

## Uncommon Dialogue on Hydropower, River Restoration, and Public Safety

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### February 2022 Update

The following e-mail provides updates from February 2022 on recent and upcoming activities within the Uncommon Dialogue (UCD) on Hydropower, River Restoration, and Public Safety.

#### WG 6 Improve Federal Hydropower Licensing, Relicensing, and License Surrender Processes

**ACTION!** The WG 6 Drafting Team finalized a package of proposed revisions to the Federal Power Act. Given the significance of this package, it has been shared with the entire Uncommon Dialogue participant list (Steering Committee, Tribes, and all Working Groups). Below are the requested actions for all Uncommon Dialogue participants.

#### ACTIONS:

1. In light of the limited window for legislative action before the mid-term elections, we encouraged each participant in the Uncommon Dialogue to make a decision on supporting the package by March 18th.
2. For those organizations that need more time to review the package and determine whether they can support it, we ask that you please contact us as soon as possible to let us know your status and anticipated timeline for making a decision.
3. We understand that federal agencies are unable to take a position on this package at this time.
4. For those organizations deciding to support this package, please provide the name of your organization and your logo for use in communications materials.

#### Steering Committee (SC)

The next Steering Committee meeting is being scheduled and is expected to take place sometime this Spring. In February, the Planning Group met to discuss the 2022 Process Plan and chart a path forward for the UCD in 2022. The Planning Group will continue to meet throughout March and April to further discuss Uncommon Dialogue updates and progress.

## Working Group (WG) 1 Accelerate Development of Hydropower Technologies and Practices to Improve Generation Efficiency, Environmental Performance, and Solar and Wind Integration

WG 1 Co-Chairs received additional feedback on the White Paper in mid-January from the Industry and the E-NGO/Conservation Community. The Co-Chairs are meeting with various representatives to finalize the white paper, and then the revised final white paper will be distributed likely in March for a voluntary sign-on by members of Working Group 1, the Steering Committee, and the broader Uncommon Dialogue.

## WG 2 Dam Safety

WG2 is developing a plan for 2022, based on the value that WG2 can provide on relevant topic areas. In 2022, WG2 plans to convene a workshop, or a series of small group conversations, centered around dam safety and dam removal needs and consider collaborative opportunities for the UCD. The Co-Chairs of WG2 are currently working on building out the participant list of WG2 with both powered and non-powered dam owners and other perspectives.

## WG 3&5 Increase Basin-Scale Decision-Making and Access to River-Related Data and Advance Effective River Restoration through Improved Off-site Mitigation Strategies

The basin-scale subgroup hosted three “Lunch-and-Learn” sessions with licensees in February. The subgroup will meet in early March to reflect on lessons learned through these presentations and discuss next steps for the group, including potential work products and additional “Lunch-and-Learn” sessions from other perspectives (e.g., agencies, NGOs). The WG 3&5 Co-Chairs met to discuss next steps for the full WG. The proposed mitigation subgroup will likely be placed on hold for now. WG 3&5 will reconvene this spring to hear an update from the basin-scale subgroup.

## WG 4 Improve the Measurement, Valuation of, and Compensation for Hydropower Flexibility and Reliability Services and Support for Enhanced Environmental Performance

Working Group 4 will meet in April. In 2022, WG4 may draft white papers on relevant topics to determine actionable outcomes and will further explore how to incentivize hydropower that goes “above and beyond,” grid valuation, and methane/life cycle emissions.

## WG 7 Policy, Strategy, and Implementation of the 3 Rs (Rehabilitation, Retrofit, and Removal)

WG 7 members are continuing their efforts to incorporate recommendations into the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), monitor the Congressional Appropriations process, and support key legislative initiatives. In addition, WG7 members are developing strategies to ensure that the intent of the 3R’s recommendations is understood, supported, and incorporated into the implementation plans of the agencies that are receiving funding from the Infrastructure Bill. WG7

members are also preparing to work in close coordination with WG6 members on the legislative outreach for the upcoming Federal Power Act redline document.

### Tribal Engagement

Many Tribal representatives are actively involved in WG 6 to develop revisions to the Federal Power Act, especially provisions to secure and formalize 4(e) and 10(j) conditioning authority. The Tribal Participation Group is reviewing the WG 6 package, with the opportunity to discuss clarifying questions on the document and “sign on” in support of the package. The review period will be ongoing, allowing groups to work within their own timeframes to secure approval from Tribal Councils, as necessary.

### NHA's Waterpower Week

The National Hydropower Association (NHA)'s annual Waterpower Week (<https://waterpowerweek.com/>) <https://waterpowerweek.com/conference> is coming up on April 5-7, 2022 in Washington, D.C. There will be a conference workshop focused on the Uncommon Dialogue on Thursday, April 7 from 10:15am – 12:15pm ET. Other panels and presentations will feature discussion of the Uncommon Dialogue as well, including during the Wednesday morning plenary session where David Hawkins, Richard Roos-Collins, and Chuck Sensiba will discuss WG 6 developments. We hope to see you there!

On behalf of the Uncommon Dialogue convenors and facilitation team, we look forward to working with you and new participants in 2022 and thank you for your hard work. If there are others you think would like to get engaged with the Uncommon Dialogue, please forward their contact information to Katy Kennedy ([kkennedy@kearnswest.com](mailto:kkennedy@kearnswest.com) (<mailto:kkennedy@kearnswest.com>)).

For more information on the Uncommon Dialogue, refer to Stanford's Uncommon Dialogue website: <https://woods.stanford.edu/research/hydropower>.

Please feel free to contact Dan Reicher ([dreicher@stanford.edu](mailto:dreicher@stanford.edu) (<mailto:dreicher@stanford.edu>)) or Kelsey Rugani ([krugani@kearnswest.com](mailto:krugani@kearnswest.com) (<mailto:krugani@kearnswest.com>)) if you have any questions!