

PRESS RELEASE

***Building permit awarded for the
Chavalon natural gas power station***

Lausanne, September 17, 2009 – On September 14, 2009, the municipality of Vouvry awarded the Vouvry Thermal Power Station company (CTV) the building permit for the natural gas combined-cycle power plant at Chavalon. CTV, which is 95% owned by EOS Holding and 5% by Romandie Energie SA, welcomes this decisive step in the implementation of a project that is essential to ensuring the security of the country's electricity supply. The execution of this project still depends on competitive general conditions being obtained, in particular for setting off the CO₂ emissions. If these conditions are met, Chavalon could produce its first kWh as early as 2013.

The Municipality of Vouvry gives the go-ahead for the rehabilitation of Chavalon

In March 2009, the Canton of Valais forwarded to the municipality of Vouvry a definitive preliminary opinion in favour of awarding a building permit for a natural gas combined-cycle power plant on the Chavalon site. This preliminary opinion was issued on the basis of the report on the environmental impact of the project and the positions taken by the competent cantonal and federal bodies. In the light of these factors, the municipality has decided to award CTV, the site owner, permission to build a 400 MW natural gas combined-cycle power plant.

Two federal authorizations have yet to be issued. The first concerns the extension of the gas pipeline that will supply the plant with natural gas. The second concerns the strengthening of the high-voltage line that will transport the electricity produced. These two projects are being examined by the Federal Office of Energy (SFOE).

CTV will execute the project if the general conditions so permit.

It is imperative that Switzerland expand its production facilities in order to offset the electricity production deficit caused by ageing of the Swiss nuclear power stations and by the expiry of long-term import contracts. In keeping with the energy strategy of the Swiss Confederation, this expansion will be based on greatly increased use of renewable new energies, the construction of large power stations and the use of imports.

With an annual production of 2.2 billion kWh, the Chavalon project will offer an indispensable transitional solution that will be able to be implemented swiftly. In terms of climate, CTV reiterates its commitment to set off 100% of the CO₂ emissions produced by the future power station. However, if the project is to be implemented, the general conditions for setting off the CO₂ emissions will have to be competitive compared with those in force in the neighbouring countries. The economic viability of the project is at stake.

For further information:

Chantal Epiney

Chavalon spokesperson

☎ + 41 (0)21 341 22 62

e-mail : chantal.epiney@eos.ch

Centrale Thermique de Vouvry SA in short

Centrale Thermique de Vouvry SA (CTV) is the owner of the former Chavalon power station that was decommissioned in 1999. CTV, which is 95% owned by EOS Holding and 5% by Romandie Energie SA, plans to rehabilitate the Chavalon site and to build there a natural gas combined-cycle power plant. With an output of 400 MW and an annual production of 2.2 billion kWh, this project will make an essential contribution to ensuring the security of Switzerland's electricity supply.

You will find more information on the web site www.chavalon.ch