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ORPC to Receive \$10 Million to Generate Grid-Connected Ocean Energy

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Senators Olympia J. Snowe and Susan Collins and Representatives Mike Michaud and Chellie Pingree announced that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is awarding Ocean Renewable Power Company (ORPC) up to \$10 million in matching funds to advance the company’s tidal energy technology on a commercial scale at its project site in Cobscook Bay off Eastport and Lubec. An initial \$2.7 million in funding will be available to the company this year for the three-year project.

In addition to the project in Maine, DOE announced that more than \$37 million in funding nationwide will be awarded to accelerate the technological and commercial readiness of emerging “marine and hydrokinetic” technologies, which seek to generate clean, cost-competitive renewable electricity from the nation's oceans and free-flowing rivers and streams. These awards represent the largest single investment of federal funding in the development of marine and hydrokinetic energy technologies. ORPC’s Maine project and one in Puget Sound, Washington represent the most significant initiatives in size and scope, with each receiving up to \$10 million.

“I could not be more delighted that the Ocean Renewable Power Company received this competitive funding from the Energy Department, which will help make Maine a leader in this innovative renewable energy industry,” said Senator Snowe. “Ocean energy represents a phenomenal opportunity for our state and this funding for tidal energy development will ensure we remain in the vanguard of producing these advanced technologies. This truly is a tremendous day for the economy of the Eastport-Lubec 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.

“I saw ORPC’s ocean energy demonstration for the Coast Guard last month, and the practical applications of this source of clean energy have enormous potential. This multi-year project in eastern Washington County represents a substantial, concrete step forward for ocean energy development in Maine. It will help our state increase energy independence and security, create

new jobs, spur investment in Maine and create a model of environmentally sensible ocean energy development for the country,” said Representative Michaud.

“ORPC is an important part of Maine’s growing clean energy industry, creating good paying jobs that can’t be exported. They are a great example of how our state can be a world-class leader in clean-energy development,” said Representative Pingree.

According to ORPC, the objective of the TidGen™ Power System Project is to advance the company’s tidal energy technology on a commercial scale and deliver electricity to the domestic power grid.

“This is a huge step forward for the ocean energy industry in the state of Maine and all the benefits that brings. ORPC is deeply appreciative of the Maine delegation and their dedication to creating economic benefits for the citizens of Maine,” said Christopher R. Sauer, President & CEO, Ocean Renewable Power Company.

The project’s thirteen month first phase will build, install, and commence operations of the first TidGen™ Power System, interconnected with the Bangor Hydro Electric Company distribution grid. This first deployed TidGen™ Power System will include extensive equipment to collect environmental data and information regarding operating performance. During Phase 1, ORPC will perform detailed testing and monitoring of the local environment as well as all components and subsystems on the device.

During Phase 2, ORPC will continue operating and testing the first deployed system for a period of one year while also building and installing four additional TidGen™ devices. Power and control cables from the TidGen™ devices will be connected to an underwater consolidation box, and a single underwater power and control cable will connect the system to an electrical substation onshore. The four TidGen™ devices deployed during Phase 2 will be coupled together with the Phase 1 TidGen™ device to form an underwater array of five devices interconnected within a commercial-scale TidGen™ Power System, which will then continue to be operated and tested for a period of one year after integration.

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