



# Parallel Process SEA and RFP

Bob Green  
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# Introduction

Province conducted a RFP process for an in-stream tidal demonstration facility to be located in the Bay of Fundy conditional on the results of the SEA process which was currently underway.

# SEA and RFP

- March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Province initiated the SEA.
- RFP for demonstration facility issued in August of 2007.
- Why not wait until the SEA is completed?

# Why Proceed with RFP?

- Urgency to find sources of renewable energy;
- Federal funding was available;
- Tidal power devices are being developed;
- Why not?

# Current Situation in NS

- Nova Scotia generates 88% of its electrical power from fossil fuels;
- The Bay of Fundy is an enormous source of raw kinetic power;
- New technologies to convert kinetic tidal power to electrical power are beginning to emerge.

# Questions

- Will these technologies work?
- How much power can they deliver?
- Impact of devices to communities and environment?
- Environmental impact to devices?
- Contribution to NS energy supply?
- Meet Climate Change goals?

# Reaction

- Suspicion of government agenda;
- Misunderstanding of the roles of SEA and RFP.

# The Harm

- Perception that “the government has its mind made up”;
- Time and energy required to provide assurance of SEA priority;
- Public confusion over SEA and RFP.

# Addressing Concerns

- Provided assurances to stakeholders.
- Developers affirmed their understanding and acceptance of SEA role.

# Benefits of Parallel Process

- Just in time decision making;
- Maintaining public attention;
- Cross fertilization between the two processes.

# Dangers of Parallel Process

- Suspicion/loss of credibility;
- Inadvertent contamination of independent processes – one overshadowing the other;
- Confusion around responsibilities of each process;
- Perception that one process is undermining the other.

# Summary

- Conducting the SEA and RFP at the same time experienced some difficulties but it was the right thing to do.
- There are advantages to parallel processing in matters of public concern but transparency and strong communications are essential to ensuring success.

# Thank-you

