

Tuesday 23 July 2002

PRESS RELEASE

Publication of the Tariff for Use of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Grids

The tariff for use of public electricity grids and electricity distribution has been published in today's Official Journal. Decree no. 2000-1014, which sets this tariff, is in conformity with the proposal made to the Government by CRE. It will come into force on November 1st, 2002. This measure forms a central element in regulated and non-discriminatory access to the grids and consolidates the opening of the French market to European competition.

This tariff is intended to replace the provisional scale of rates established by EDF in March 1999. To develop its proposal, CRE based its study on an analysis of technical costs and general accounts as communicated by the operators. Thus, this new tariff takes account of all the principles made public by CRE in May 2000, which were the subject of an extensive consultation of grid users: pricing per connection point, pricing by power level and pricing per kWh, degressive according to length of use.

12 to 18 months from now, CRE will carry out a study on the implementation of this first tariff according to experience acquired and market developments. After gathering the observations and remarks of the main actors concerned, CRE may, if necessary, propose certain modifications to the Government.

With the independence of a recognised single transmission grid operator (RTE) and the publicity given to the list of eligible and potentially eligible consumers, application of this tariff consolidates implementation of regulated access to the electrical grid and favours the exercise of fair, non-discriminatory competition.

Created on 24 March 2000, the main task of CRE is to monitor the correct operation of the electricity market and the absence of any discrimination, crossed subsidy or hindrance to competition. To this end, it ensures fair and transparent access to electricity transmission and distribution grids.

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