

February 14, 2008

TO: OEER Association
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RE: Comments on the Background Report for the Fundy Tidal Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment, by Jacques Whitford, January 2008

1. The report has tried to address the six questions listed in the January 2008 issue (Vol. 2, No.1). However, the main emphasis of the Report is on the “Data Gap”, which necessitates a long-term study using pilot scale projects.
2. A pertinent review of the Report cannot be expected from the “public” that has very few individuals or groups who can spare the time or have sufficient background on the tidal energy production and the related environmental issues. I have an engineering background, but I can only make non-specific comments. It would have been more productive if a society such as the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership was asked to perform an independent technical review of the Report.
3. It would be useful to outline the process for obtaining a permit for either a test facility or a commercial project. The responsible (governments) authorities need to be identified. The ownership of the project site (ocean bottom, water column, and surface route) needs to be clearly defined.
4. The net benefits (economic and environmental) of the typical tidal energy project should be stated.
5. The list of 42 TISEC developers in Table 3.1 identifies only three developers from Canada versus 22 from the UK. I suggest that OEER encourage research and development (R&D) on the subject by universities and business operators on a cost-sharing basis. OEER could also directly fund some of the R&D efforts.
6. A list of acronyms should be included in a report of this size to facilitate the review by all concerned. The Table of Contents should separately list the Appendices.