UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

OCT 16 2009

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

TITLE: Environmental Assessment on the issuance of permit #FKNMS-2007-122 for testing a hydrokinetic turbine in sanctuary waters

LOCATION: Bahia Honda Channel, Florida Keys, Florida

SUMMARY: Mr. Douglas Bedgood of the Florida Keys Hydropower Corporation will conduct a one-time, sixty (60)-day test of a hydrokinetic turbine in the waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), near Bahia Honda Channel in the Lower Florida Keys. The activity includes installing a 9" diameter steel pylon into the sea bed, attaching a turbine unit on top of the pylon, and monitoring its operation from a moored barge. The turbine unit and pylon would then be removed from the sanctuary. The turbine will not be hooked up to an electrical grid during the test period. The action is being permitted under FKNMS permit in order to facilitate multiple uses of the sanctuary that are compatible with the primary objective of resource protection, as required by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended (16 USC §1431 *et seq.*), and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act (PL 101-605). The turbine test will support research on alternative energy technologies, which may lead to tools to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and reduce impacts to coral reefs associated with greenhouse gas emissions. The action of issuing this permit will not result in any significant impacts on the human environment.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Daniel J. Basta, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East West Highway, N/ORM-6
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 713-3125 x235

The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. A copy of the finding of no significant impact (FONSI) including the supporting environmental assessment (EA) is enclosed for your information.

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Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed EA/FONSI we will consider any comments submitted that would assist us in preparing future NEPA documents. Please submit any written comments to the responsible official named above.

Sincerely,

for Paul N. Doremus
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure