

Environmental Monitoring Advisory Committee (EMAC)

Progress Report #18

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 18th Meeting of EMAC was held on January 19, 2016 at the Scotia Investments Building, 3 Bedford Hills Road, Bedford, NS. The following participated at the meeting:

Attendees: Gordon Beanlands, Chair
Allyn Clarke
Graham Daborn*
Sana Kavanagh (replacing Alannah Hunt)
Timothy Milligan
Mark Taylor

Observers
Angie Gillis (MCG)
Kris MacLellan (Minas Energy)
Clodagh McGrath* (DP Energy)
Shane Quill* (Open Hydro)
Anna Redden* (Acadia)
Melissa Oldreive (NS Energy)
Steve Sanford (NS Environment)
Michael Wambolt (DFO)
Anne-Marie Belliveau, FORCE
Joe Kozak* (on behalf of FORCE)

*via phone

Meeting Summary/Highlights:

- Gordon Beanlands, EMAC Chair, welcomed the Committee members and observers to the 18th EMAC meeting. The Chair also welcomed and introduced Sana Kavanagh, who is replacing Alannah Hunt as the NS Mi'kmaq representative on EMAC. One of the key objectives of the meeting was to finalize EMAC's Recommendations regarding SLR's proposed FORCE EEMP. The Chair also challenged the members to offer their opinions on the future role of EMAC as baseline studies progress to operational monitoring.

- Administrative and Action Items from EMAC 17th meeting were reviewed and discussed by the Committee. The main Action Items and decisions related to membership and the EMAC Recommendations regarding SLR's proposed FORCE EEMP. Other issues discussed were the revised EMAC Terms of Reference (TOR), which were approved by EMAC; the formation of the proposed lobster subcommittee; and stakeholders' presentations to EMAC, which were deferred for discussion at future meetings.
- Anne-Marie Belliveau presented an update on the FORCE project including the following items: FAST Platforms 1 and 2; Vectron Project; the approval by NS Environment of FORCE's amended EA on November 5, 2015 for the addition of a 5th berth and 4-5 MW capacity at each berth; an update on FORCE's progress with finalizing its EEMP; and an update on FORCE's updated Environmental Management Plan. There was also an active discussion regarding the need for FORCE to develop a data management plan and data quality function for data collected under the EEMP.
- Potential new EMAC members were reviewed and discussed based on recommendations from the Chair and FORCE. The members agreed with the recommendation to add one new member, who will be invited to join the Committee. This leaves two vacancies on EMAC, and the members were asked to undertake one final review of the remaining candidates, as well to suggest as any additional potential candidates to the Chair as soon as possible.
- The Draft EMAC Recommendations on SLR's proposed FORCE EEMP, which were previously circulated to the Members for their review, were discussed in detail. A few comments were received prior to the meeting, plus a number of additional comments were provided at the meeting. It was agreed to revise the Draft EMAC Recommendations based on these comments and recirculate via email to the Members for final approval. The approved EMAC Recommendations will then be forwarded to FORCE to be posted on FORCE's website. It was also suggested that the SLR Draft EEMP Design report be placed on the FORCE website along with EMAC's Recommendations.
- The Chair led the discussion on the Future Role of EMAC, and he encouraged all members to present their views and opinions. It was a very active and broad ranging discussion, but it was acknowledged that the knowledge gained from the baseline studies, as well as future monitoring at the site, constitute a significant contribution to the incremental process of in-stream tidal energy development in the Province. This knowledge will lead to a better understanding of the potential future environmental effects of commercial arrays, but it was recognized that EMAC's role is to focus on its advisory role to FORCE, which is limited to a demonstration project of in-stream tidal energy.