



**Susy Kist**

MANAGER - MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

120 Exchange St., Suite 508  
Portland, ME 04101

DIRECT 207 221 6249

CELL 207 272 8615

OFFICE 207 772 7707

*skist@orpc.co*

## **ORPC preparing for annual maintenance and inspection of tidal energy device**

**Portland, ME, July 12, 2013** - ORPC is planning to retrieve the company's TidGen<sup>®</sup> turbine generator unit (TGU) installed at its Cobscook Bay Tidal Energy Project site within the next week for its first annual inspection and maintenance service. The TGU will be detached from its bottom support frame, lifted to the ocean surface, and towed to Morrison Landing in Eastport. ORPC engineers and CPM Constructors, ORPC's marine general contractor, will inspect the TGU there. On-water and land-based activities associated with this effort will be on a smaller scale, but similar to initial installation of the TidGen<sup>®</sup> TGU last summer.

As the first commercial, grid-connected tidal energy project in North America, the Cobscook Bay Project operates under a federal pilot license that allows ORPC to monitor the TGU under actual operating conditions for purposes of collecting operational and environmental data and making system improvements. Since August of last year, when the system was first installed, engineers have been evaluating system components and identifying enhancements, some of which will be made during the upcoming maintenance period. Environmental data gathered continues to indicate no observed, adverse interaction of the TidGen<sup>®</sup> Power System with the marine environment. ORPC plans to re-install the TidGen<sup>®</sup> device in Cobscook Bay and return to normal operations later this year.

This first TidGen<sup>®</sup> device has a rated capacity of 150 kilowatts and when operating, generates enough electricity annually to power 25 homes. In 2012 ORPC made history by starting operation of the Cobscook Bay Project, the first commercial, grid-connected hydrokinetic tidal energy project in North America. It is also the only ocean energy project, other than one using a dam, which delivers power to a utility grid anywhere in the Americas.

Since 2007, ORPC has invested more than \$21 million into the Maine economy through spending in 13 of the state's 16 counties, and has created or retained more than 100 jobs statewide. This includes over \$5 million spent in the Lubec and Eastport area alone, which has provided employment for over four dozen contractors, as well as local spending on goods and services.

Established in 2004, ORPC is a privately-held world leader in tidal, river and deep-water ocean current power generation systems and projects. ORPC's hub at Eastport and Lubec, Maine has become an internationally recognized center for tidal and river energy development. The Maine Tidal Energy Project is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Maine Technology Institute, as well as private investors. For more information, visit [www.orpc.co](http://www.orpc.co).