

# HARRIS MILLER MILLER & HANSON INC.

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July 24, 2013

Kimberly D. Bose  
Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: Progress on Scheduled Activities for Project No. P-13015  
The Edgartown - Nantucket Tidal Energy Power Plant

Reference: HMMH Project Number 303920



Dear Ms. Bose:

On behalf of the Town of Edgartown, Massachusetts, please find enclosed for filing a submittal of progress on the Schedule of Activities associated with the Edgartown - Nantucket Tidal Energy Power Plant Project. This item is required to be submitted at 6 month intervals following the issuance of our successive preliminary permit effective on August 2, 2011. Please also see Exhibit A, Schedule of Activities for the three year license.

## **Project Background**

In July 2007, the Town of Edgartown's applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a Preliminary Permit to develop a Tidal Energy Plant project on the east side of Martha's Vineyard. As originally conceived, the project would consist of as many as 50 tidal in-stream energy conversion (TISEC) units with a nameplate capacity of approximately 20MW and an expected output of approximately 50 GWH per year in the desired currents. The Project would unfold in several stages, culminating initially in a Pilot Plant of 1 to 5 MW. Following a period of successful pilot plant operation and of completion of the licensing process, Edgartown would add the additional TISECs, as warranted, so as to finish the build out of the plant consistent with responsible use of the resources in the Muskeget Channel area.

On March 28, 2008, FERC issued a preliminary permit to the Town of Edgartown for a designated area between the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket including Muskeget Channel. On October 21, 2009, the Town of Edgartown requested approval from FERC to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Draft Pilot License Application (DPLA). By letter from FERC dated November 6, 2009, Edgartown's request was approved and the date for submission of the NOI and DPLA was confirmed to be March 31, 2010. While the town, collaborating with its partners, had been making substantial progress with the project's development, it requested extensions for filing the DPLA with FERC to ensure that sufficient information was available to support its application.

On January 31, 2011, Edgartown filed its NOI and DPLA with FERC, and concurrently filed the complementary state application under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) initiating a parallel state and federal review process. A joint FERC and MEPA public meeting and

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site visit was conducted at the Edgartown Town Hall and landfall alternative locations on March 7, 2011.

The 5 MW nameplate pilot project described in the Draft Pilot License Application (DPLA) filed on January 31, 2010 includes the following:

- 13 cross-axial helical tidal energy units positioned 25 feet below the water surface over approximately a 200 acre area of the deepest segment of Muskeget Channel at water depths between 100 and 160 feet.
- 1 natural berth with a testing platform for the University of Massachusetts (UMASS) to test marine hydrokinetic energy devices
- Individual anchoring systems stabilizing the positively buoyant units
- Submarine cable buried into the seabed
- 2 cable route alternatives and landfall locations on Martha's Vineyard
- A substation located near each of the landfall alternatives
- Upgrades to the existing on-land electrical system for each of the alternatives to route power to the center of Edgartown to meet load demands

FERC issued a letter on April 1, 2011 with a request for additional information to support a Final License application and required that the information be submitted by August 8, 2011. MEPA issued a Certificate on the Expanded Environmental Notification Form on April 8, 2011 and provided the scope for a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). Due to commitments made by the Town to collect pre-deployment environmental data associated with study plans filed with the DPLA, the Town requested in a letter dated August 11, 2011 that FERC grant an extension on filing the additional information associated with the Final Pilot License Application, moving the submission date to November 15, 2012. A supplemental request to extend was requested until December 31, 2012, and Edgartown submitted its response on that date.

At the same time the DPLA was under review by FERC, the Town's initial 3-year preliminary permit issued on March 1, 2008 expired on February 28, 2011. Edgartown filed a successive preliminary permit application on March 2, 2011 with a modified permit area to include both landfall alternatives. FERC issued the successive preliminary permit on August 2, 2011.

During the initial 3-year preliminary permit which expired March 1, 2011, the Town working with its project partners completed a number of projects to help define the project including:

- conducted studies in the permit area to measure the tidal current resource,
- identified the project location,
- undertook environmental studies in the project location,
- advanced project array and infrastructure alternatives, and
- prepared information in permit applications for review by federal and state agency staff, stakeholders, and the general public.



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**Progress During the Reporting Period**

The following table presents progress on proposed activities during the reporting period.

