

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

### **Progress Report #11 – April 24, 2013 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 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of EMAC was held on Wednesday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Minas Basin Development Center in Hantsport, NS. The following participated:

**Attendees:**

- Gordon Beanlands – Chair
- Don Aldous
- Michael Brylinsky
- Allyn Clarke
- Clayton Coppaway
- Donald Gordon
- Andrew Hebda
- Robert Miller
- Michael Stokesbury
- Mark Taylor

Joe Kozak , FORCE  
Jessie Ross, FORCE (Secretariat)  
Anna Redden, Acadia University (Observer)  
Steve Sanford, NS Environment (Observer)  
Tony Wright (FORCE) –Guest Presenter

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

- Gordon Beanlands welcomed the Committee members and introduced and welcomed Clayton Coppaway, who is replacing Melissa Nevin as the Mi'kmaq representative on EMAC. The objectives of the meeting were to provide an update on the FORCE Sensor Project; review the status of the project and EEM studies; and discuss EEM gaps and future programs for the site.
- A project update and schedule were presented which indicated that the next turbine deployment is now anticipated in 2014 or 2015. It was also noted that FORCE's 2<sup>nd</sup> EEM report will be delayed until late summer 2013 to allow for a detailed analysis of all studies completed in 2011 and 2012. A weather station, digital tide gauge and X-band radar are planned for installation this spring and summer at the FORCE site.

- Tony Wright, FORCE's Director of Marine Operations, provided a detailed description of the Sensor Platform Project, which included an overview of the entire project, as well as data requirements/priorities and instruments. The key decision for further commitment to a cable platform is required in the next couple of months. FORCE will be establishing a Science Advisory Board to provide advice on instrument selection, data management and the development of a long-term research program.
- There was an extensive discussion on the EEM program for 2013. Based on the fact that no turbines or cables are installed at the site, it was agreed that monitoring could be reduced for this year. A weir fisheries study, as suggested by DFO in their review of the 1<sup>st</sup> EEM report, was supported and will be completed in 2013. There was also a discussion on alternative approaches to determine if fish and mammals will interact with turbines, including the possibility of modeling and lab studies. There was no conclusion on this issue, but it was recommended that an expert on fish interaction with structures will be invited to the next meeting to develop a better understanding of the challenges involved in monitoring potential interaction with turbines..
- Updates on the status of the various EEM studies were provided including; the 2012 Seabird and Mammals report, the Weir Fisheries study, the Fish Residence study, PAM (mammal) survey, Lobster and Fish Tracking projects and the Benthic Review project report.
- The Chair canvassed the members and was provided with feedback on five postulates that he posed at the beginning of the meeting regarding what we think we know about the basic design of the environmental effects monitoring program. It was a very useful discussion and there was consensus that we have made reasonable progress and have a good understanding of most (but not all) of the main elements required for a long term EEM program at the FORCE site.

### **Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will be called at the Chair's discretion.