

Questions and Answers

Acoustic Survey at the FORCE Demonstration Site – Minas Passage Request for Proposals

Question

Would it be correct to summarize the scope of Phases I, II, and III in the following manner:

Phase I -- develop a plan for noise monitoring both before and after turbine installation.

Phase II -- perform background noise monitoring (i.e. measurements before turbine installation)

Phase III -- perform monitoring after turbine installation.

The way the RFP currently reads, it is not clear if this is the intention or not. For example, the first bullet under Phase I states that the objective is to "Establish the existing background noise levels". By itself it is not clear if this means performing a noise measurement or development of a test plan. For Phase II, one stated objective is "to capture noise omitted by the turbines as well as noise emitting objects identified in the vicinity of the turbines." The use of the word "omitted" is not clear here. Is it meant to say "emitted" (i.e. after turbine installation), or are we measuring the noise in the absence of the turbines (i.e. background noise, or maybe just measurements with the turbines secured, since these measurements will be performed prior to cable installation)? Since for Phase III one stated objective is to "undertake acoustic survey at the reference site after the deployment of one or more turbines", I am assuming that the primary objectives of each phase are as listed above. Can you please confirm and clarify?

Answer

Yes, you are correct, these are the 3 phases covered by the RFP.

Question

It is understood that the consultant's efforts for project are to be "turn-key" and we must include vessel costs in the proposal. What is the closest port to the FORCE test site, and what is the distance? What currently exists at the test site? Is there a barge or similar structure with living quarters and a place to secure a vessel, or is it just open water? This is important as it may drive the required vessel size.

Answer

The closest port is Parrsboro, NS and would be <less than 10 Km from the site, which is on the Bay of Fundy. But you should be aware that all ports on the Bay of Fundy have large tidal ranges i.e. 12-15 metres and high tidal currents. Nothing presently exists at the marine demonstration site, or will in the future, since the turbine berth locations are on the seabed--- so it is open water.

Question

In Section 7 of the RFP, there is no proposal section listed where the consultant would discuss details of this project. Is this something you are interested in, or is the scope of work in Section 1 sufficient and the proposal does not need to include elaboration or regurgitation of the stated scope?

Answer

Within the 20 pages allowed you must describe your approach and steps.

Question

Should the estimated cost include all three phases, even though it is stated that Phase III may not happen?

Answer

Yes, a total cost, with breakdown for each phase of the project must be included.

Question

Just to clarify, in the FAQ section of your website it says that current will be monitored. I understand there is nothing there now, and the EA document presents the results of previous measurements, but will there be current monitors available during the acoustic monitoring?

Answer

I can not answer with certainty since there will be ADCP measurements made this year, but not sure these will coincide with the acoustic survey. There will be flow measurements on the turbines, but these will not be deployed until 2012.

Question

One more question which I do not believe is in the information on your site. Are there currently flow monitors installed at the test site, or would flow velocity data be readily available for the area?

Answer

There are currently no flow monitors installed at any of the marine berth sites or reference site. The only velocity data, to my knowledge, for the Project area is contained in Appendix 5 - Currents in Minas Basin, in the Project EA Registration Document.

Question

Is it safe to say that the maximum water depth at the FORCE test site at high tide is less than 100 meters?

Answer

Correct, at the reference site and the FORCE marine demonstration area, at high tide, the water depths would range between approx 45-65 metres.

Question

Over what length of time do you expect monitoring to occur? Days, weeks, longer?

Answer

This is part of your advice and design of the survey to FORCE.

Question

I am not sure when Phase 3 is supposed to end: is it on October the 31st or are you interested in continuing the monitoring of the noise during the operation afterwards. In other words, is the total duration of the project, assuming it will start in June 2011, of 5 months, or longer?

Answer

Phases 1 and 2 must be completed no later than October 31,2011. Phase 3 will be contingent on the outcomes from the two previous phases and no time line for completion of phase 3 has been identified in the RFP due to this phase being contingent.

The work would start in June phases 1 and 2 must be complete by October and then the need for phase 3 will be evaluated with the contractor.