

Energy

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia joining forces on tidal study (07/06/12)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) - New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are pooling their resources to take the next step in studying tidal energy in the Bay of Fundy.

As a commitment to sustainable development and with concern for the unique marine environment of the Bay of Fundy, both provinces have committed to working together to complete Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) of the Bay of Fundy prior to finalizing marine energy policies. The SEA will essentially consist of two parts: an Environmental and Socio-economic Impact Assessment Report (ESIA) and extensive stakeholder feedback and consultation.

Each province is investing up to \$75,000 to complete the ESIA, for which a request for proposals will be issued by the Offshore Energy and Environmental Research Association (OEER). The OEER was established in March 2006 to promote and fund research on energy and marine environment.

Membership in OEER includes St. Francis Xavier University, Cape Breton University, Acadia University and the Nova Scotia Department of Energy.

"Where both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick share the highest tides in the world in the Bay of Fundy, this is an initiative we are very pleased to take part in," New Brunswick Energy Minister Jack Keir said. "This is an important step forward in developing future tidal projects which could benefit both of our provinces. The initiative is also in keeping with the objectives of the recently released New Brunswick Climate Change Action Plan."

"We welcome New Brunswick's involvement in tidal energy development," Nova Scotia Energy Minister Bill Dooks said. "A lot of work needs to be done before demonstration turbines can be put in the water, and New Brunswick is helping us move that work forward."

The study, referred to as a Strategic Environmental Assessment, will provide a better indication of where potential marine energy sites could be located and any opportunities and constraints which could exist.

Proponents will have until June 29, 2007 to bid on the request for proposals.

Documents are available online at:

<http://www.offshoreenergyresearch.ca/Home/tabid/77/Default.aspx>. (*English only*)

Last year, both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia participated in a tidal energy study conducted by the Electric Power Research Institute, which provided analysis and identified approximate megawatt potential for each province. The new study will go into greater detail on site-specific issues.

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MEDIA CONTACTS: Marc Belliveau, New Brunswick Department of Energy, 506-444-5912; Matthew Lumley, communications advisor, Nova Scotia Department of Energy, 902-424-0794.