



Potential and Known Environmental Concerns

Low Impact Hydro at Existing Structures

Presentation at Hydrokinetic and Wave Energy Technologies Technical and Environmental Issues Workshop October 26-28, 2005





Topics

- 1. Natural Habitat (Fish mortality, mussels, vegetation, erosion)
- 2. Water Quality Dissolved Oxygen
- 3. Potential for Oil Spillage
- 4. Hazards for Navigation and Recreational Vehicles
- 5. Cultural Aspects





1. Natural Habitats

- Fish Mortality & Fish Migration
 - Site specific, dependent on existing fishery resources
 - Investigated through fish entrainment and mortality studies if required

• Risk Mitigation Strategies

- Small trashrack spacing
- Low turbine intake setting
- Spillway and/or fishways to attract downstream fish migration
- Behavioural deterrence and guidance systems



1. Natural Habitats (cont.)

• Disturbance of vegetation, sediments

- If no significant change in river flows -> disturbance of sediments or erosion not an issue
- Limited disturbance of riverbed and shoreline during construction (no major excavation works)

Endangered Species

- Site specific investigation needed
- Usually not a major issue for hydropower at existing structures

Zebra Mussels

- Site specific phenomenon
- Risk Mitigation: Non-metallic trash racks & monitoring



2. Water Quality - Dissolved Oxygen

- Site specific issue
- Seasonal fluctuations
 - Low DO concentrations during summer months

• Risk Mitigation Strategies

- Spillway(s)
- Air injection (Air bubbler systems)
- Risk mitigation causes loss of power generation





3. Potential for oil spillage

• Main Potential Sources

- Bearing lubrication
- Hydraulic power systems
- Transformers

• Risk Mitigation Strategies

- Oil containments
- Biodegradable Oil (has application limits)
- Oil-less designs





4. Hazards for Navigation and Recreational Vehicles

- Main Issues
 - Effects on Barge Traffic (Lock Approaches)
 - Flow increase during load rejection
 - Plant Intake Flow
- Investigation Methods
 - Numerical and physical river flow models
 - Site specific assessment needed
- Risk Mitigation Strategies
 - Even flow distribution, location away from locks
 - Quick shut-down of turbines during load rejection to minimize flow changes
 - Security barriers



5. Cultural Aspects

- Potential Issues
 - Building new power plants in historic areas
 - Disturbance of archeological resources

Investigation Methods

- Site specific historic review
- Interpretive Displays

Mitigation Strategies

- Minimize number and size of overground structures (use of low-profile structures)
- Aesthetic and visually non-disruptive design

