Elia informs to limit the risk of power shortages as far as possible

As a transmission system operator, Elia intends to play its role to the full to provide citizens and market players with clear information and limit the risk of power shortages as far as possible.

Launch of ‘the electricity indicator’

Elia has put the indicator of the balance between electricity supply and demand in Belgium online. This indicator, based on a colour code, reflects the daily situation and provides a forecast for the next six days. The indicator can be found on the mini-site www.readyforwinter.be and can also be accessed from Elia’s homepage or using the free mobile app ‘Elia4cast’. The indicator will also be hosted on the new Federal Government Department of the Economy website, www.OffOn.be, which aims to increase people’s awareness of how to use electricity sensibly in times of shortage. Elia actively supports this approach, which intends to involve businesses and public authorities as well as citizens in making the necessary efforts to avoid power cuts.

Setting up the strategic reserve

For the first time this year, at the authorities’ request, Elia has provided for a strategic reserve. Set at a volume of 850 MW for the winter period from 1 November 2014 until 31 March 2015, this strategic reserve covers two gas power stations and demand-side management through large industrial consumers. It will be activated when a non-negligible risk of a ‘structural shortage’ of electricity is identified in the short term.

Jacques Vandermeiren, CEO of Elia, explains: “Over the last few months, teams at Elia have been working round the clock to prepare for the winter months as best we can. We would like to offer our partners, from generators through distribution system operators to consumers and federal, regional and local governments as many tools as possible. This will allow us to manage the risk of shortages and any power cuts as effectively as possible in order to limit the inconvenience they cause to the population.”

About Elia

The Elia Group is organised around two electricity transmission system operators (TSOs): Elia Transmission in Belgium and (in cooperation with Industry Funds Management (IFM)) 50Hertz Transmission, one of the four German transmission system operators, active in the north and east of Germany.

With over 1,900 employees and a grid comprising some 18,300 km of high-voltage lines serving 30 million end consumers, the Elia Group is one of Europe’s top five TSOs.

It efficiently, reliably and securely transmits electricity from generators to distribution system operators and major industrial consumers, while also importing and exporting electricity from and to neighbouring countries. The Group is a driving force behind the development of the European electricity market and the integration of energy generated from renewable sources.

In addition to its TSO activities in Belgium and Germany, the Elia Group offers businesses a range of consultancy and engineering services through its subsidiary Elia Grid International (EGI).

The Group operates under the legal entity Elia System Operator, a listed company whose reference shareholder is municipal holding company Publi-T.

www.elia.be