



Suite 400
5151 George Street
PO Box 2664
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3P7

T 902.424.8479
F 902.424.0528

Offshore
Energy
Environmental
Research
Association

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OEER announces an Environmental and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment for Fundy Tidal Energy

June 11, 2007

The Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association (OEER) is pleased to announce that the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of ocean renewable energy in the Bay of Fundy is underway and a Technical Advisory Group has been established to carry out the Assessment process.

Lesley Griffiths has been chosen to be the SEA process lead and OEER has issued a Request for Proposals for an Environmental and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Report of the Bay of Fundy.

“The Strategic Environmental Assessment is a tool to help us identify the most sustainable way to develop tidal energy in Nova Scotia, before decisions have to be made about specific projects”, said Dr. Meinhard Doelle, Chair of the Tidal Energy Technical Advisory Group for OEER.

New tidal energy technologies show real promise, especially for application in the Bay of Fundy, which may be the best location in North America for grid-connected tidal power generation,” said Dr. Doelle. “However, there are many questions regarding the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the new technologies, and we hope to involve a wide range of individuals and organizations in this process”.

The Assessments are a key part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Bay of Fundy to be carried out on behalf of the Nova Scotia Department of Energy and in collaboration with the New Brunswick Department of Energy.

“Before anything goes in the water, we need to carefully assess any potential impacts,” said Energy Minister Bill Dooks. “I am pleased the OEER is moving forward with this work.”

The purpose of the SEA is to determine through a consultative process:

- Whether marine renewable energy technologies, and specifically tidal in-stream technology, can be developed in the Bay of Fundy without significant impacts on the marine ecosystem.
- Whether these technologies can be developed without significant impacts on fishers and the fisheries and on other marine and coastal resource users.
- What contribution marine renewable energy technologies can make to community economic development in Nova Scotia.

The SEA also advises the Government of Nova Scotia on whether, where and how marine renewable energy technologies should be planned, developed, regulated and managed.

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 and Cape Breton University.

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

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Media Contacts: John Cianfaglione
OEER Association
902-424-2493
E-mail: oeer@offshoreenergyresearch.ca

Professor Meinhard Doelle
Chair, Tidal Energy Task Advisory Group for OEER
Dalhousie University Faculty of Law
Marine & Environmental Law Institute
902-494-1030
E-mail: Meinhard.Doelle@Dal.Ca