



FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NEWS

May 18, 2010

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT
Celeste M. Miller - 202.502.8680

FERC, California Sign Agreement to Coordinate Hydrokinetic Project Development

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the State of California have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to coordinate procedures and schedules for review of hydrokinetic energy projects off the California coast.

This marks the fourth hydrokinetics MOU that FERC has signed with other states, following agreements signed last year with Washington and Maine, and with Oregon in 2008. Today's agreement ensures that FERC and California will undertake all permitting and licensing efforts in an environmentally sensitive manner, taking into account economic and cultural concerns.

"This agreement with California shows FERC's continuing commitment to work with the states to ensure American consumers can enjoy the environmental and financial benefits of clean, renewable hydrokinetic energy," FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff said.

"I am delighted the State of California has signed an MOU with the Commission on developing hydrokinetic projects off the California coast," Commissioner Philip Moeller said. "This completes a sweep of the West Coast which, along with Maine, is showing its commitment to bringing the benefits of clean hydrokinetic energy to the consumers of the United States."

FERC and California have agreed to the following with respect to hydrokinetics:

- Each will notify the other when one becomes aware of a potential applicant for a preliminary permit, pilot project license or license;
- When considering a license application, each will agree as early as possible on a schedule for processing. The schedule will include milestones, and FERC and California will encourage other federal agencies and stakeholders to comply with the schedules;
- They will coordinate the environmental reviews of any proposed projects in California state waters. FERC and California also will consult with stakeholders, including project developers, on the design of studies and environmental matters; and
- They will encourage applicants to seek pilot project licenses prior to a full commercial license, to allow for testing of devices before commercial deployment.

(30)

R10-27

