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ROLAND D. MARTIN
COMMISSIONER

July 24, 2009

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Study Requests for Half Moon Cove Tidal Power Project, FERC No. 12704-002

Dear Secretary Bose:

Please note that these comments are submitted after the comment period has closed due to unanticipated illness by agency staff.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) is writing in reference to the *Notice of Intent to File License Application, Filing of Pre-Application Document, Commencement of Licensing Proceeding, Scoping Meeting, Solicitation of Comments on the PAD and Scoping Document, and Identification of Issues and Associated Study Requests* that was issued for the Half Moon Cove Tidal Power Project (Project No. 12704-002) by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on March 26, 2009. MDIFW participated in the site visit and Scoping Meeting.

MDIFW has multiple roles in the stewardship of Maine's natural resources, including the protection and enhancement of the state's inland fish and wildlife. MDIFW will work, in cooperation with MDEP, to identify the potential impacts to wildlife as a result of the Half Moon Cove Tidal Power Project in the course of the state's permitting process.

MDIFW has reviewed the comments and study requests submitted to the FERC by other state agencies (Maine Department of Marine Resources and Maine Department of Environmental Protection) and the Department of the Interior. We agree with and support the need for the following studies already requested by these agencies:

- MDMR Study 2: Mapping of intertidal and subtidal habitat
- MDMR Study 5: Survey of invertebrates in the Intertidal and subtidal zone
- MDEP Study: Wildlife Resources
- FERC Study: Waterbird and Waterfowl Study
 - In addition to the methodology described in Criterion 6 of the FERC Request for Additional Information and Studies, it is important that all bird surveys in and around Half Moon Cove include multiple counts at or near both low and high tide over the course of the survey period (i.e., fall or spring migration or breeding season).
- DOI Study Request V: Effect of Alteration of the Intertidal Zone on Migratory and Resident Shorebirds
- DOI Study Request XIII: Waterfowl, Wading Bird, Shorebird and Seabird Survey in the Intertidal and Subtidal Zone
 - As with the above FERC study, it is important that all surveys be done at or near both low and high tide.



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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or Tom Schaeffer, the Regional Wildlife Biologist at 207-434-5927, or by email at Richard.bard@maine.gov or Thomas.Schaeffer@maine.gov.

Sincerely,
/s/ Richard Bard
Asst. Regional Wildlife Biologist

Cc: Steve Timpano MDIFW Environmental Coordinator

Document Content(s)

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