

OEER/OETR/FORCE Technical Information Sharing Meeting - Environmental Research and Monitoring related to Tidal Energy Development in the Fundy

The Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE) and the Offshore Energy Research Associations (OEER/OETR) jointly held an Information Sharing Meeting on January 29, 2010 at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth, NS.

The objective of the Meeting was to provide an opportunity for FORCE and the OEER/OETR funded tidal researchers to present and discuss work currently being done relating to tidal energy in Nova Scotia. By providing an overview of the work underway, this should encourage collaboration and eliminate the duplication of work, thereby optimizing research funds.

The meeting agenda and the presentations by the OEER/OETR project leads and FORCE representatives may be viewed at www.offshoreenergyresearch.ca.

1. INTRODUCTION

John Woods (FORCE), Wayne St-Amour (OEER/OETR) and Anna Redden (EMAC) provided a brief introduction to the session.

2. OEER/OETR PROJECT LEADS-OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS

Eight brief (ten minute) presentations were made by the OEER/OETR Researchers.

3. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Following the initial round of presentations, a Q&A Session was held. Key highlights of the Q&A session are provided below:

- The impact of turbine design, turbine arrangement, and spacing was discussed for the most efficient performance of TISEC technology.
- A general question was asked regarding how all of these independent projects concurrently being conducted will be intergraded. NS researchers and developers need to look worldwide for information so we do not “reinvent the wheel”
- How much more information do we need to support tidal energy development? The research being done today should put research and developers in a position by the end of the year to better answer and scope this question. Research and further development does not have to end before a commercial farm is in operation- research will be ongoing.
- Is climate change being considered during current round of tidal energy research? It was noted that climate change is not a focus
- The impact of ice on sediment transport was raised, but at this time no work is currently being undertaken on this topic.
- A general question if the measurements taken in the Minas Passage would be available for the other researcher and members of FORCE to use. It is anticipated that this session will encourage the flow of information among all those working in the Minas Channel.

4. FORCE PRESENTATIONS

Five presentations were made by FORCE representatives.

5. LUNCH - OPEN DISCUSSION

During the lunch, there was an open discussion on how to better manage data and information sharing among all the meeting attendees, as well as an opportunity for further Q&As on the morning's presentations.

6. CLOSING - NEXT STEPS AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for networking among researchers and the FORCE Project Team, and to discuss data management issues. It is anticipated that there will be future meetings and collaboration among the meeting participants.

Upcoming events were noted: the Nova Scotia Energy Research and Development Forum being held in Halifax on May 26 and 27, 2010. Additionally, OEER/OETR are planning to facilitate a full scale tidal workshop in the fall of 2010.