



Press release

Morges, 13 October 2021

Sainte-Croix wind farm project

Construction starts for first wind farm in canton of Vaud, in continuous dialogue with local residents

In its ruling on 18 March 2021, the Federal Supreme Court Tribunal upheld the decision by the public and administrative law section of the Vaud cantonal court to approve the building permit and land-use plan for the Sainte-Croix wind farm and to acknowledge the project to be of national interest, considering the vital importance of transitioning to clean energy. The project, which begins today, is due to be completed in 2023.

In the wake of Vaud Canton's decisions on the two incidental conditions imposed by the Federal Supreme Court (relaxation of noise limit for the Chalet du Mont-des-Cerfs and duration of closure for road leading to the Col de l'Aiguillon to motor traffic), the construction permit has become effective and groundwork can now begin.

The Gittaz hamlet – where the *Eoliennes de Sainte-Croix* will be situated, within the municipality of Sainte-Croix – is located at more than 1,200m above sea level. Construction work will therefore be carried out in several stages, at the most appropriate times of year, always depending on weather conditions. The first stage of the construction project will be civil engineering work to open up access and build the work platforms.

Romande Energie has brought together all the trades involved to evaluate which work can still be conducted this autumn. Thanks to suitable weather conditions and a relatively dry surface area, it was decided that the work could begin today.

Keeping residents informed

To ensure that local residents are fully informed about the impact of the preparatory work and the various other stages of the construction project, a first information briefing was held for them on Thursday 7 October. Briefings are also planned for the inhabitants of Sainte-Croix as a whole, where specialists will be on hand to answer their questions (Tuesday 12 and Thursday 14 October, Salle des sociétés, Sports Centre, 5-8 pm).

Intent on fostering dialogue and transparency, Romande Energie – working together with municipal authorities – will keep the local population regularly informed about the project's advancement and upcoming stages. Particular attention will also be paid to work planning so that disturbances can be kept to a minimum.

Key to Energy Strategy 2050

Wind power is a key part of Switzerland's energy mix. Wind tends to be stronger in winter, offsetting the lower wintertime output from solar and hydro installations. Having each of these renewable energies working in harmony is a vital plank of Energy Strategy 2050 and Vaud Canton's Climate Plan.

Sainte-Croix will be the first wind farm in the canton of Vaud, which has the greatest potential for generating wind power in Switzerland. It will give those living in the Jura region of the canton access to a locally generated renewable source of energy, thus representing a further step in the transition to green power.

Power generated will be injected into the grid at the existing Sainte-Croix substation.



Project overview

The *Eoliennes de Sainte-Croix* project involves the construction of six turbines on two different sites, La Gittaz-Dessus and Mont-des-Cerfs. By producing 22 million kilowatt-hours annually, they can cover the average annual demand for the municipality of Sainte-Croix, including industrial installations.

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Romande Energie at a glance

Romande Energie Group is the leading supplier of electricity in Western Switzerland and a mainstay in the Swiss energy industry. It offers several sustainable solutions for the distribution and generation of electricity in addition to energy services, which include energy efficiency and electromobility.

All its generation assets are driven by renewable sources of energy. Additionally, it is working hand in hand with customers, investors and employees to provide ever-better standards of living through innovative services and a commitment to corporate social responsibility. Romande Energie is dedicated, day in day out, to offering high-grade services and security of supply, just as customers expect, as well as supporting them in transitioning to more sustainable forms of energy and reducing carbon intensity across Western Switzerland.

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