

Figure 4.4: History of Hydropower

BC.	Hydropower used by the Greeks to turn water wheels for grinding wheat into flour, more than 2,000 years ago.
Mid-1770s	French hydraulic and military engineer Bernard Forest de Bélidor wrote <i>Architecture Hydraulique</i> , a four-volume work describing vertical- and horizontal-axis machines.
1775	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers founded, with establishment of Chief Engineer for the Continental Army.
1880	Michigan's Grand Rapids Electric Light and Power Company, generating electricity by dynamo belted to a water turbine at the Wolverine Chair Factory, lit up sixteen brush-arc lamps.
1881	Niagara Falls [illuminated—Ed.] by hydropower.
1882	World's first hydroelectric power plant began operation on the Fox River in Appleton, Wisconsin.
1886	About forty-five water-powered electric plants in the U.S. and Canada.
1887	San Bernardino, CA, opens first hydroelectric plant in the west.
1889	Two hundred electric plants in the U.S. use waterpower for some or all generation.
1901	First Federal Water Power Act.
1902	Bureau of Reclamation established.
1907	Hydropower provided 15 percent of U.S. electrical generation.
1920	Hydropower provided 25 percent of U.S. electrical generation. Federal Power Act establishes Federal Power Commission authority to issue licenses for hydro development on public lands.
1933	Tennessee Valley Authority established.
1935	Federal Power Commission authority extended to all hydroelectric projects built by utilities engaged in interstate commerce.
1937	Bonneville Dam, first Federal dam, begins operation on the Columbia River. Bonneville Power Administration established.
1940	Hydropower provided 40 percent of electrical generation. Conventional capacity tripled in United States since 1920.
1980	Conventional capacity nearly tripled in United States since 1940.
2003	About 10 percent of U.S. electricity comes from hydropower. Today, there is about 80,000 MW of conventional capacity and 18,000 MW of pumped storage.

U.S. Department of Energy,
http://www1.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/hydro_history.html
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