



## Uncommon Dialogue Boosts Recognition of River Value

Representatives of the hydropower industry, government agencies, and environmental organizations are continuing their dialogue in finding mutual ground regarding hydropower's role in mitigating the climate crisis. The dialogue has entered its next stage of work - identifying actionable recommendations to bring to state and federal officials. These proposals address improvements to river health and conservation, increases in dam safety measures, and investments in current infrastructure to accelerate decarbonization and renewable energy adoption. The group's original proposal, which can be viewed [HERE](#), resulted in the 21st Century Dams Act sponsored by Congresswoman Kuster (NH), Senators Feinstein (CA), Murkowski (AK), and Cantwell (WA). The bills can be found [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) and [HERE](#). The LA Times has published a story on the proposal [HERE](#). For more information on the Uncommon Dialogue process, see the Joint Statement published [HERE](#).



## Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill Passed By Senate

In a 69-30 vote, the Senate passed the bipartisan [Infrastructure Bill](#) this week. Because representatives like Senator Manchin and Senator Portman recognize that dams are infrastructure, the Bill includes crucial improvements to the 90,000 dams in the country. This advancement is an important step towards low-impact hydropower and renewable dams.

The Bill moves to the House of Representatives now. Help support an unprecedented investment in US rivers - let your elected officials know that dams are infrastructure. Urge them to support the Infrastructure Bill and the 21st Century Dams Act. Look up your elected officials [HERE](#).

P.S. If you have a dam project that could benefit from this legislation and are willing to be highlighted as a case study, please contact [sames@lowimpacthydro.org](mailto:sames@lowimpacthydro.org).

## Recertification Proposal

In 2020, LIHI put forth a recommendation detailing a new approach to LIHI recertifications based on events that would trigger a full or partial review of a project's compliance with LIHI criteria. A public comment period was open until January 27, 2021. LIHI governance and staff have been reviewing the comments received and will be ready to finalize a decision on the proposal soon. Please see [HERE](#) for more information on the recertification proposal.



## 2nd Recertification Under the 2nd Edition Handbook

LIHI has completed the first review of projects already recertified under the 2nd Edition Handbook. The adoption of the 2nd Edition Handbook in 2016 implemented a new certification and recertification process with updated science-based criteria. Once projects have been recertified through this process, a new streamlined application is available. This application allows the certificate holders to update LIHI with any changes to project infrastructure and operations instead of resubmitting the comprehensive application as prescribed under the 2nd Edition Handbook.

## Program to Date - 2021

As of July 2021, LIHI has 11 certification applications in progress and 14 projects are currently undergoing recertification. In Quarter 2 of 2021, there are 6 certification applications and 5 recertification applications expected.

Today, the Low Impact Hydropower Institute portfolio consists of 164 active LIHI certificates, with a total of 277 facilities located on 95 rivers across 23 states. These facilities range in capacity from 65 kilowatts to several hundred megawatts and provide, among other benefits, over 1,100 recreation facilities, amenities, and services. In totality, LIHI Certifications represent over 16.3 gigawatt-hours of annual generation.



## Congratulations to our Friends at Natel Energy!

Congratulations to [Natel Energy](#) on their recently secured [Series B](#) fundraising efforts. The LIHI certified Freedom Falls project proudly uses Natel Turbines for



safe fish passage. We look forward to working with even more Natel projects as they continue to expand.

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## News and Happenings

- **LIHI in Yale Environment 360:** [Can Retrofitting Dams for Hydro Provide a Green Energy Boost?](#)
  - **LIHI in Concord Monitor:** [Granite Geek: We have lots of dams; why don't we have more hydropower?](#)
  - **Follow a Raindrop:** With a new interactive tool, you can follow the path of a raindrop from anywhere in the contiguous United States to its eventual outlet waterbody. Click [HERE](#) to give the [River Runner](#) a try!
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