

## **Environmental Monitoring Advisory Committee (EMAC)**

### **Progress Report #7 – 4 March 2011 Meeting**

***NOTE: EMAC Progress Reports provide an update on the activities of EMAC but do not include a record of internal discussions at EMAC meetings which are confidential to the Committee and FORCE. The Terms of Reference and a list of EMAC Members are available on the FORCE Website at: [www.fundyforce.ca](http://www.fundyforce.ca).***

The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of EMAC was held on Friday March 4, 2011 at the Minas Basin Development Center in Hantsport, NS. The following participated:

**Attendees:**

- Anna Redden – co-chair
- Gordon Beanlands – co-chair
- Michael Brylinsky
- Allyn Clarke
- Graham Daborn
- Donald Gordon
- Andrew Hebda
- Melissa Nevin
- Jean-Marc Nicholas
- Robert Miller

  

- Joe Kozak (Secretariat)
- Steve Sanford, NS Environment (Observer)
- Ted Currie, DFO (Observer)
- Jennifer Matthews (Observer)

#### **Meeting Summary/Highlights:**

- Gordon Beanlands welcomed the Committee members and noted that the key objective of the meeting was to complete the review of the FORCE 2010 EEM studies and to discuss and prepare recommendations for the 2011 EEMP. He also welcomed Jennifer Matthews of FORCE, who would be providing an overview of the FORCE Research Plan to the Committee.
- Joe Kozak noted that the Project EA Addendum and Transmission Line EA were approved by NRCan on 22 February.
- Jean-Marc Nicholas reported that the NSPI/OH barge/turbine is still in Saint John, New Brunswick and will not be moved to Dartmouth until April or May.

- Jennifer Matthews provided an overview of the FORCE Research Program as submitted to NRCan in late February, as requested under the CEF funding. The Research Program will address identified priorities for 2011 and 2012, with a focus on three themes: hydrodynamics/geophysics; biological/ecological studies and subsea cables.
- The major portion of the meeting was devoted to a review of the 2010 EEM study results and the development of recommendations for the 2011 FORCE EEMP. This was accomplished by organizing the members into two subcommittees to deal with the following groups of topics: **Fish/Mammal/Noise/Physical Variables** and **Lobster/Benthic Habitat/Seabirds**. After detailed discussions by each subcommittee, a plenary session was held to provide opportunity for the full Committee to hear an overview of the discussions and the initial recommendations for the 2011 EEMP. After a general discussion there was consensus on the recommendations to FORCE.
- Templates were used by the subcommittees to summarize their discussions and recommendations. These were to collated and subsequently circulated to all Committee members via email for final feedback. Based on this feedback, it was agreed that the co-chairs would prepare the Final Draft Recommendations and then circulate these to all EMAC members for review and comment. The target date for submission of the recommendations to FORCE was set for mid-April.

**Note: The Draft 2011 EMAC Recommendations for 2011 were circulated to the Committee on April 15, 2011 for review. EMAC submitted the Final Recommendations to FORCE on May 16, 2011. The complete EMAC 2011 Recommendations and FORCE's Response are available on the FORCE website at: [www.fundyforce.ca](http://www.fundyforce.ca).**

#### **Next Meeting**

- The next EMAC will be scheduled for September or October 2011.