



Press release
26 September 2025

A political decision enabling Grande Dixence to accelerate its significant contribution to Switzerland's energy needs

On Friday, 26 September the Federal Assembly approved the bill to accelerate procedures of renewable energy projects. The Gornerli project above Zermatt (Canton of Valais) will thus be able to benefit from this new regime. The dialogue with the various stakeholders will continue as planned.

On Friday 26 September, the National Council and the Council of States approved a bill aimed at speeding up the procedures for 16 projects initiated by the Hydropower Round Table. The Gornerli project above Zermatt is the most important of these. Grande Dixence, the project initiator, is satisfied with this political decision. It is a signal that also responds to the will of the people expressed in June 2024 with the clear acceptance of the new Energy Act.

The Gornerli project is to provide one third of the winter electricity generation of all the projects proposed by the Hydropower Round Table. "We are convinced this project can make a substantial contribution to Switzerland's supply needs, particularly through winter power generation," asserts Beat Imboden, Director of Grande Dixence SA. It can also make a major contribution to flood control and water supply, whether for agriculture, industry or drinking water, throughout the valley, while minimising environmental impacts. "This political decision goes in the direction we wanted and Grande Dixence can make an additional major contribution to Switzerland's security of supply more quickly," adds Imboden.

This requires a solution that not only meets the needs of the country but is also accepted by the local population. This can only be found together and through dialogue. As part of the Gornerli project, dialogue with the various stakeholders (municipal and cantonal authorities, environmental associations, representatives of mountain communities, etc.) has been ongoing for more than a year.

More information about the Gornerli project can be found on the [Gornerli multi-purpose reservoir website](#)

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Grande Dixence SA at a glance

Founded in 1950, Grande Dixence SA is the leading provider of electric power in Switzerland and Europe. The Sion-based company owns the Grande Dixence hydroelectric facility, which drains water from 35 Valais glaciers stretching from the Mattertal (Zermatt region) to Val d'Hérens. The flagship of this complex, the Grande Dixence Dam stores the water collected. Grande Dixence SA produces one fifth of the country's damming energy. All the energy produced by the facility is delivered to its four shareholders, who share the company's share capital (CHF 300 million). These four shareholders are: Alpiq Suisse SA (60%), Axpo Power AG (13 1/3%), BKW Energie AG (13 1/3%) and IWB Industrielle Werke Basel (13 1/3%).