
Maine Congressional Delegation



Olympia J. Snowe
UNITED STATES SENATOR

Susan Collins
UNITED STATES SENATOR

Michael H. Michaud
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Chellie Pingree
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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Maine Delegation Applauds Key Federal Permit for Tidal Construction

Ocean Renewable Power Company receives pilot project license to operate in Cobscook Bay

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Olympia J. Snowe and Susan Collins and Representatives Mike Michaud and Chellie Pingree today applauded the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) approval of a pilot project license for the Ocean Renewable Power Company (ORPC) of Portland. The permit, which requires close environmental monitoring with state and federal officials, will enable ORPC to construct, operate, and maintain a 300-kilowatt (kW) tidal energy project through Kinetic System turbine generator units (TGU) mounted on the sea floor. The project will be located adjacent to Lubec and the permit allows the company to operate the project for eight years. According to the ORPC, construction of the tidal facility in Cobscook Bay will commence as early as March. Today’s announcement from FERC positions ORPC to be the first company in the United States to operate under this pilot program.

“Ocean Renewable Power Company continues to set the standard for a growing industry, and this permit will allow the company to make even greater strides in advancing Eastport and Maine’s role at the forefront of clean energy,” **said Senator Snowe.** “Ocean energy represents a tremendous opportunity for our state and this critical permit for tidal energy development will ensure Maine remains on the vanguard of producing these advanced technologies. This truly is a tremendous development for the economy of the Eastport region and for Maine’s renewable energy future.”

“Maine is well positioned to lead the nation in tidal energy development. Ocean Renewable Power Company’s tidal power project in the Eastport area is one example of the type of actions we need on a national scale to stabilize energy, prevent energy shortages, and achieve national energy independence. Continued investment and innovation in clean energy technologies are integral to advancing these goals, and ORPC is helping to lead the way in Maine,” **said Senator Collins.**

“ORPC is a true pioneer in the tidal energy field, and their work is important to economic growth in Washington County and beyond,” **said Congressman Michaud.** “This permit represents another significant step forward in expanding this form of clean energy. I look forward to

following ORPC's progress and continuing to work with the delegation to promote the development of this promising technology."

"ORPC has already been creating good paying jobs right here in Maine and with this permit will be able to start supplying clean, renewable power for the state. ORPC is a true national leader in helping build the clean energy systems that will be part of the solution to our energy needs and we are very proud of the work they've done," **said Congresswoman Pingree.**

"Something as momentous as this does not happen without the incredible dedication of all of those in the state of Maine who have been so supportive over the years leading up to this," said **Christopher Sauer, ORPC's President & CEO.** "We want to thank the citizens of Maine, the Maine Congressional delegation, Maine Technology Institute, the U.S. Dept of Energy and the communities of Eastport and Lubec for their unyielding support."

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