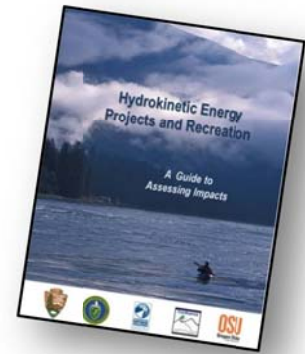


*October 18-19, 2011*

## Assessing Recreation Impacts from Hydrokinetic Energy Projects

**One-day workshop in Memphis, Tennessee • Oct 18**  
**Optional field trip on Mississippi River • Oct 19**



Hydrokinetic energy technologies have great potential to provide electricity from waves, tides, and river currents. But like any development, they can affect public resources such as fisheries, wildlife, and recreation. A recent “guide” discusses ways to study recreation impacts and minimize adverse ones. This workshop will review these issues in “large river” settings and open communication among hydrokinetic developers, utilities, agency staff (federal, state, and local), consultants, and user/stakeholder groups.

Workshop content:

- Developing, conducting, and using recreation impact assessments in federal (FERC) permitting.
- Identifying types of large river and tidal hydrokinetic projects and their recreation impacts.
- Assessing study options and issues.
- Integrating recreation issues with work on ecological resources.

What to expect:

- Short presentations, small group exercises, and large group discussions.
- Interaction with diverse professionals in the field.
- Optional field trip with opportunities for informal networking.
- Visit classic Mississippi “recreation habitats” where hydrokinetic development could occur.

### Overview of Workshop Logistics

All day (8:30 to 4:30) **Oct 18 workshop** on Mud Island River Park across from downtown Memphis. There is no fee – but registration is required. Optional: \$10 for catered box lunches to enjoy in the park.



All day (9:00 to 4:00) **Oct 19 canoe trip** on the Mississippi River from Shelby Forest to downtown Memphis (17 river miles). Quapaw River Company will guide us through a mix of natural, rural, and urban river recreation environments. Cost: \$75 per person includes lunch, bus transportation, and guided trip in large “voyageur” canoes (see details below).

***Additional workshop details below; registration form is a separate file***  
**Assessing Recreation Impacts from Hydrokinetic Energy Projects**  


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**Additional information about workshop content**

**Workshop purposes**

1. Review key concepts of conducting “recreation impact assessments” in permitting processes.
2. Review major types of “large river” hydrokinetic projects through hypothetical examples.
3. Review major types of recreation impacts for hypothetical examples.
4. Review choices of studies or other information needs for hypothetical examples.
5. Provide networking opportunities among developers, consultants, stakeholders, and agency staff.

**Schedule overview**

Time	Activity	Comments
8:30	Welcome and introductions	
9:00	Concepts, “large river” hydrokinetic projects, and “large river” recreation opportunities	Presentations and Q & A
10:15	<i>Break</i>	
10:30	Access restrictions and safety	Presentations and group exercise
12:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
1:15	Evaluating aesthetic changes	Presentations and group exercise
2:30	<i>Break</i>	
2:45	Integrating recreation and ecological impact studies	Presentation and group discussion
3:30	Making collaboration work	Group discussion
3:45	Wrap-up: “Start doing, keep doing, stop doing”	Group discussion
4:30	<i>End of workshop</i>	

**Presenters and facilitators**

The workshop is being developed by the “hydrokinetics and recreation workgroup” that developed a recent guide on the topic, including Doug Whittaker, Ph.D. (Confluence Research); Bo Shelby, Ph.D. (Oregon State University); Joan Harn, Susan Rosebrough, and Randy Thoreson (National Park Service); and Rupak Thapaliya and Rich Bowers (Hydropower Reform Coalition). Representatives from Free Flow Power, a major hydrokinetic energy developer on the Mississippi River, are attending and will also provide information about their projects.

**Invited participants**

The following is a partial list of organizations indicating interest or invited to the workshop: American Whitewater, American Rivers, Department of Natural Resources (several states), Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Free Flow Power, National Park Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Service, The Nature Conservancy, and several regional user and conservation groups.

## Assessing Recreation Impacts from Hydrokinetic Energy Projects

### Additional information about logistics

#### Accommodation Options

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Sleep Inn at Courtyard Square (phone 901-522-9700), only 0.2 miles from the walkway to Mud Island for \$85 per night (excluding taxes). Both single and double bed rooms are available. Mention “MHK Recreation Workshop Group” and make your reservations by Sept. 17 for this discount. Other nearby hotels include Spring Hill and Courtyard Marriott, both will offer the government lodging rate of \$96 per night (excluding taxes) for government employees.

#### Transportation to/from Memphis International Airport

The Sleep Inn and other downtown hotels are located approximately 12 miles from the Memphis International Airport. Although, Sleep Inn does not provide shuttle services, you may contact Memphis Best Tours at 901-870-5760 or Tenco at 901-553-8990 to arrange for airport pick up and drop off. One way trip costs \$15-16 and round trip costs \$25-26. Cab fares range from \$35-\$40, each way.

#### Workshop in Memphis

The workshop is scheduled from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm on Tuesday, October 18 in the Compass Room at Mud Island River Park. Access to the park is on a 0.3 mile pedestrian walkway above the monorail that crosses a slough of the Mississippi River (125 North Front Street; parking is \$5 per day).



The walkway will be open to our group as early as 8 am. We'll have coffee/juice and muffins to start the day and for a morning break, but we encourage you to eat breakfast if you need something more substantial. For lunch, there is a hot dog / snack concession on Mud Island for light fare or we will order you a box lunch – wraps, chips, cookies, etc. – for \$10 per person.

We'll collect the \$10 during the workshop – but indicate if you want a box lunch when you register. If the weather is nice, we encourage everyone to eat in the park with its 5 block-long model of the lower Mississippi River.

#### Mississippi River Canoe Trip

The trip will be from 9:00 to 4:00 pm on Wednesday, October 19. Weather and flow permitting, we'll travel 17 miles from Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park to Mud Island, experiencing fabulous views of the Chickasaw Bluffs, adjacent bottomland hardwood forests, and sweeping views of the Memphis skyline. Lunch will be served on an expansive sandbar.



The trip will be fully outfitted by Quapaw River Company in their large voyageur-style canoes, which will encourage discussion among participants as we explore Mississippi River recreation “habitats.” To partially cover costs of the trip, we are asking for \$75 per person. No paddling experience is necessary (skilled boaters may be able to paddle tandem canoes for additional cost, contact Doug Whittaker at (907) 346 – 3769 for details). We'll provide more details at the workshop, but make sure to bring rain gear (shell and pants), an insulating layer (pile jacket), hat, and sunscreen when you pack for Memphis. The weather could be cool & rainy or hot & sunny in mid-October.

*(River photos courtesy of Quapaw Canoe Company ©2011 John Ruskey)*