

Environmental Monitoring Advisory Committee (EMAC)

Progress Report #8 –28 October 11 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.

The 8th Meeting of EMAC was held on Friday October 28, 2011 at the Minas Basin Development Center in Hantsport, NS. The following participated:

Attendees: Anna Redden – co-chair
Gordon Beanlands – co-chair
Allyn Clarke
Andrew Hebda
Melissa Nevin
Jean-Marc Nicholas
Robert Miller
Michael Stokesbury

Joe Kozak , FORCE (Secretariat)
Steve Sanford, NS Environment (Observer)
Donald Humphrey, DFO (Observer)

Meeting Summary/Highlights:

- Gordon Beanlands welcomed the Committee members and noted that the key areas for discussion at today's meeting were the proposed changes to EMAC's Terms of Reference (TOR) and the process to prepare advice on the 2012 EEMP.
- It was noted that as of this October, EMAC has been in existence for 2 years and is now well established. Based on policy decisions by the FORCE Board of Directors, Anna Redden will not be re-offering as co-chair of EMAC. Therefore, it was considered an opportune time to review the present EMAC TORs. Changes proposed to the TOR by FORCE were discussed by EMAC, which included having only one Committee chair, rather than two; and, changing the membership criteria whereby FORCE, developers and regulatory agencies would be observers only, rather than members. The Committee agreed with these recommendations, with some minor modifications. The revised TOR will become final after review and approval by the FORCE Board, and agreement by DFO and NSDOE. Gordon Beanlands agreed to continue as the EMAC Chair.
- EMAC members were also reminded that their two year terms would be completed in October 2011 and so they should indicate their intention to re-offer to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

- Joe Kozak provided a brief project update, noting that the power cables could be installed as early as April 2012, with the Alstom turbine deployed in Fall 2012. As well, the transmission line clearing is expected to start in late Fall 2011, and construction to be completed in Spring 2012. Other key activities were the completion of the first FORCE EEM report to be distributed in early November and the Grand Opening of the FORCE Interpretive Centre scheduled for November 7th.
- Donald Humphrey of DFO presented a status report on the Pathways of Effects project for Marine Renewable Energy funded by NRCan. The project includes the identification of major regulatory decision points; development of a regulatory guidance document; completion of a gap analysis between decision points and existing science; and, a ranking of research priorities. A more detailed report will be provided at the next EMAC meeting.
- An overview of the EEM projects presently underway was provided to the Committee, including studies on seabirds and mammals; fish tagging/tracking; lobster tagging; and, benthics study. It was noted that meetings with fishers were not held this year, but these should be scheduled for early 2012.
- There was a discussion regarding the best process for preparing advice to FORCE for the 2012 EEMP. It was recommended that FORCE provide a list of those projects which will be continued in 2012, so that EMAC can focus on monitoring gaps. It was also recommended that FORCE plan for seabird and mammal observations during the deployment of the cables and turbine scheduled for 2012, and that FORCE should also undertake an EMF literature review.
- Gordon Beanlands recommended that any further discussions on the 2012 EEMP be delayed until the 2011 EEMP study reports are available for review by EMAC. The Committee agreed and the Chair will call a meeting soon after these reports are available.

Note: The approved revised EMAC Terms of Reference and the first FORCE EEM Report are available on the on the FORCE website at: www.fundyforce.ca.

Next Meeting

- The next EMAC will be in February or March 2012.