

# Facts & Figures 2014

## Swiss Federal Office of Energy

The Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) is the country's competence centre for issues relating to energy supply and energy use at the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC).



### Our objectives

The SFOE:

- » Creates the prerequisites for a sufficient, crisis-proof, broad-based, economic and sustainable energy supply.
- » Ensures the maintenance of high safety standards in the production, transport and utilisation of energy.
- » Creates the necessary conditions for efficient electricity and gas markets and an adapted infrastructure.
- » Actively promotes efficient energy use, an increase in the share of renewable energy and a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- » Promotes and coordinates national energy research and supports the development of new markets for sustainable energy use and supply.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE

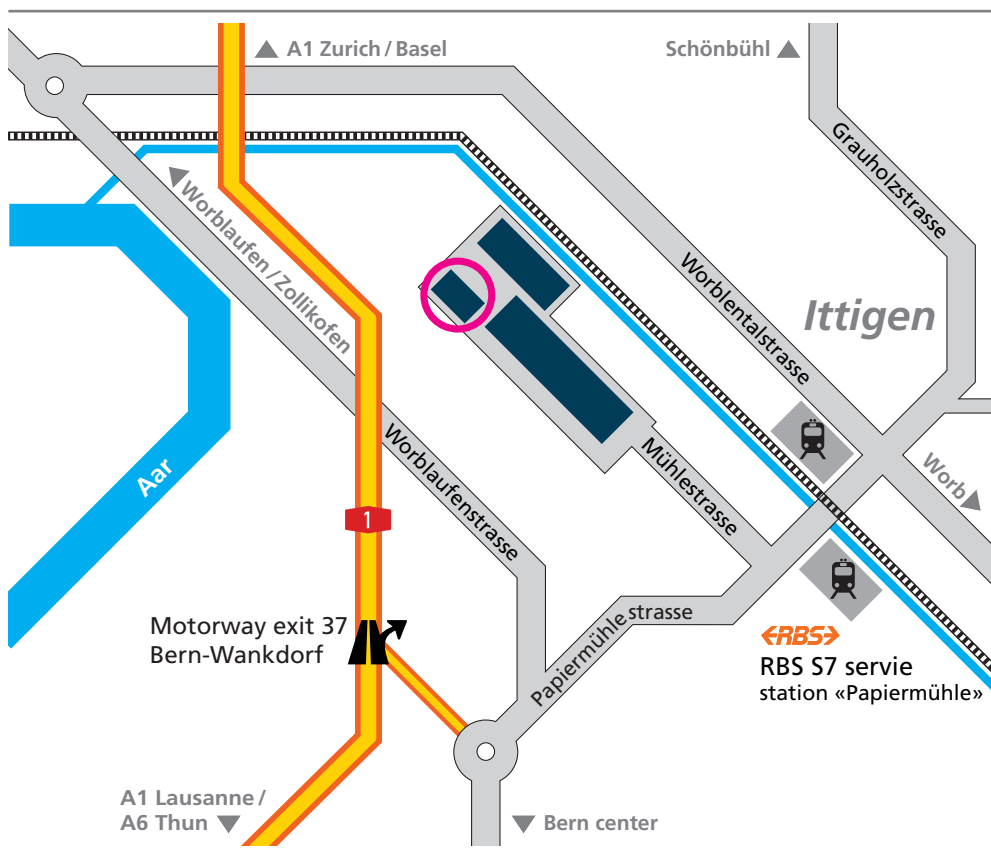
## Our coordinates

### Postal address

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### Address for visitors

