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## Media Release

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

OEER awards contract for the Environmental and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Report for Fundy Tidal Energy

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July 18, 2007

The Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association (OEER) is pleased to announce that Jacques Whitford has been awarded the contract for the Environmental and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (ESIA) Report of the Bay of Fundy.

The ESIA Report is a component of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the development of ocean renewable energy in the Bay of Fundy. The SEA is being carried out by the OEER on behalf of the Nova Scotia Department of Energy and in collaboration with the New Brunswick Department of Energy. OEER and Jacques Whitford will work collaboratively on the ESIA Report over the next four months.

“We are pleased about having the opportunity to work with Jacques Whitford on the Environmental and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Report,” said Dr. Meinhard Doelle, Chair of the Fundy Tidal Energy Technical Advisory Group for OEER. “The environmental knowledge and expertise that their consultants will provide in this report is an asset to the Strategic Environmental Assessment process.”

Jacques Whitford is extremely pleased to be selected by OEER for the ESIA Report.

“This is a strategically important project for our company and our study team,” said Stephen Fudge, Vice President, Energy and Principal Scientist with Jacques Whitford. “It gives us an opportunity to get involved at the front end of what could be a very exciting ocean energy development initiative in the Bay of Fundy region of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.”

The ESIA Report will encompass a number of different components, including:

- an assessment of the effects of ocean renewable energy technologies and development alternatives on the marine environment;
- an assessment of the socio-economic impact from the development of these technologies; and
- a review of mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment, on fisheries and other marine resource uses, and on communities.

In August, OEER will be holding Community Forums in Yarmouth, Digby, Wolfville, Parrsboro, Truro and Halifax. The Forums will provide opportunities to learn more about the SEA process and tidal technologies, to ask questions, share information and raise issues or concerns.

OEER is a not-for-profit association dedicated to fostering offshore energy and environmental research and development including examination of renewable energy resources and their interaction with the marine environment. The Association works in partnership with Acadia University, St. Francis Xavier University, Cape Breton University and the Nova Scotia Department of Energy. Funding for OEER activities and research comes from a \$2.85 million grant from the NS Department of Energy.

For more information on OEER and the SEA please visit our website at [www.bayoffundy.ca](http://www.bayoffundy.ca).

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