

ORIGINAL



SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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June 27, 2006, 2006

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

FILED
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

Dear Secretary Salas:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the hydroelectric application for a preliminary permit for Washington Tidal Energy Company. Deception Pass is a heavily used boating passage, with extremely strong tidal and current activity. The area also supports extensive wildlife, with bald eagle nesting and roosting sites and an osprey nest in the area. It is also a popular fishing area. The Deception Pass State Park is a destination facility with millions of visitors each year.

The application is preliminary, but should not be approved without extensive study of the existing conditions of the area. The existing application detail is insufficient to effectively evaluate the project. Prior to the applicants conducting studies in the area, Skagit County would respectfully request that they contact the local, state and federal government agencies with jurisdiction in order to clarify the proposal and address concerns over potential conflicts with existing users and potential significant adverse environmental impacts.

The proposed location of the actual TISEC devices, anchoring systems and upland transmission lines are of interest to us in order to better determine potential impacts to the area. Prior to placement of such devices, even if just for research and development purposes, the applicants would need to obtain permits from the local government(s).

Please add the Skagit County Board of Commissioners to the project notification/ mailing list of interested parties.

Thank you for your consideration,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

Ted W. Anderson
Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

Don Munks
Don Munks, Commissioner