

Update - FORCE's Environmental Effects Monitoring Program (EEMP) – May 2014

2nd EEM Report – FORCE's 2nd EEM Report will cover the period of 2011-2013 and the final report will be available shortly. The report will incorporate the final data analyses for several of the 2012 studies, including the weir fisheries and fish tagging studies. The Draft 2nd EEM Report is being finalized with the assistance of the Fundy Energy Research Network (FERN) and will be circulated to EMAC for their review. The completion of the final 2nd EEMP report is anticipated for late summer or early fall 2014 and then it will be made available to the public.

Environmental Monitoring Advisory Committee (EMAC) - The 12th and 13th EMAC meetings were held on February 13 and April 9, 2014 at the FORCE Office in Halifax, respectively. The 12th meeting's main objectives were to provide feedback on the draft 2nd EEMP report, but more importantly to initiate discussions on the conceptual design of future EEM programs at the FORCE site. The 13th EMAC meeting continued the discussions regarding developing EMAC recommendations for the conceptual design of future EEM programs as cables and turbines are deployed with each member providing specific input. As part of this discussion, data gaps and preferred monitoring approaches will be identified.

Data Cable Laying and Monitoring Platform Project – FORCE successfully deployed a data cable in mid-December 2013. FORCE sent out a formal notice to all potential users of the Minas Passage on May 6, 2014, which can be seen on FORCE's website: <http://fundyforce.ca/submarine-data-cable-location/>. The data cable will be retrieved this summer and connected to the subsea platform that FORCE has been developing to test monitoring instruments in high-flow environments. The instruments were chosen by FORCE's Science and Advisory Board (SAB), and will provide data in real time.

Power Cables – FORCE plans to deploy four submarine power cables in FORCE's Crown Lease Area the fall of 2014. Following the fishing season, and prior to the power cables deployment, FORCE will meet with stakeholder groups to discuss the operation. Notice regarding the time and location of the meeting will be issued in the near future.

Wetlands Compensation – FORCE's four power cables will be required to be buried in a wetland between the shore and FORCE's visitor centre. FORCE, in consultation with Nova Scotia Environment, is undertaking several measures to compensate for the anticipated disturbance to the wetlands including: supporting DoT with repairing a culvert along the West Bay road; construction of interpretive panels at the FORCE visitor centre in relation to the wetland; and support to a local student. The site will also be monitored for two years to document changes and verify the predictions that the wetland restoration measures have been successful.

Joe Kozak's Retirement – Joe Kozak, FORCE's Director of Environmental Programs, retired in April of 2014. Joe had been working on the project since day 1 and has agreed to remain on an advisor to FORCE. Anne-Marie Belliveau, FORCE's new Director of Operations, has assumed responsibility for FORCE's Environmental Program.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this update, please contact Anne-Marie Belliveau at am_belliveau@fundyforce.ca or 902-406-1166 ext. 5.