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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MAINE MARINE ENERGY CENTER PROJECT BRIEFING ISSUED TODAY**

**PORTLAND, ME, MAY 4, 2010** – ORPC Maine, LLC announced today that it is one of four collaborators assisting Washington County on development of the Maine Marine Energy Center (MEMEC). See attached Project Briefing for complete details.

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# Maine Marine Energy Center Project Briefing

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

The Maine Marine Energy Center (MEMEC), to be located in the Eastport Business Center (former woolen mill) on Route 190, is envisioned to be a marine renewable energy manufacturing and assembly facility for complex composite hydrokinetic turbine foils and other ocean energy sub-assemblies. Initially, MEMEC will be focused on serving the tidal energy industry, and ultimately, will serve multiple project developers in the entire ocean energy industry in the Northern Atlantic/Bay of Fundy area and potentially worldwide. It would utilize the significant export assets of Eastport's deep-water port.

MEMEC will produce significant economic benefits in Washington County and the region, including job creation and retention, private capital investment and new market creation for Maine's composites industry. It will also initiate the commercialization of tidal energy development in the United States and advance ocean energy manufacturing and assembly in the U.S.

## **A Collaboration of Regional Partners**

Washington County, a Department of Commerce (DOC) designated "Significantly Impacted County," is the lead applicant on a grant proposal to the DOC's Economic Development Administration (EDA), administrators of the "Community Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program." The proposal, which asks for federal funding of \$1,423,480, was submitted to EDA on April 20, 2010.

Collaborating with the County on the application are the City of Eastport, Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC), Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC) and ORPC Maine, LLC (ORPC). ORPC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ocean Renewable Power Company, a Maine-based tidal energy technology and project developer. The County will serve as grant administrator and local disperser of grant funds, will create a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Eastport regarding the leasing of a portion of the city-owned Eastport Business Center and use of the EDA funds, and will attract a manufacturer to the facility with the assistance of SCEC. ORPC will assist project collaborators with identifying potential manufacturing companies and will be the anchor customer for MEMEC's first tenant composite material turbine manufacturer. EMDC and SCEC have been instrumental in making renewable energy projects a priority for Washington County through the Eastern Maine Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and provided technical assistance on the grant application.

## **Purpose of Funding**

EDA funding would help pay for building upgrades as well as manufacturing equipment necessary to create the first marine renewable energy manufacturing center for composite hydrokinetic turbine manufacturing and assembly in the US. It is hoped that the federal investment in the facility will help entice a manufacturer to the building, which is currently being used at 50 percent capacity.

The creation of MEMEC aligns with existing efforts by industry associations in Maine and the Maine International Trade Center to highlight the state's competitive advantages for creating a successful ocean energy industry, close gaps in the manufacturing and service supply chain link, and help generate investment in the industry.