<b>Planned Activity</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1. Consult with stakeholders and agencies	2/27/13 – Presentation to the Environmental Business Council of New England on Project 3/13 – Correspondence with Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management (MCZM) on timing of DEIR 7/24/13 – Comments provided to MCZM on updates to the Massachusetts Ocean Plan.
2. Prepare and implement field data studies	2/22/13 – Met with SMRU of the United Kingdom about options for deploying passive acoustic monitoring technology in Muskeget Channel 2/25/13 – Met with MacArtney Inc. of Denmark about preparing cable design and study program 5/13 – Prepared funding proposal to the Department of Energy to conduct acoustic studies. 6/13 – Follow-up meeting with MacArtney Inc. on cable design and study program. 6/13 – coordinated with Ocean Renewable Power Company on design updates for Muskeget
3. Prepare approvals and permit applications	No approvals and permit applications sought during the reporting period.
4. Conduct feasibility analysis and define project proposal	University of New Hampshire (UNH) completed its final report with a design for preferred and alternative designs for the Research Test Platform component of the project.
5. Explore financing alternatives	Collaborating with project partners on various research and development funding applications from state and federal sources. On-going discussions with private financial entities, the Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative, and town officials about long-term financing options. Formal funding assistance sought from the Department of Energy and Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC). Met with UMASS and MassCEC on 2/14/13 to discuss future funding commitments.
6. Seek “collaboration” opportunities with other entities	Continued collaboration with UMASS, UNH, the Town of Nantucket, scientific and government partners, and private entities. 5/3/13 – convened a call with The Trustee of Reservations (TTOR), a land trust with property adjacent to the project, about enhanced collaboration.
7. Prepare final development application	All work described above is supporting the final development application.



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## Activities Proposed in the Next Reporting Period

Between August 2013 and February 2014, the Town of Edgartown and its partners have a number of on-going activities including:

- Implementing acoustic studies pending funding from DOE
- Meeting with the New England Aquarium and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center on draft results of the aerial surveys for protected species and seabirds for Year I (October 2011 to September 2012). Intending to summarize information for preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).
- Cooperating with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center regarding Year II data collection (October 2012 to September 2013) of protected species in Muskeget Channel through aerial surveys
- Working with UMASS to finalize side-scan sonar data analysis and reporting for presentation in the DEIR.
- Working with UMASS to scope and identify funding for fisheries baseline studies.
- Preparing of a DEIR to the MEPA Office in December 2013.
- Meeting with regulatory agencies and stakeholders

The Town of Edgartown continues to advance the project with the co-operation of the University of Massachusetts –Dartmouth’s Marine Renewable Energy Center (MREC). We are seeking ways to work with MREC and permitting agencies that can facilitate regional marine renewable technology research objectives and a pilot project to demonstrate commercial scale application.

We anticipate filing our next 6 month Progress Review on February 2, 2014 covering the period August 2, 2013 to February 1, 2014. Should you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me at 781-229-0707.

Sincerely yours,

**HARRIS MILLER MILLER & HANSON INC.**



Stephen B. Barrett  
Director of Clean Energy

cc: Arthur Smadbeck, Edgartown Selectman  
Pam Dolby, Edgartown Town Administrator  
Alicia Barton McDevitt, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center

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**Exhibit A****Schedule of Activities**

<b>Planned Activity</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
1. Consult with stakeholders and agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Edgartown</li> <li>• Town of Nantucket</li> <li>• Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC)</li> <li>• MA Division of Marine Fisheries</li> <li>• MA Division of Fish and Game</li> <li>• MA Department of Environmental Protection</li> <li>• MA Environmental Policy Act Office</li> <li>• MA Coastal Zone Management</li> <li>• MA Historical Commission</li> <li>• MA Department of Energy Resources</li> <li>• National Marine Fisheries Service</li> <li>• US Fish and Wildlife Service</li> <li>• US Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>• US Army Corps of Engineers</li> <li>• US Coast Guard</li> <li>• Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative (CVEC)</li> <li>• Vineyard Power Cooperative</li> <li>• Duke's County Fishermen's Association</li> <li>• Martha's Vineyard Fishing Derby</li> <li>• Cape Cod Hook Fishermen's Association</li> <li>• Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership</li> <li>• New England Fisheries Management Council</li> <li>• Conservation Law Foundation</li> <li>• The Trustees of the Reservations</li> </ul>	August 2011 – July 2014
2. Prepare and implement field data studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ocean currents</li> <li>• Bathymetry and Sediment Transport</li> <li>• Benthic Habitat</li> <li>• Fisheries Study Plan</li> <li>• Protected Species Study Plan</li> </ul>	August 2011 – July 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement existing funding from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and secure new funding</li> <li>• Seek new funding from DOE in FFY '13.</li> </ul>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underwater Acoustics Plan</li> <li>• Avian Resources Study Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with UMASS to identify University sources of funds.</li> </ul>
3. Prepare approvals and permit applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approvals for technology testing</li> <li>• Local approvals</li> <li>• State approvals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEIR: December 2013, FEIR: July 2014</li> </ul>
4. Conduct feasibility analyses and testing programs, and define project proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turbine Test: July-Aug 2014</li> <li>• Anchor System Test: July-Aug 2014</li> </ul>
5. Explore financing alternatives	August 2011 – July 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions with CVEC</li> <li>• Discussions with private developers</li> <li>• Discussions with public partners</li> </ul>
6. Seek “collaboration” opportunities with other entities	August 2011 – July 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with UMASS on funding and studies</li> <li>• Work with UNH on test platform</li> </ul>
7. Submit development application	July 2014



Document Content(s)

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