

# Tidal Power Testing project



continued from page 18

metres across, it will use gravity to stay still underwater. This design is expected to be in place first, with the turbine going into the water late next month. It will not initially feed power into the grid.

If a tidal power project is feasible, it could involve more than 200 turbines.

All the companies and governments involved in the test project will assess turbine effects the surrounding area, fish habitat and if the turbines can withstand the force of Bay of Fundy tides.

Four times a day, the fury of the planet's highest tides surges in and out of the Bay of Fundy. The gigantic ebb and flow of 100 billion tonnes of water between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia is recognized as a natural wonder.

Canada has enough tidal energy to power most of the country's homes and the lion's share of it lies in this bay, according to Natural Resources Canada.

Only one-2,000th of that potential has been tapped so far. For 25 years, Nova Scotia has been capturing enough of the clean, renewable energy from Fundy tides to power 6,000 homes. The 20-megawatt, tidal-power turbine on the river near Annapolis Royal is one of only two spinning in Canadian waters — and one of only a handful in the world. The country holds more than 40 gigawatts of tidal power, although much of it lies currently beyond reach in the Arctic, far from any electrical grid.

Proponents of tidal power say ocean currents produce much more energy than wind, and with charts that predict the tides decades into the future, there is no uncertainty.

Clean Current Power Systems Inc., a tidal power energy developer based in Vancouver, is one of the three companies chosen to test the Minas Channel. In 2006, the company built Canada's other tidal turbine at Race Rocks Ecological Reserve, a 65-kilowatt unit off the southern tip of Vancouver Island.



Coal-dependent Nova Scotia wants 25 per cent of its energy to come from renewable sources by 2020, and it sees tidal power as a means to get there.

The Nova Scotia Power turbine - which looks somewhat like an underwater jet-engine turbine set on a large tripod - will be the first to go in the waters off Parrsboro, with installation plans set for this fall.

That will be followed by the installation of a turbine by Clean Current Power Systems Inc., a British Columbia-based firm.

Scott Travers, the president of Minas Basin Pulp and Power Co. Ltd., said his firm's turbine is expected to go in the water next summer.

Nova Scotia's Energy Department says the test system will be linked together next year, with the possibility of creating enough energy to power 4,000 homes, or about 3.5 megawatts.

Travers says the tidal projects are currently at the "Kitty Hawk stage" of development, comparing them to the earliest days of flying machines, and it will be several years before commercial scale production is achieved - estimated to be enough power for 100,000 homes.

Results of the test phase would take one year to 18 months, and at that point proposals could go forward for commercial developments, and a new round of environmental assessments.

Clean Current Power Systems Inc., of British Columbia, and Minas Basin Pulp and Power Co., of Hantsport — are planning to install their underwater devices in the spring after a cable is in place to carry the electricity to shore.

Minas Basin also won the contract to build a tidal energy test facility worth \$12 million to \$14 million. It is a large part of the project that includes designing and operating a structure to receive electricity from the turbines and process data.

The test turbines will be located about three kilometres from shore and are each estimated to cost \$10 million to \$15 million.

## Questionnaire – Jim Burrows

*What is the most important issue facing voters in this constituency?*

We need to strengthen our riding's economy and provide good jobs for its people. We need to defend Canadian jobs and Canadian companies. The key is to create the jobs of tomorrow, to work with the ever changing Canadian economy. We cannot stand by like the Conservatives did when nearly 500,000 Canadians lost their jobs this year.

*Do you think this riding has received or is scheduled to receive its fair share of infrastructure stimulus funding? If not, please explain why you feel that way.*

No I don't think the region has gotten enough from the infrastructure stimulus funds. The region needs significantly more funding to truly build the region's economy. To develop our local communities we need to invest much more in internet access, cell phone linkages, invest in community services and infrastructure that will truly strengthen our region into the future. The Harper government has been favoring Conservative ridings and neglecting the rest. Instead of providing our riding with stimulus, they are spending our money on ridiculous government advertising. Conservative ridings have received 66% of all announced projects so far. This is unacceptable.

*What will you do to increase the amount of infrastructure stimulus funding throughout the riding?*

I and the Liberal party have committed to permanently increase the direct transfer of funds from the federal government to our local towns and communities. Its call the gas tax transfer. This transfer would permanently transfer funds from the feds to our communities so WE can decide where best to invest. This will put more money into local priorities and help reduce the pressure on our local property taxes. By doing the gas tax transfer, local communities get the money fast, consistently every year and locals get to decide where best to invest in infrastructure. This is in stark contrast to the Conservatives. They deliberately chose not to trust local communities on how to spend the money because they wanted to play political games with them. They chose a complicated, slow and bureaucratic process to handpick projects for their friends. As a result many of the projects across our community and Canada have not started. Where the Conservatives are targeting money to their friends, we would give money directly to communities to invest in what they feel are their own local priorities.

