



## **Alaskan Village, Maine Company and Alaska Governor Launch Sustainable River Energy Project**

**Igiugig, Alaska, July 16, 2019** - The Igiugig Village Council (IVC) and ORPC, Inc., celebrated the launch today of ORPC's commercial RivGen® Power System, a unique sustainable solution now available to remote river communities in Alaska and worldwide.

Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy and a crowd of over 60 people gathered at Lake Iliamna and the Kvichak River in Igiugig for the unveiling of ORPC's first commercial device, which will be deployed long term in the Kvichak River within the next few days. The 40-kW power system will provide up to one-half of the Igiugig community's electricity needs annually and will reduce use of expensive and environmentally risky diesel fuel. Plans are underway for installation of a second RivGen device in conjunction with smart microgrid electronics and energy storage. When completed, the system will reduce diesel usage by 90 percent.

"For millennia the mighty Kvichak River has sustained us with the greatest sockeye salmon run on earth," AlexAnna Salmon, Igiugig Village Council President stated. "For now, it supplies us 100% of the purest drinking water, flowing from Alaska's largest lake. It is high time that the Kvichak supplies 100% of our energy needs. Our Village has always believed that if it can be done here, it can be done anywhere on the globe."

"The project is a centerpiece of the community's long-term economic and environmental vision, sustainably fits with the local river's salmon resource and addresses occurrences such as seasonal ice impacts in the Kvichak," she further remarked.

"Projects that lower the cost of power in rural Alaska, like the RivGen Power System we saw today in Igiugig, are key to making Alaska's small communities and villages economical and vibrant places to work and raise a family," said Alaska Governor Michael J. Dunleavy. "I will be closely following the progress of the deployment of the RivGen system over the coming months and I am hopeful that similar projects can be developed to reduce energy costs for our smaller communities."

Steve DeWitt, U.S. Department of Energy said the project will benefit the domestic hydrokinetic industry by increasing knowledge of marine energy systems, the interaction of underwater turbines with salmon and how systems contribute to providing stable power for local microgrids. "With this data in hand, we hope that other communities considering similar systems will be able to make, with greater confidence, the right decisions for their community's future," DeWitt said. "I believe that what we are doing here in Igiugig is a model for what can happen throughout Alaska and Canada, in other similar small, independent communities."

“ORPC’s RivGen Power System is the future of sustainability for remote river communities around the world. A staggering 700 million people live in remote communities that rely on diesel fuel to power their homes,” said ORPC Chairman, Co-founder and CEO, Christopher R. Sauer. “ORPC provides a sustainable solution that combines our patented power systems with smart grid electronics and energy storage to build the no-carbon microgrids of the future.”

The Igiugig Village Council is the first tribal entity in the U.S. to be issued a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydrokinetic pilot project license. The Igiugig Hydrokinetic Project is supported by the U.S. Dept. of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) under the Water Power Technologies Office Award Number DE-EE0007348; the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; the Alaska Energy Authority; the Igiugig Village Council and private investors.

In Alaska, ORPC works with over 80 partners, contractors and consultants, and since 2009, has spent over \$5 million in the state.

Find photos and video of the RivGen Power System Launch here:

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**Igiugig Village** with 69 residents, is located in southwestern Alaska at the mouth of the Kvichak River and Lake Iliamna. The village is 48 miles southwest of Iliamna, and 56 miles northeast of King Salmon. The village’s population consists mainly of Yup’ik Eskimos, Aleuts and Athabaskan Indians. The Lake Iliamna and Kvichak River water system is renowned for having the best sportfishing in all of Alaska.

**ORPC, Inc.** in the business of improving people’s lives and their environment through sustainable energy solutions, is the only company to have built, operated and delivered power to a utility grid from a renewable tidal energy project (in Maine), and to a remote community grid from a renewable river project (in Alaska). ORPC remains committed to its founding principle of working collaboratively with all stakeholders and local contractors to create economic development opportunities. In addition to its Portland, Maine, company headquarters, ORPC has offices in Montreal (ORPC Canada) and Dublin (ORPC Ireland), an operations center in Eastport, Maine, and a project office in Anchorage, Alaska. For more information, please visit [www.orpc.co](http://www.orpc.co).

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