“Nontraditional” Hydropower- An Underutilized Resource

Hydropower harnesses the energy of falling or running water and has been used since the 2nd millennium BC. Today hydropower is moving beyond the large impoundments and into smaller, more unconventional systems. These systems can be built almost anywhere water flows and take advantage of an already available infrastructure, capturing energy that was previously wasted. In addition, there are new technologies and tax credits that assist potential developers in taking advantage of these opportunities.

Through this presentation, we will explore topics such as potential sites for nontraditional systems, reasons for additional hydropower development and the benefits of these systems, advances in technology and equipment that make these systems possible, the reasons these systems have not been developed, and possible obstacles to development.

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