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Office of Gov. John Hickenlooper

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Colorado Hydropower Market Assessment Identifies Opportunities to Harness Untapped Renewable Energy Resources

Report highlights Colorado's ability to capture otherwise wasted energy potential from municipal water delivery systems

DENVER – Dec. 13, 2016 – The Colorado Energy Office (CEO) today announced the release of its [Colorado PRV \(Pressure Reducing Valves\)-Hydropower Market Assessment](#) to evaluate and identify development opportunities for the renewable energy resource across the state. As a headwater state with mountainous topography, Colorado is home to numerous sites that offer the potential to utilize hydropower technology, especially municipal locations. To further inform interested parties, CEO will host two upcoming hydropower training workshops to assist water providers in exploring project development.

CEO's hydropower market assessment highlights the state's opportunity to capture otherwise wasted energy potential from municipal water delivery systems across Colorado. Pressure Reducing Valves (PRV) reduce water pressure to usable levels; hydropower systems can be applied where PRV are located to capture previously wasted energy. Key findings of the assessment indicate there may be as much as 20-25 MW of untapped electric power potential statewide.

To assist Colorado water providers in determining preliminary feasibility of potential PRV-Hydropower projects, CEO will host two municipal hydropower training workshops at its office in downtown Denver. The first training workshop is scheduled for this week and an additional workshop is planned for early 2017. Workshop attendees will learn how to identify municipal hydropower projects within their water delivery systems. Attendees will also be offered assistance in completing permitting/exemption documents for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as well as grant applications for financial assistance available through the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (CWRPDA).

"Hydropower is often an untapped renewable energy resource, and there has never been a better time to develop these types of projects in Colorado," said Michael McReynolds, CEO Policy Advisor and hydropower market development expert. "Technical assistance, streamlined permitting processes, and available financial resources now make hydropower projects economically attractive for water providers across the state."

For more information about CEO's hydropower training workshops, please contact Michael McReynolds at michael.mcreynolds@state.co.us or (303)-866-3873.

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About Colorado Energy Office

The Colorado Energy Office works to improve the effective use of all of Colorado's energy resources and the efficient consumption of energy in all economic sectors by providing technical guidance, financial support, policy advocacy and public communications. Go to colorado.gov/energyoffice to learn more.