



Press release

Brussels, 30 December 2008

## Gas prices: Electrabel reduces partial invoice

**In the wake of the sharp decrease in petrol prices on international markets, gas prices are now following suit. Electrabel, a member of the GDF SUEZ Group, lets her customers take advantage of this decrease without delay by adapting their partial invoice starting in February. Depending on the calculation date of the annual consumption invoice, these reductions will vary from 8% to 25%.**

The year that is now coming to a close has been marked by wide fluctuations in petrol prices, first upward and then downward. As a result of these largely unpredictable evolutions, the partial invoice of certain customers were drawn up based on petrol price estimations that today are overvalued. Electrabel has decided to pass on these reductions to its customers by bringing down current prices without waiting for the annual consumption invoice and will do so by automatically adapting the amount of the partial invoice starting in February.

More specifically, this means that:

- customers who received their annual consumption invoice between 19 June and 12 August will receive a reduction in their partial invoice of 25%;
- customers who received their annual consumption invoice between 12 May and 18 June and between 13 August and 14 October will receive a reduction in their partial invoice of 15%;
- customers who received their annual consumption invoice between 15 October and 15 December will receive a reduction in their partial invoice of 8%;
- customers who receive their annual consumption invoice by 20 May will see the impact of their price reduction on this invoice and on their new flat rate.

These reductions are applied automatically by Electrabel and require no action by the customer. In the second half of January, a personalised message will be sent to all our customers to inform them of the situation.

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Furthermore, in virtue of a European directive, for solely technical reasons Electrabel will, as other suppliers have done, be adapting one of the parameters that serve to set the evolution of gas prices. This parameter, called the "GOL 0.2%S", will no longer be related to the monthly market quotes starting January 2009, and will be replaced in the tariffs by the parameter "GOL 0.1% S".

*For the record*

*The gas invoice of a residential customer is in general paid every month based on a partial invoice set at the start of a 12-month period. This partial invoice is calculated based on the customer's estimated consumption, the average temperatures of the preceding 10 years and a gas price forecast for the forthcoming year.*

*At the end of the 12-month period, an annual consumption invoice is issued that reflects the customer's actual consumption and the actual prices during the consumption period; it also takes account of the monthly sums already paid. After calculating this annual consumption invoice, a new partial invoice is established for the next 12 months. Naturally, Electrabel is careful when calculating partial invoices in order to prevent unpleasant surprises for the customers when they receive their annual consumption invoice.*

**Presse Electrabel**

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*Dit persbericht is ook beschikbaar in het Nederlands.*

*Ce communiqué de presse est disponible en français.*