March 2020 News & Information

LOW IMPACT HYDROPOWER INSTITUTE

Julie A. Keil Women in Hydro Scholarship Fund

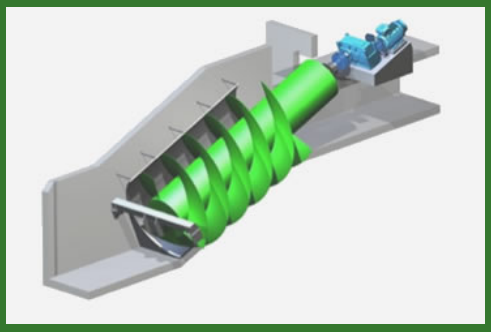
Applications for the Julie A. Keil Women in Hydro Scholarship are currently being accepted until April 17, 2020. The scholarship celebrates Julie Keil, a passionate, innovative, and influential member of the hydropower industry. The award recognizes those who exemplify Julie's passion for the hydropower industry and effecting positive change therein. The scholarship is open to women enrolled in an accredited college or university majoring in a discipline relevant to entering the hydro industry. Grants are also provided to those who plan to enter the hydro industry to assist in attending industry events. The scholarship will be awarded at HydroVision 2020. Applications can be found HERE.

Last year's recipient, Surabhi Karambelkar, has been conducting research on the decline of hydropower in the Colorado River Basin and its impact on restoration and irrigation projects therein. The analysis examines the consequences of changing dam operations and its connection to the institutions and policies that govern the basin. Karambelkar explains her research and findings in a Society of Woman Geographers presentation HERE. More information about Surabhi and her work can be found HERE.

Donate to the Julie A. Keil Scholarship Fund

Proposed Changes to the National Environmental Policy Act

The US Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has issued proposed rule changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The stated intent of the proposal is: to update NEPA while advancing its original intent, clarify some rules, reduce the paperwork burden, and reduce delays in the NEPA process. Many of these proposals constitute substantive changes to the positive values that NEPA analysis contributes to federal actions. For a more in-depth analysis, please read Certification Director Maryalice Fischer's Summary of Proposed Changes. Public comments must be submitted by March 10, 2020 under docket No. CEQ-2019-0003.



First in the Nation Technology

On January 6, 2020, LIHI was proud to announce the certification of its 165th facility, Hanover Pond Dam in Meriden, CT. The facility is the first in the nation to utilize the Archimedes Screw Turbine (AST) for power generation. The AST uses the head of an existing, previously non-powered dam to produce electricity through a slowly turning screw attached to a variable speed gear box and generator, which distributes the electricity produced out to the grid. The AST is known for its ability to pass fish safely downstream and was chosen for installation at the project with support from state and federal resource agencies. For more information, visit our website and learn about the facility's impact in its communityHERE.

Riverwatcher Report 2020

Gravity Renewables Inc. recently published their annual Riverwatcher Report. The publication details the strides taken by Gravity to improve fish passage, expand recreational opportunities, and engage local schools and communities in their river systems. Gravity is the owner and operator of six LIHI Certified facilities including Comtu Falls (LIHI #124), pictured right. To learn more about Gravity's commitment to expanding learning opportunities and hydro visibility, please read their report HERE.

Kleinschmidt Recognized for Fish Passage Project

Congratulations to Kleinschmidt Associates for winning the Environmental Business Journal's Project Merit Award in Hydropower! The award recognizes the collaborative effort led by Kleinschmidt to address fish passage at the Opal Springs Hydroelectric Project (LIHI #145). More information on the project and award can be foundHERE.

Board Leadership Updates

At the October Board Meeting in 2019, LIHI Governing Board member John Seebach (The Pew Charitable Trusts) stepped down as acting Board Chair. Vice Chair Shawn Seaman (Maryland's Power Plant Research Program) was appointed to the vacant position. With the Vice Chair position open, Julie McNamara

(Union of Concerned Scientists) was appointed to the position. We would like to thank John for his guidance and look forward to Shawn and Julie's leadership!

The LIHI Governing Board is always looking for opportunities to diversify our representation. Our Board is comprised of representatives from the environmental community as well as government and industry stakeholders. If you have interest in contributing your expertise to our organization, please contact Executive Director Shannon Ames (sames@lowimpacthydro.org). We are always looking to strengthen our organization and broaden our perspectives so please don't hesitate to reach out!

Energy Storage Panel

On February 13th, Executive Director Shannon Ames moderated a discussion at a Northeast Energy and Commerce Association event. The panel focused on the topic of energy storage, discussing emerging technologies, policy initiatives, and the future of storage in New England.

News of Note

- **Dam Removal Reignites Fish Migration:** The removal of a dam on Delaware's Brandywine Creek is expected to allow thousands of American shad, hickory shad, and striped bass to venture further up the river, one step closer to their traditional spawning ground. The project represents one of the largest watershed-scale dam removal/modification programs in the nation. Learn more about the project and the watershed approach HERE.

- **American-Made Challenges Fish Protection Prize:** The American Made Challenge - Fish Protection Prize is currently seeking proposals for the Concept Stage of the competition. Open through April 24, 2020, the U.S. Department of Energy, along with the Bureau of Reclamation, aims to catalyze the innovation of fish exclusion technology. Up to three prizes will be awarded with a total $700,000 in prize money made available. More information and submission instructions can be found HERE.

- **Aging Dams in Massachusetts Raise Alarm:** With predictions of heavier and more frequent precipitation events in Massachusetts, citizens are concerned that aging (non-hydro) dams in their communities may be on the cusp of failure. An analysis conducted focusing on dams in the MetroWest and Milford areas has found that many of the state's aging dams, once neglected, may require substantial retrofits to meet safety

standards. The study and results can be found HERE.

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