



“The Social Life of MRE”

Abstract: Dr. John Colton, Acadia University

Engaging Community: Working Toward Social Acceptance of Small-Scale Tidal Energy Development

While innovation in technology and deployment expertise will advance tidal energy development in Nova Scotia and other jurisdictions, it is the level and quality of community engagement that will largely determine its future. A review of best practices in community engagement related to renewable energy development reveals the importance of developing a *social license*, which is ongoing approval or social acceptance of a project in the community. While largely intangible and difficult to measure, working toward and maintaining a *social license* is critical to building community and stakeholder trust and support for renewable energy projects like tidal energy. Nova Scotia government agencies and developers cognizant of the elements required for building a *social license* are more likely to develop meaningful engagement processes that foster community and stakeholder support. Through a review of best practices, this presentation will explore how to work toward developing a *social license* for small scale-tidal energy development projects. It will specifically explore key factors that contribute to the rise and fall of a social license during the lifecycle of small-scale tidal energy tidal energy development project.