Swiss Federal Office of Energy  
Mühlestrasse 4, CH-3063 Ittigen



Location map SFOE

## How to get there

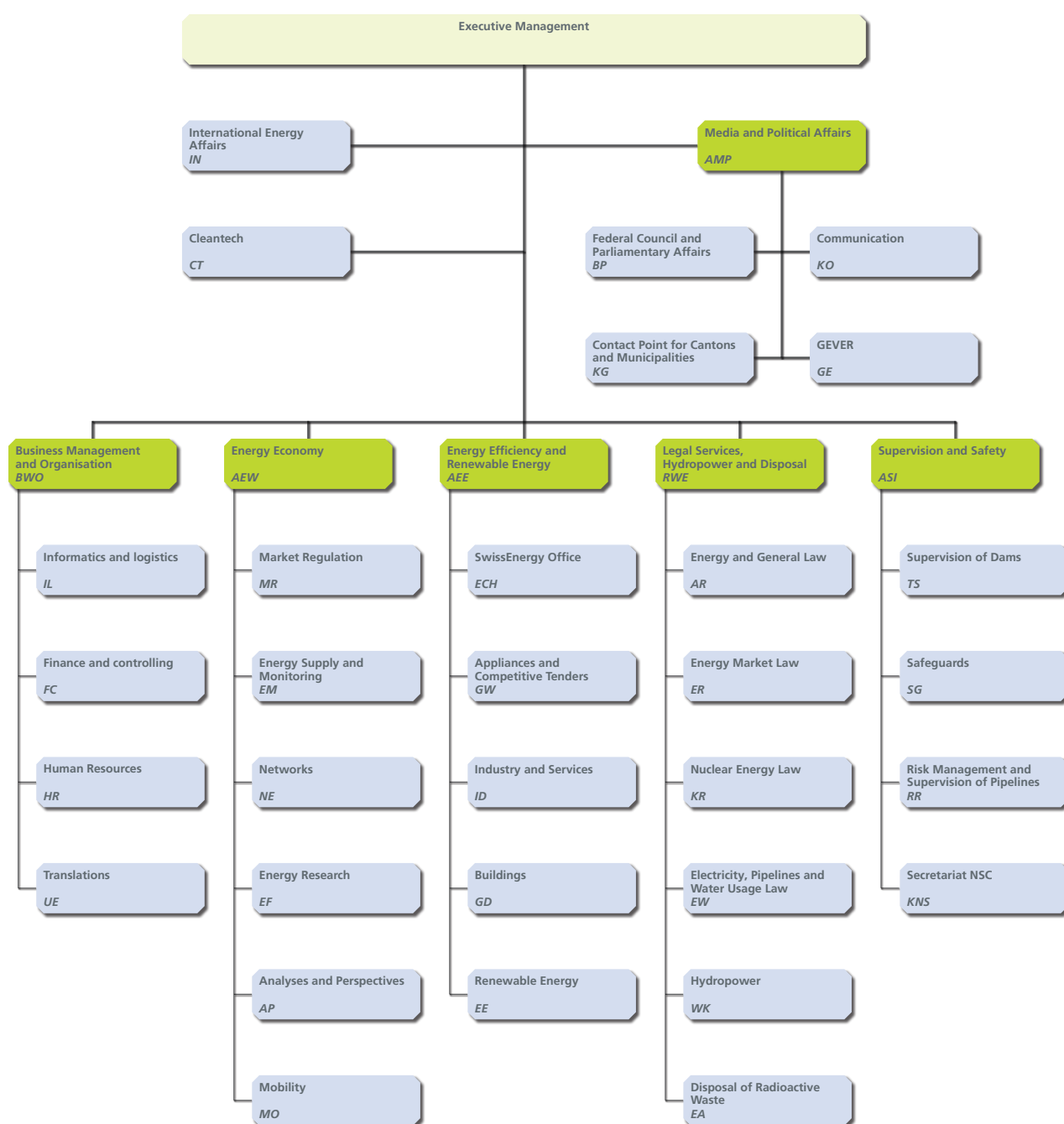
RBS S7 service (Worb) from Bern main railway station to "Papiermühle", then approximately 5 minutes on foot.

"Bern Wankdorf" motorway exit, follow signs to Ittigen. Marked parking spaces available for visitors (please reserve in advance if possible).

## Our structure

Developments in energy policy, as well as in the energy industry and energy technology, occur at a rapid pace, and the range of tasks for which the SFOE is responsible is also constantly expanding. Supply security, the replacement and expansion of the existing energy infrastructure and the transition towards sustainable and smart energy systems are some of the main priorities for the next few years.

The SFOE is facing these challenges with a streamlined organisational structure so that it can continue to carry out its activities efficiently, effectively and in a carefully coordinated manner in the future. In 2014, the SFOE comprises six divisions, plus an International Energy Affairs and a Cleantech section.



