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FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

October 19, 2006

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
United States Senator
Washington, DC 20510

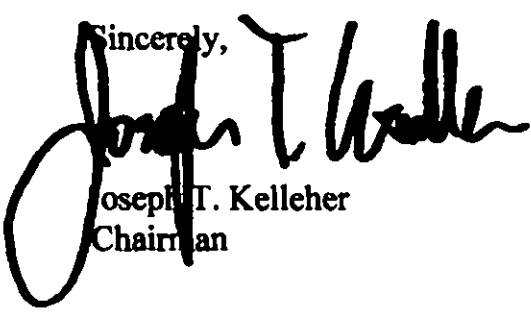
Dear Senator Hatch:

I am writing in response to your September 18, 2006 letter concerning applications for preliminary permits for proposed tidal energy projects filed by Oceana Energy Company (Oceana) through its subsidiaries.

Oceana filed, between March 2006 and June 2006, twelve applications for preliminary permits for sites located in the states of Washington, New Hampshire, New York, Maine, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Alaska. These applications are currently pending before the Commission. Public notices for all of the applications have been issued. Comments and motions to intervene have been filed by numerous entities, including federal and state agencies, towns, cities, and counties, potential competitors, and the general public. These entities have raised a variety of issues.

The Commission is hosting a Technical Conference on Hydroelectric Infrastructure (AD06-13-000) in Washington, D.C., on December 6, 2006 (notice enclosed). The purpose of the conference is to discuss the status of ocean-based hydroelectric technologies (wave, tidal, and current) and explore the environmental, financial, and regulatory issues pertaining to the development of these new technologies. During this conference, the Commission intends to gather information to assist applications for these new technologies.

I hope this information is helpful. Your letter has been placed in the Commission's public file for these projects, which serves to alert the Commission to the concerns of interested individuals and groups. If I can be of further assistance in this or any other Commission matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Joseph T. Kelleher
Chairman

Enclosure

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Hydroelectric Infrastructure Conference

Docket No. AD06-13-000

NOTICE OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

(September 7, 2006)

A Commissioner-led technical conference will be held on December 6, 2006, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (EST). The conference will be held in the Commission Meeting Room on the second floor of the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. All interested persons may attend; there is no fee or registration.

The purpose of the conference is to discuss the status of ocean-based hydroelectric technologies (wave, tidal, and current) and explore the environmental, financial, and regulatory issues pertaining to the development of these new technologies.

Transcripts of the conference will be immediately available from Ace Reporting Company (202-347-3700 or 1-800-336-6646) for a fee. They will be available to the public on the Commission's eLibrary system seven calendar days after FERC receives the transcript. A free webcast of this event will be available through www.ferc.gov. Anyone with Internet access who desires to view this event can do so by navigating to www.ferc.gov's Calendar of Events and locating this event in the Calendar. The event will contain a link to its webcast. The Capitol Connection provides technical support for the free webcasts. It also offers access to this event via television in the DC area and via phone bridge for a fee. If you have any questions, visit www.CapitolConnection.gmu.edu or contact Danelle Perkowski or David Reininger at 703-993-3100.

FERC conferences are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations please send an e-mail to accessibility@ferc.gov or call toll free 866-208-3372 (voice) or 202-502-8659 (TTY), or send a FAX to 202-208-2106 with the required accommodations.

Additional details regarding the agenda for this conference will be included in a subsequent notice.

For more information about the conference, please contact Tim Welch at 202-502-8760 (timothy.welch@ferc.gov) or Kristen Murphy at 202-502-6236 (kristen.murphy@ferc.gov).

Magalie R. Salas
Secretary