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Events & Announcements

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ANNOUNCEMENT: OEER seeking feedback on background report for the Fundy Tidal Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association (OEER) is seeking public comments from interested stakeholders on the Background Report for the Fundy Tidal Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment, prepared by Jacques Whitford.

Public comments, through written submissions, will be very important in developing findings and recommendations for the final Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) report that will be submitted to the Province in spring 2008.

"Our intention from the outset of the SEA was to maintain an open and transparent process, encouraging everyone to get involved," said Dr. Joshua Leon, Co-Chair of the Fundy Tidal Energy Technical Advisory Group for OEER. "Public input throughout the process is vital in order to better understand the issues and challenges before decisions are made on this tidal energy project."

Nova Scotia Department of Energy Minister Richard Hurlburt is pleased with the progress being made in the SEA process. "In-stream tidal energy has the potential to become an alternative to coal-based electricity in Nova Scotia, but we need to get this right," said Mr. Hurlburt. "And the work of people involved in the Strategic Environmental Assessment is a key ingredient to ensuring we do. We are grateful for their continued efforts to gather valuable technical advice and input from people around the Bay of Fundy."

New Brunswick Department of Energy Minister Jack Keir is pleased with the partnership approach to research being conducted in the Bay of Fundy. "New Brunswick and Nova Scotia share the highest tides in the world and it is only fitting that they cooperate and work together on research being conducted to eventually harness the in-stream tidal energy in the Bay of Fundy" Keir said. "The background report is an important piece of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process and we look forward to receiving stakeholder feedback on the document."

You can download the report from the OEER website by going to www.bayoffundyseas.ca and clicking on "Background report: Fundy Tidal Energy SEA" under "What's New."

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

Written submissions are due by Friday February 29, 2008 at 4 p.m. Submissions should be sent via email to oer@offshoreenergyresearch.ca or by mail to:

OEER Association
Suite 400, Bank of Montreal Building
5151 George Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3P7

Please provide full contact information (i.e., name, address, e-mail, phone number) with your submission. The background report is a component of the SEA process that is addressing the overall sustainability implications of various forms of marine renewable energy in the Bay of Fundy, with a focus on tidal in-stream turbines. The report was funded jointly by OEER and the New Brunswick Department of Energy. OEER is responsible for carrying out the SEA on behalf of the Nova Scotia Department of Energy.

The Province of New Brunswick is carrying out a similar SEA addressing marine renewable energy in New Brunswick waters.