

Environmental Monitoring Advisory Committee (EMAC)

Progress Report #15

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 15th Meeting of EMAC was held on Tuesday March 3rd, 2015 at the FORCE Office, Barrington Street, Halifax, NS. The following participated at the meeting:

Attendees: Gordon Beanlands – Chair
Allyn Clarke
Alannah Hunt
Andrew Hebda
Mike Stokesbury
Mark Taylor
Timothy Milligan

Observers
Angie Gillis, MCG
Anna Redden, Acadia
Joe Kozak, FORCE contractor*
Kris MacLellan, Minas Energy
Carys Burgess, Emera
Kieran O'Malley, OpenHydro
Anne-Marie Belliveau, FORCE

Presenters
Russell Dmytriw, SLR
Craig Chandler, SLR
Lisa Isaacman, Acadia
Gayle Zydlewski, University of Maine*
Dom Tolitt, SMRU*

*via phone

Meeting Summary/Highlights:

- Gordon Beanlands, EMAC Chair, welcomed the Committee members, observers and presenters to the 15th EMAC meeting. The Chair thanked former members Bob Miller and Donald Gordon for their time and contributions to EMAC over the past several years. Mr. Beanlands introduced and welcomed Timothy Milligan as a new member to EMAC, who has expertise in sedimentology. The

Chair also reminded the members to suggest names for new EMAC members with experience with lobsters and general marine ecology.

- The main objective of the meeting was a presentation by SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd. (SLR) on the progress in the design of a future Environmental Effects Monitoring Program (EEMP) for the FORCE demonstration site. SLR was awarded the project of developing a proposed EEMP for FORCE for 2015-2020 through the RFP process described at the last meeting. EMAC members had an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to SLR.
- Anne-Marie Belliveau reviewed the status of the Action Items from the last EMAC meeting. There was only one Action Item. Because of the larger number of observers at EMAC meetings, a larger meeting space is required. Members were asked for suggestions.
- Ms. Belliveau also provided an update on the FORCE project which covered two main topics: the FAST Project and status of FORCE infrastructure at the site. The FAST project now consists of two monitoring/instrumentation research platforms. The small FAST platform is nearest completion and initial testing will begin in late spring with possible deployment in June or July 2015. In terms of FORCE's infrastructure, with the installation of the four subsea power cables in October 2014, FORCE's electrical infrastructure is complete at the demonstration site.
- Russell Dmytriw of SLR led the presentation on the development and design of an EEMP for FORCE, with support from SLR team members. The intent of the presentation was to discuss SLR's design methodology and to provide a status report to EMAC regarding the EEMP design progress. Summaries on work to date were to be provided on the programs for fish, lobsters, marine benthos, marine mammals, seabirds and physical oceanography. Handouts on marine mammals, lobsters and fish were provided. Unfortunately due to the detailed discussions on marine mammals and fish, there was only limited time for discussions on seabirds and lobsters. SLR is scheduled to complete the initial draft EEMP design by April 24th, and this draft will be circulated to EMAC for detailed review and comments. SLR will then revise and make a presentation to EMAC on the final Draft EEMP design in mid to late May.