*Which projects do you think should be put forward and approved?*

My answer to the previous questions mostly answers this question. We believe it shouldn't be Ottawa that decides on local community projects, we think it should be local leaders and local citizens who decide what should be funded and approved. We need to work with all levels of government and the private sector to implement much needed projects. They should be prioritized by level of need and implemented in that order. We need to boost the economy here, and it can be completed by reducing the amount of 'red tape' blocking important projects.

*If Truro is to maintain its reputation as the "Hub of Nova Scotia" what needs to be done to ensure it benefits from the Atlantic Gateway Initiative?*

Anything being shipped transatlantic must pass through our constituency. This is an incredible opportunity for our economy. We need to work toward implementing the Atlantic Gateway Initiative. Truro is a natural hub for central distribution. Home Hardware, Sobeys are others consider this area to be a key location for this. We need to work to promote our area as the natural central distribution point for other businesses.

*Do you support development of a new deepwater container terminal in Melford? If not why? If so, what will you do to help?*

Anything that will benefit our riding should be supported. We have two of the best ice free ports in North America- Halifax and Guysborough. Any efforts to promote our natural gateways should be promoted.

*Would you encourage MP's from Atlantic Canada to join together to become strong advocates encouraging immediate government action to assist small businesses in their battle to ensure no significant increase is approved in the percentage fee for intercard and credit card purchases? If so, how?*

On credit cards, we would very much fight side by side with small businesses to get fairness with respect to credit card interchange fees charged by the big credit card companies. We would prohibit the distribution of "Infinite" cards to consumers who have not requested them. We would empower an independent body to act as an oversight board for the credit card market, and mandate greater transparency of fees and invoices for merchants. Lastly, we would bring in new rules to give merchants greater market power to bargain for fairer fees so they are not gouged. At the end of the day, if our local small businesses are being gouged then our local consumers and customers are also getting gouged.

*What changes are needed to help the agriculture and forest industry become sustainable and profitable?*

On Agriculture, our party has been clear that we believe it is local farmers that know best on what programs work and what needs to be done to strengthen the regions farming community. No more programs from Ottawa that don't make sense and don't work. We would work with local farmers to build farm programs from the farm up, not Ottawa down. Local farmers have pushed hard to build stronger ties to local communities, to promote the high-quality locally grown foods, in a Buy Atlantic, buy local brand. With the creation of that brand local farmers have said they want to build local processing capacity as well. We would work with local farmers to build these plans. While the Conservatives have put fancy new names on programs, they have made announcements, reannouncement and reannouncements, only to break their promises on cost of production programs, flexible funding for local initiatives and others. We, in contrast, are committed to getting money to local farmers to invest in local priorities. On forestry, the Conservatives have largely abandoned the sector. In 2005, the Liberal government introduced a \$1.6 billion plan to revitalize the forest sector in Canada but Stephen Harper cancelled it in 2006. Since then he has introduced a few band aids to say he has done something but really he has done nothing. I, and the Liberal Party have committed to working with the forest sector by providing needed access to credit, funding to help forest companies and local woodlot owners to invest in new equipment and develop new forestry innovations. We would also implement programs to help the forestry sector expand into new developing markets. We would be a true partner in helping to revitalize the local forestry sector.

*What talents do you have which could be used to assist farmers to develop a "Fuel Pellets from Grass" industry in Nova Scotia with this riding being the leader? How would you help?*

On the Fuel Pellets, just last week, the Liberal Party committed that we would make the largest investment in clean energy this nation has ever seen. Why? Because we believe the future of the global economy will be founded on clean energy technologies. This means local jobs if we invest properly. Fuel pellets from biomass grown on local farms is a clean, renewable and carbon neutral source of energy and could be a new market, new economic growth for our communities. Projects like this are exactly what a liberal government would help invest in. The talent I bring is I know the questions to ask, I have seen process that work and ones that do not work

in our industry. I will help by asking the questions the farmers need answers for before they make investments and commitments

*What will you do to improve the delivery of health care to encourage more doctors and health professionals to re-locate to remote rural areas of this riding?*

Express concern and understanding about local health care services. While doctors, etc, are a provincial jurisdiction, I still believe it is very important. I and the Liberal Party are determined to improve access to services in rural communities and we will work with the provinces to find out how we can improve access to medical services in rural towns.

*Which will rate higher with you? Following party policy at all times or consulting with the electorate and voting in accordance with their wishes? Explain how you will handle these situations.*

I will always listen to the constituency first and work hard for you. The best indicator of future behavior is past habits, I have always consulted those I represent, listened to a broad spectrum of opinions and never been shy to challenge authority or traditional ideas. As I approach life as your Member of Parliament I know that when I am no longer your MP I will not be living with Michael Ignatieff, I will be living in my home community and it will be my friends and neighbours who will take care of me in times of need, those are the people I will be responsible to.

*Why should voters support you in this election?*

This riding needs a person who has a proven track record representing people, standing up for those he represents, and most importantly in being responsible to those being represented. If you ask the many people who I have worked with through my farm and many other organizations where I have taken a leadership role they will give me a solid reference based on my proven track record.



Jim Burrows, Liberal

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