public and applicants can utilize if they disagree with the Governing Board's initial ruling.

## **Fees**

Application fees are determined based on average annual generation of the facility. LIHI has established a detailed fee schedule which can be found in the certification application packet. Applicants who submit a consolidate application for multiple facilities must pay a base charge for the total annual

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megawatts produced by all facilities included in the application, plus an additional \$2,000 per facility. An annual fee of 15% of the application fee will also be assessed.

### Projects Certified

#### West

- Farmers Irrigation District Hydro Project - tributaries to the Hood River, Oregon
- Pelton Round Butte Project - Jefferson County, Oregon
- Willamette Falls Hydroelectric Project - Oregon
- Falls Creek - Falls Creek, Oregon
- Tieton Dam Hydroelectric Project - Washington
- Lake Chelan Project - Chelan County Washington
- Nisqually Project - Nisqually River, Washington
- Black Creek Project - Black Creek, Washington
- Skagit Project - Skagit River, Washington
- Bear River Hydroelectric Project - Bear River, Idaho
- Buffalo River Project - Buffalo River, Idaho
- Island Park - Henry's Fork of the Snake River, Idaho
- Clark Fork Hydroelectric Project - Clark Fork River, Idaho and Montana
- Boulder Creek Project - Lake County, Montana
- Jordanelle Hydroelectric Project - Wasatch County, Utah
- Strawberry Creek Project - Strawberry Creek, Wyoming
- Goat Lake Hydroelectric Project - Goat Lake, Skagway, Alaska
- Black Bear Lake Hydroelectric Project - Prince of Wales Island, Alaska
- Stagecoach Project,- Yampa River, Colorado

#### Midwest

- Kingsley Dam Project - North Platte and Platte Rivers in Garden, Keith, Lincoln, Dawson, and Gosper Counties in south-central Nebraska
- Bowersock Project - Kansas River, Lawrence, Kansas

#### Southeast

- Arkansas River Dam No.2 Hydroelectric Project - Arkansas River, Arkansas
- Mother Ann Lee Hydroelectric Station, Lock & Dam 7 on the Kentucky River, Kentucky
- Tapoco Project - Little Tennessee and Cheoah Rivers, Tennessee/Kentucky
- Summersville Project - Gauley River, West Virginia
- Tallassee Shoals Project - Middle Oconee River, Georgia
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#### Northeast

- Worumbo Project - Androscoggin River, Maine
- Rumford Falls Project - Androscoggin River, Maine

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- Androscoggin Hydroelectric Project - Androscoggin River, Maine
- Alternatives Hydroelectric Project - Mumford River, Massachusetts
- Ware River Hydroelectric Company Project - Ware River, Massachusetts
- Ice House Hydropower Project - Nashua River, Ayer, Massachusetts.
- West Springfield Project - Westfield River, West Springfield & Agawam, Massachusetts
- Deer Island Hydropower Project - Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, Boston Harbor Boston, Massachusetts.
- Penacook Upper Hydroelectric Project - Contoocook River, New Hampshire
- Ashuelot and Lower Robertson Hydroelectric Projects on the Ashuelot River, New Hampshire
- Dodge Falls Hydroelectric Project - Connecticut River, New Hampshire/Vermont
- Vernon Project - Connecticut River, New Hampshire and Vermont
- 15 Mile Falls Project - Connecticut River, New Hampshire and Vermont
- Winooski One Project - Winooski River, Vermont
- Oswego River Project - Oswego River, New York
- Black River and Beebee Island Project - Black River New York
- Newton Falls Project - St. Lawrence County, New York
- Champlain Spinners Hydroelectric Project - Whitehall, New York
- West Branch St. Regis Project - West Branch St. Regis River, New York
- Salmon River Hydro Project - Salmon River, New York
- Raquette River Project - Raquette River, New York
- Hoosic River Project - Hoosic River, New York
- Beaver River Project - Beaver River, New York
- Harris Bridge Hydroelectric Project - Rockfish River, Virginia
- Putnam, Quinebaug River- Connecticut
- Pawtucket Project -Blackstone River, Rhode Island
- Raystown Hydroelectric Project, Raystown Branch, Juniata River, Huntingdon County, PA

### Local Certified Projects

#### Portland General Electric

- Pelton Round Butte Project - Jefferson County, Oregon

#### PacifiCorp

- Farmers Irrigation District, Oregon\*
- Central Oregon Irrigation District, Siphon\*
- Falls Creek - Falls Creek, Oregon\*
- Tieton Dam Hydroelectric Project - Washington
- Lake Chelan Project - Chelan County Washington\*
- Bear River, Idaho

### Oregon Projects Certification Pending

- Portland Hydro Prjct No. 1
- Portland Hydro Prjct No. 2
- Middle Fork Irrigation District No. 1

\*Project is contracted for, but not owned by PacifiCorp.

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- Middle Fork Irrigation District No. 2
- Middle Fork Irrigation District No. 3
- North Shore Fishway Hydroelectric Project
- Prospect No. 3, Oregon

For more information visit the LIHI's webpage at <http://www.lowimpacthydro.org/>