



PRESS RELEASE

New Staff Added to Enhance Low Impact Hydropower Certification Program

September 21, 2017, Lexington, MA – The Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) has announced the addition of two professional program staff to support the organization’s national Low Impact Certification program.

Maryalice Fischer has joined LIHI as its Certification Program Director. She has over 30 years of experience in environmental protection and regulatory affairs, including 20 years of direct hydropower experience. As a former utility environmental manager and environmental consultant to the hydropower industry, she brings knowledge of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing and regulatory compliance systems, as well as diverse management programs designed to reduce hydropower’s environmental impacts. Ms. Fischer holds a Master of Science degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell and a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mathematics and Physics from the University of New Hampshire.

Lindsey Zai has joined LIHI as the Program Coordinator. She has extensive managerial and conservation experience, including a time with The Wilderness Society in their Washington, DC and Boulder, CO offices. Ms. Zai holds a Bachelor’s degree in International Relations and Affairs from University of Colorado, Boulder.

Ms. Fischer and Ms. Zai will support LIHI’s efforts to certify hydropower projects which actively reduce their environmental impacts and protect river ecosystems by adhering to eight science-based criteria. Criteria include safe and effective fish passage, watershed protection, ecological flow regimes and recreational access. Certified projects gain access to green power markets and premium prices in support of their environmental stewardship.

Executive Director, Shannon Ames, welcomed the new staff, noting that “The addition of Maryalice and Lindsey significantly increases our capacity to work with hydropower owners and stakeholders dedicated to environmental stewardship. Their professional experience, knowledge and enthusiasm will be invaluable as we expand our certification program.”

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About the Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI)

The Low Impact Hydropower Power Institute was established in 2000 by a coalition of environmental organizations, led by Green Mountain Energy Company and American Rivers, with assistance from the hydropower industry, renewable power market leaders and environmental stakeholders. The founders recognized that hydropower’s non-emitting, renewable energy often comes with environmental risks to river ecosystems and users. In response, LIHI developed the nation’s only independent certification and verification program for environmentally-responsible hydropower. Low Impact Certified hydropower facilities meet eight science-based criteria designed to provide environmental, cultural and recreational stewardship of rivers. LIHI-certification is recognized in various voluntary and statutory green energy programs, giving owners market-based opportunities to optimize their power sales while helping the environment.