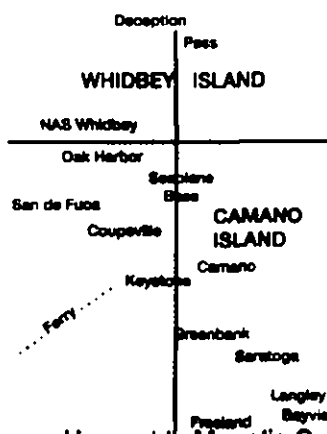


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**Island County Board of Commissioners** June 20 P 2:51

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June 12, 2006

Honorable Magalie Salas, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Comments on the Deception Pass Tidal Energy Hydroelectric Project, Project No. 12663-000

Dear Ms. Salas:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application for a preliminary permit by Washington Tidal Energy Company for a hydroelectric power generating plant in the waters of Deception Pass. We understand that a preliminary permit would not authorize construction, rather maintains priority of application for license while the permittee studies the site and prepares to apply for a license.

If approved, such a hydroelectric power generating plant would generate 200 to 600 Megawatts of power and require shore support buildings or structures and transmission lines to connect to the utility power grid. Deception Pass Park is a local, state, and national asset. With over three million visitors to the Pass each year, it is one of the most visited parks in Washington State and the nation. The Deception Pass Bridge crossing is one of the scenic wonders in this State. The Bridge was constructed in 1934/35 and became a National Historic Monument in 1982. As the center point of the Park, Deception Pass Bridge provides a spectacular panoramic view of Puget Sound that is extremely popular with local residents, sightseers and photographers.

The scenic view provided by the Deception Pass Bridge and Deception Pass State Park are vital to the economy of Island County and must be preserved. It is into this valuable setting that this proposal intends to site a hydroelectric plant. Island County is very concerned that the proposal must mesh with the existing use of the Pass and not adversely affect this critical natural and economic asset. If this project has a visual impact on the Bridge and/or Park, the citizens of Island County will not be supportive of the project.

Please include the Board of Island County Commissioners on the Commission's mailing/notification list of interested parties for this project.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
  
Wm. L. McDowell, Chairman  
Board of Island County Commissioners

- WLM:em
- c: U. S. Senator Patty Murray
- U. S. Senator Maria Cantwell
- U. S. Representative Rick Larsen
- Washington State Senator Mary Margaret Haugen
- Washington State Representative Chris Stow
- Washington State Representative Barbara Bailey
- Board of Skagit County Commissioners
- Bill Oakes, Island County Public Works Director