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Offshore
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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OEER completes strategic environmental assessment for marine renewable energy in the Bay of Fundy

May 1, 2008

The Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association (OEER) is pleased to announce that it has completed the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for marine renewable energy in the Bay of Fundy.

The SEA Report has been submitted to Nova Scotia Energy Minister Richard Hurlburt and is now available publicly for review. OEER is recommending moving forward with tidal energy development in a cautious manner, including ongoing research and monitoring and stakeholder involvement.

The Province has been awaiting the SEA Report before making final decisions regarding the tidal demonstration facility. In addition to the Report, OEER will be submitting a Community Response Report on May 16th, following the SEA Community Forums that are planned for May 5th-13th. The Community Response Report will consist of feedback not captured in the SEA Report. The Minister is expected to provide a written response to the SEA Report by June 2nd.

"We thank and congratulate everyone who participated in the process," said Energy Minister Richard Hurlburt. "The SEA represents a tremendous effort to reflect many voices from around the Bay of Fundy and Nova Scotia. Tidal energy represents an opportunity to move away from coal-based electricity towards a clean, local source, and the SEA will help guide that direction."

Dr. Joshua Leon, Co-Chair of the Fundy Tidal Energy Technical Advisory Group for OEER, is pleased with the outcome of the SEA process.

"The strategic environmental assessment process has been a collaborative effort, involving a wide range of stakeholder groups," said Dr. Leon. "We greatly appreciate the input received from participants throughout the process and look forward to gathering community views on the Report at the Forums."

Interested stakeholders who are unable to attend any of the Community Forums can provide their views of the SEA Report in a written response via email to oeer@offshoreenergyresearch.ca or by mail to the OEER Association. The deadline for written responses is May 13th, 2008 at 4 p.m.

The SEA Report is available for download from the OEER website at www.bayoffundyseas.ca. The Report has also been sent to the following public and university libraries in Nova Scotia (please contact the library in your area to check on availability):

- Isaiah W. Wilson Memorial Library - Digby
- Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library - Yarmouth
- Colchester-East Hants Public Library (Truro Branch) - Truro
- Parrsboro Library - Parrsboro
- Spring Garden Road Memorial Public Library - Halifax
- Alderney Gate Public Library - Dartmouth
- Wolfville Memorial Library – Wolfville`
- Killam Memorial Library, Dalhousie University - Halifax
- Patrick Power Library, Saint Mary's University - Halifax
- Vaughan Memorial Library, Acadia University - Wolfville
- Angus L. Macdonald Library, St. Francis Xavier University - Antigonish
- Cape Breton University Library, Cape Breton University - Sydney

Below are the dates and locations of each Community Forum. All Forums will run from 7 to 9 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

- Monday May 5th – Halifax – Dalhousie Student Union Building
- Tuesday May 6th – Yarmouth – Rodd Grand Yarmouth
- Wednesday May 7th – Digby – Annapolis Basin Conference Centre (Cornwallis Park, NS)
- Thursday May 8th – Wolfville – Acadia University
- Monday May 12th – Parrsboro – Fundy Geological Museum
- Tuesday May 13th – Truro – Agritech Park (Bible Hill, NS)

To help us with our planning, pre-registration would be appreciated (but is not essential). If anyone would like to register for the Community Forum in their area, go to www.bayoffundyseas.ca and click on Events. They can also register by calling Jenn Harrie at 902-424-0789 or e-mailing oeer@offshoreenergyresearch.ca.

OEER is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to fostering offshore energy and environmental research and development including examination of renewable energy resources and their interaction with the marine environment. OEER's members are Acadia University, St. Francis Xavier University, Cape Breton University and Nova Scotia Energy. Funding for OEER activities and research comes from grants totaling \$2.85 million from Nova Scotia Energy.

For more information on OEER and the SEA Community Forums please visit our website at www.bayoffundyseas.ca.

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