



Paris, 21 April 2009

## **CRE workgroup on the quality of electricity supply on public distribution grids**

**CRE has set up a workgroup to examine the quality of electricity supply on the public distribution grids, chaired by one of the Commission's Vice-Chairmen, Michel Lapeyre. The workgroup, focusing on continuity of electricity supply on the public distribution grids, will also analyse the impact of the transmission grid on distribution grid supply.**

The French Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) has consistently observed a deterioration in the quality of electricity supply on the public electricity distribution grids, mainly involving an increase in average power outage times due to inadequate investment in the grids.

Although investment programmes relative to the public distribution grids are not subject to CRE approval, as an independent regulator, the Commission is in a privileged position to provide an objective view on the issue. During discussions regarding the new TURPE 3 tariff proposal, particular attention focused on the deteriorating quality of electricity supply related to inadequate investment in the distribution grids. This state of affairs was revealed by the heavy storms that hit France in January 2009.

Mr Lapeyre's workgroup will examine the issue of continuity of supply under exceptional conditions as well as under normal conditions.

The workgroup is to submit its report to the CRE College in autumn 2009. To this end, it will conduct a series of hearings and visits with the players involved. The first site visit will be to SIPPEREC (the electricity and communication networks union for the Paris suburbs) in Paris, on 17 April.

***Founded on 24 March 2000, the French Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) is an independent administrative body. It works to guarantee smooth and efficient operation of the electricity and natural gas markets for the benefit of the end-user. It also works to guarantee the absence of discriminatory practices, cross-subsidies or restrictions on competition.***

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