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.