

EICom review widely approves Romande Energie's pricing policy

The Swiss Federal Electricity Committee (EICom) has approved the pricing policy in force at Romande Energie Group while reducing the level of remuneration applied to its hydropower installations.

Morges, 7 May 2012 – One of the key roles of EICom is ensuring that all legal provisions governing pricing are fairly applied by power companies. Following a scheduled review of the 2009 tariffs (regional grid-usage tariff and power) charged by Romande Energie Group, its findings have been made public.

EICom has approved the regional grid-usage tariff applied by Romande Energie. In fact, this is slightly lower than the level allowable under applicable regulations. EICom further confirmed the pricing of grid usage and power on the basis of a single catchment area, comprised of all the municipalities to which Romande Energie supplies electricity. This is an endorsement of the Group's strategy of extracting synergies across its whole distribution network. Thanks to the resulting economies of scale, its entire customer base can benefit from the most competitive rates on offer.

In the area of power tariffs, EICom focused on the Group's supply costs, approving 85% of tariffs in their current state. However, it has decided on a reduction in the level of remuneration applied to Romande Energie's hydropower installations. As is the law, this decision will be taken into account by the Group in determining power tariffs.

Romande Energie is satisfied with the outcome of this audit, which ratifies its pricing policy.

However, it is disappointed by EICom's decision concerning the remuneration of investment allotted to hydropower, which does not represent a step towards encouraging this type of renewable power generation.

Note to editorial desks

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Romande Energie at a glance

Romande Energie Group is the leading electricity distributor in Western Switzerland. Through its subsidiary Romande Energie Commerce, it supplies around 300,000 end-clients directly (representing a catchment population of 500,000 people) in over 300 municipalities in the cantons of Vaud, Valais, Fribourg and Geneva. Its core businesses are the **production, distribution and marketing of electricity**. The Group's priorities are to provide its clients with high-quality services and guarantee reliable, competitively priced electricity supplies on a long-term basis; to expand its own-power production by investing primarily in new renewable energy sources; and to promote innovative solutions in the field of energy efficiency.

For more information on Romande Energie Group, visit www.romande-energie.ch