

# Energy co. drops project in face of "local hostility"

BY THE MAINEBIZ NEWS STAFF

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Maine Tidal Energy Co., which had proposed a tidal energy project in the Kennebec River near Bath, has dropped its proposal because of "local hostility," according to *The Times Record*.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission granted Maine Tidal a preliminary permit to study the area of the Kennebec between Bath and Woolwich for a potential 100-megawatt tidal energy project. However, Mike Hoover, general counsel for Washington, D.C.-based Oceana Energy Co., Maine Tidal's parent firm, said the company is surrendering its preliminary permit after finding that "insufficient development potential exists for pursuit of either a full development or pilot project there," according to a letter he sent to FERC dated May 31, 2009.

Hoover later told *The Times Record* that "local hostility" also deterred the company from pursuing the site. Friends of Merrymeeting Bay has opposed the project on environmental grounds from the beginning.