

News Release

New Brunswick Energy Institute Funds Water Flow Study

Fredericton, April 1, 2014 – The New Brunswick Energy Institute has partnered with the Canadian Rivers Institute to examine the Environmental Water Flows in New Brunswick. Part of a larger international study, the NBEI funds will be used to assess state-of-the-art approaches as to how much water flow is needed in our streams and rivers to support fish and other aquatic life, and to provide advice on effective environmental flow guidelines for the Province of New Brunswick. The information gathered will have many uses, but will be particularly useful for natural resource development initiatives for which allocations of fresh water are made.

“We believe strongly in the intent of this project and the work done by the Canadian Rivers Institute which is why we are pleased to fund this important research”, said Dr. David Besner, Interim Chair of the New Brunswick Energy Institute. “Water use is a concern to New Brunswickers, particularly when it pertains to natural resource development, therefore we feel that an assessment of flow guidelines in other jurisdictions, and their applicability to New Brunswick will be a valuable resource for many projects and decisions.”

This project will identify how much water is needed in a river to protect the health of aquatic species and to ensure that water extraction for human use is done sustainably. NBEI is funding \$24,000 to examine in detail Environmental Flow Needs (EFN) approaches, policies and regulation in Canada and leading jurisdictions internationally, to recommend preferred options for EFN policy and regulation for New Brunswick. This project will commence in April 2014 and is expected to be completed by September 2014.

"Understanding the role of flows in supporting the freshwater ecosystems is a goal of the recently released Science Plan of the Canadian Rivers Institute and we are very happy to have a chance to partner with the Energy Institute of New Brunswick to bridge our science with energy and water managers and stakeholders”, said Dr. David Armanini, Science Director at the Canadian River's Institute.

This project is part of a series of water studies that the NBEI will be funding relating to energy development. The NBEI’s Scientific Advisory Council selects research projects based on their relevance to New Brunswick’s energy future. To date the NBEI has invested over \$550,000 into New Brunswick based water research.

-30 -

For media inquires, please contact:

New Brunswick Energy Institute
info@nbenergyinstitute.ca
(506) 455-3232