

Boston Business Journal - June 6, 2006

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## Plans filed for underwater electricity generators off Martha's Vineyard

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[Massachusetts Tidal Energy Co.](#) reportedly has filed plans to create an underwater hydroelectric farm off Martha's Vineyard, powered by up to 150 turbines.

The Washington, D.C., firm has applied for a preliminary permit for its from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, several publications on Cape Cod and the islands reported.

The Cape and Islands Tidal Energy Hydroelectric Project is designed to produce between 25 and 300 megawatts at any point in time, depending on the strength of underwater tidal currents. A megawatt provides power for approximately 750 homes.

Massachusetts Tidal Energy plans to anchor the turbines in waters between 40 feet and 75 feet deep off the southeast Massachusetts coast between Falmouth, Mass., and Vineyard Haven, Mass.

According to the Falmouth Enterprise, the area was studied last month by the nonprofit [Electric Power Research Institute](#), which deemed tidal currents there too weak to support such a project. A consultant with TRC Environmental Corp. of Lowell, Mass., disputed that assessment, saying it is based on "a snapshot assessment" of data from a small number of devices used for studies by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

According to various reports, TRC is also a listed agent for similarly projects for New Hampshire's Piscataqua River, Maine's Kennebec and Penobscot Rivers, and other locations in New York, California, Oregon and Washington.

[Cape Wind Associates Inc.](#) and a subsidiary of [Jay Cashman Inc.](#) are currently seeking regulatory approval to site wind farms in the waters off Cape Cod. Both firms are based in Boston.

Three years ago, [Helical Turbine](#) of Massachusetts won permission to place six underwater turbines near the eastern entrance to the Cape Cod Canal, but never followed through with the project.

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