

Environmental Monitoring Advisory Committee (EMAC)

Progress Report #19

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 EMAC Members list are available on the FORCE Website at: www.fundyforce.ca .

The 19th Meeting of EMAC was held on Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at the Scotia Investments Building, 3 Bedford Hills Road, Bedford, NS.

The following participated at the meeting:

Attendees:

EMAC Members

Don Aldous
Gordon Beanlands – Chair of EMAC
Allyn Clarke
Graham Daborn
Anna Metaxas
Timothy Milligan
Michael Stokesbury
Mark Taylor

Observers

Matthew Baker (Nova Scotia Department of Energy)
Carys Burgess (Cape Sharp Tidal)
Russell Dmytriw* (on behalf of FORCE)
Joe Kozak* (on behalf of FORCE)
Matt Lumley* (FORCE)
Melissa Oldreive (FORCE)
Anna Redden (Acadia University, FORCE Board)
Steve Sanford (Nova Scotia Department of Environment)
Mike Wambolt (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

*by phone

Regrets
(EMAC
Members)

Andrew Hebda
Sana Kavanagh
John Tremblay

Meeting Summary/Highlights:

- Gordon Beanlands (EMAC Chair) welcomed the Committee members and observers to the 19th EMAC meeting. The Chair also welcomed and introduced Dr. Anna Metaxas as one of the newest EMAC members. The other new EMAC member, Dr. John Tremblay, was unable to attend the day's meeting.
- Administrative and action items from the previous EMAC meeting (18th meeting, held January 19, 2016) were reviewed and discussed.
 - As discussed over email earlier in the year, EMAC agreed to add another fisheries representative to its membership, filling the last vacancy under the Terms of Reference. This person would represent a fin fishery.
 - The members reviewed some of its recommendations to FORCE that were discussed at the last EMAC meeting.
 - EMAC re-emphasized its commitment to provide advice to FORCE regarding data management, which FORCE advised it is currently examining.
- Melissa Oldreive (FORCE) presented on update on FORCE's environmental effects monitoring program.
 - The first fish survey was completed in May 2016 with the next scheduled for mid-August 2016. Initial results indicate that quality data was received.
 - Three seabird surveys have taken place, starting in May 2016. Surveys continue on a monthly basis.
 - A component of the marine noise (acoustics) program will utilize drifting hydrophones that will be deployed before and after the Cape Sharp Tidal turbines' deployments.
 - Three C-PODs have been deployed in the FORCE Crown Lease Area to record marine mammals (Harbour Porpoise) sounds and will be recovered and redeployed in fall 2016. FORCE is also developing a strandings/injury response program.
 - The lobster catchability program is being finalized and a meeting with local lobster fishers and some members of EMAC is being organized.
- Carys Burgess (Cape Sharp Tidal) provided an update regarding its project's pause and its engagement activities. Carys also updated the EMAC on Cape Sharp Tidal's progress—that Turbine A is in Halifax to be ballasted and Turbine B is being assembled in Pictou. There was discussion around Cape Sharp Tidal's environmental effects monitoring plan, which is on Cape Sharp Tidal's website.
 - The EMAC discussed engagement activities being completed by FORCE and Cape Sharp Tidal. It was recognized that there is a need to inform stakeholders and the general public on the science related to the project.
- Steve Sanford (Nova Scotia Department of Environment) presented the June 20, 2016 letter to FORCE regarding FORCE's and Cape Sharp Tidal's environmental effects monitoring

programs. The acceptance of the programs was only related to the installation of the two Cape Sharp Tidal turbines and until the end of 2016. FORCE will be required to consider additional revisions to its environmental effects monitoring program for additional deployments, and will be required to submit these revisions to the Nova Scotia Department of Environment in addition to the requirements outlined in the June 20, 2016 letter.

- EMAC members discussed the June 20 letter as well as the Canadian Science Advisory Response regarding the FORCE environmental effects monitoring plan. A few comments and options were discussed regarding how FORCE and Cape Sharp Tidal could address the conditions outlined in the letter in the near-term and longer-term. EMAC members agreed to provide further detailed advice to FORCE after the meeting.
 - Observers were also invited to provide feedback.
- Mike Wambolt (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) outlined his department's regulatory role for in-stream tidal, which is through the *Species at Risk Act* and the *Fisheries Act*. Fisheries and Oceans Canada also has a role in providing advice, which is captured in the Canadian Science Advisory Response.
 - Gordon Beanlands (EMAC Chair) facilitated a discussion regarding the role of EMAC in addressing stakeholder concerns. Options were explored and all agreed that there should a process to allow concerns to be directed to EMAC for consideration.