



FDE Hydro™ Washington DC: White House and Department of the Interior Briefings

The first meeting conducted at the White House with the National Energy Dominance Council (NEDC) in May 2025 involved a FDE Hydro™ energy expert briefing the NEDC team on the importance of abundant and affordable base load energy and the important potential of hydropower in the United States.

Our second meeting was a much larger interagency meeting with U.S. Hydropower industry leaders and government officials at the U.S. Department of the Interior and sponsored by the Office of the Secretary Special Projects Group.

The U.S. Department of Interior Office of the Secretary Special Projects Group invited FDE Hydro™ to meet and discuss how to move the U.S. Hydropower industry forward. They requested we invite 8-10 top leaders in the U.S. Hydropower Industry. The goal of the requested round table meeting was for the hydropower industry and U.S. government licensing and regulatory authorities to discuss how to remove long-term roadblocks that have inhibited hydroelectric development in the U.S. for over 70 years.

All participants at the meeting were afforded ample opportunity to directly address government officials.

Government sector participants included: President Trump's National Energy Dominance Council, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Reclamation, Chief of Staff from the Secretary of Interior office and multiple other government agencies.

Private sector participants included: a leading U.S. EPC contractor, top private hydropower developers in the U.S., a Tier 1 U.S. General Contractor, leadership from the National Precast Concrete Association, the largest private hydroelectric company in the world, two of the largest private infrastructure investor/capital groups in the United States and of course, FDE Hydro™.

This meeting was historic. Up until present, these groups had never met to discuss what is needed to obtain private investment funding to develop fleets of new hydro throughout the United States. During the meeting, attendees discussed varying levels of frustration of having to deal with years of government agency excessive, burdensome, and often stifling regulatory reviews. Proposed hydropower projects are not constructed because of these regulatory roadblocks. Moreover, private capital investors ready to invest in new hydropower infrastructure lack committed interest in investing until regulatory restrictions are reduced and long-term review periods are significantly shortened. One investor stated, "there is far too much financial risk...why would we invest in something that could potentially take several administrations to complete"?

Fortunately, positive progress in synchronization and shortening of permitting and licensing processes are occurring within government agencies and congressional bipartisan support through the Hydropower Licensing Transparency Act.

Hydropower is 90-95% efficient water to wire and a 24/7/365 base-load energy with emergency black start capability and not intermittent like other renewables. Hydropower is the most resilient and efficient of all the renewables - it cannot be disregarded. The U.S. Department of Energy describes hydropower as: **“The Guardian of the Grid”**. There is near term potential to develop 100’s of GWs of rapidly deployable hydropower facilities throughout the Country. FDE Hydro™ focus is to build next generation hydropower fleets nationally using private investment capital. Now is the time to open the flood gates and allow next generation hydro its rightful position in the energy mix.

In 2016 FDE Hydro™ received a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy - Water Power Technology Office to develop a rapidly deployable hydropower civil work solution. The grant established proof that rapidly deployable hydropower civil works modular precast means and methods would become a predictable industry standard. FDE Hydro™ solutions proved this through multiple demonstrations supporting U.S. Department of Energy project requirements.

The FDE Hydro™ modular precast solution was described as a disruptive technology and innovation by a team of Oak Ridge National Laboratory Waterpower Research Leaders. Modular hydropower civil structures reduce risk to all project stakeholders, avoid major project cost overruns, lessen the environmental footprint and produce earlier commissioning of the facility with a much faster return on investment. Modular precast concrete has a 100 yr+ lifespan. All these benefits of rapidly deployable hydro will bring private investors and capital to the hydropower industry. There is over \$500+ billion of private capital just waiting for a major regulatory reduction in review time.

There have been no comparative structural impact innovations in the hydro industry over the past 70 years. The hydropower industry is still working with 1960s regulations and construction methods regarding project designs for the water infrastructure industry.

FDE Hydro™ **“Made in the USA”** modular precast solutions are what the hydropower industry has been waiting for and is the innovative answer to our Nation’s **“Speed to Power”** Imperative.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "William L. French Sr." in a cursive script.

William L. French Sr.
CEO, FDE HYDRO™