

Environmental Monitoring Advisory Committee (EMAC)

Progress Report #13

NOTE: EMAC Progress Reports provide an update on the activities of EMAC, but do not include a record of internal discussions at EMAC 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 13th Meeting of EMAC was held on Wednesday April 9th, 2014 at the FORCE Office, Barrington Street, Halifax, NS. The following participated at the meeting:

Attendees:

Gordon Beanlands – co-chair
Don Aldous
Michael Brylinsky
Allyn Clarke
Clayton Coppaway
Graham Daborn
Andrew Hebda
Michael Stokesbury

Anne-Marie Belliveau , FORCE Director of Operations
Joe Kozak, FORCE (Technical Support)
Jessie Ross, FORCE (Secretariat)

Observers

Lisa Isaacman, Acadia University
Anna Redden, Acadia University
Meghan Swanburg, Acadia University

Meeting Summary/Highlights:

- Gordon Beanlands welcomed the Committee members and observers to the 13th EMAC meeting, and introduced Anne-Marie Belliveau, FORCE's new Director of Operations. Joe Kozak is leaving FORCE this month and as part of her role with FORCE, Anne-Marie will be taking on the management of the EEM program. Gordon thanked Joe for his years of tremendous work.
- The key focus of the meeting was to obtain feedback from the EMAC members on the conceptual design of future EEM program based on earlier questions provided by the EMAC Chair. In other words, what have we learned from the EEM studies completed to date, and are we in a position to design an effective EEM program.

- The status of the Action Items from the last EMAC meeting and administrative items were reviewed by Joe Kozak. As well, Anne-Marie Belliveau provided an update on the new berth holders that were publicly announced on March 28th (i.e. Black Rock Tidal Power and OpenHydro), including a summary of their technologies and future plans.
- Anna Redden of Acadia University presented the study results for three EEM studies conducted at the FORCE site, which included an intertidal weir fisheries study on fish presence and abundance and, lobster and fish tagging and tracking studies in the Minas Passage. The final reports will be available soon and these will be included in FORCE's 2nd EEMP Report.
- Most of the meeting was used for presentations from individual EMAC members regarding their thoughts on EEM studies completed to date and whether we have sufficient information to design an effective EEM program as turbines are deployed in the future. Generally, the discussion was positive however it was noted that there are outstanding knowledge gaps regarding monitoring technologies, and there needs to be a better balance between research and long-term monitoring. No specific conclusions were reached, but options for further evaluation and design were discussed, including a facilitated workshop for EMAC, scientists and regulators.

Next Meeting

- The next EMAC Meeting date is to be determined.