## Our areas of responsibility

In order to achieve its objectives, the SFOE has a workforce of around 200 employees, who are responsible for the following main areas of activity:

- » Preparation and implementation of a coherent energy policy, and preparation and enforcement of the necessary legislation and programmes.
- » Promotion of research and development in the area of economical and efficient energy use and the use of renewable forms of energy.
- » Dealing with issues relating to the energy industry and energy technology.
- » Processing and granting of licences in the area of nuclear energy.
- » Licensing of electrical systems for which the Federal Inspectorate for Heavy Current Installations is not responsible.
- » Licensing of pipeline systems.
- » Appropriate utilisation of hydropower and its regulation on bodies of water bordering neighbouring countries.
- » Technical and operational safety of dams and reservoirs, as well as pipeline systems in Switzerland.

The **Energy Economy (AEW)** division is the central contact point for national energy policy issues, and supports the International Energy Affairs (IN) section with issues relating to Swiss energy policy in an international context. It is responsible for the preparation of energy policy and energy economy fundamentals, including impact analyses, statistics and long-term energy perspectives. It plans annual audits of external institutions, manages federal government subsidies and is responsible for the development of the conceptual princi-

ples of risk management. It is also responsible for the development of new energy policy instruments and the further development of existing ones, as well as for defining the conditions for the electricity and gas markets and for long-term supply security. It coordinates Switzerland's energy policy in the international context. Other areas of focus of this section include the coordination of national energy research and its integration into the domestic and international environment, and the planning, coordination and implementation of all measures aimed at promoting energy-efficient and sustainable mobility.

The **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (AEE)** division is the competence centre for efficient energy use and the use of renewable forms of energy. In these areas it defines basic principles and develops new measures and instruments. It is also responsible for coordinating the implementation and enforcement of the applicable legislation. In the area of training and further education, AEE secures the further development of technologies and know-how transfer in practice. The SwissEnergy programme, with which the SFOE – in close co-operation with the cantons, municipalities, trade and industry and environmental and consumer organisations – is making a specific contribution towards the implementation of Switzerland's energy and climate policies, is an important area of activity of this section. SwissEnergy is campaigning for the increased use of renewable energy, as well as for efficient energy use in trade and industry, the services sector, mobility, buildings and electrical appliances.

One of the main duties of the **Legal Services, Hydropower and Disposal (RWE)** division is to deal with all legal issues relating to the SFOE. It formulates draft texts of federal acts and ordinances, organises consultation procedures, prepares dispatches to Parliament and supports parliamentary debates. It is also responsible for procedures in the area of nuclear energy, and issues planning permission for high-pressure gas and oil pipelines, as well as for electrical installations, especially high-voltage power lines. In addition, this division is responsible for hydropower and is the highest supervisory authority in the area of utilisation of bodies of water for the production of energy. It also defines the principles for the disposal of radioactive waste in Switzerland, and is in charge of the site selection procedure for deep geological repositories.

The **Supervision and Safety (ASI)** division is responsible for all duties of the SFOE in the areas of supervision and risk and safety management. It conducts and supports evaluations and impact analyses of energy policy programmes and measures. It is also responsible for the structural safety, the supervision and the emergency planning of Switzerland's more than 200 large dams which are under the direct supervision of the federal government, and is the highest supervisory authority for smaller dams and reservoirs that are under the supervision of the cantons. In addition, it is responsible for issues relating to the non-proliferation of nuclear materials. The secretariat of the Commission for Nuclear Safety (CNS) in Brugg (canton of Aargau) is affiliated to this division.

The **Business Management and Organisation (BWO)** division is responsible for structuring and implementing strategic is-

ssues in the areas of financing, human resources, IT and logistics. It provides the SFOE management and divisions with support for their financial, personnel and logistics management and steering activities, as well as in the areas of organisational development and translation services. It is responsible for securing smooth and efficient operations within the SFOE in line with clients' needs, as well as for ensuring workplace safety and the provision of pleasant and healthy working conditions.

**Media and Political Affairs (AMP)** functions as an interface between the SFOE, the Federal Council, Parliament, the cantons, the economy and society. It ensures that the business of the Federal Council and Parliament is prepared correctly and punctually, and is communicated in an appropriate manner.

**International Energy Affairs (IN)** coordinates Switzerland's national energy policy with its foreign energy policy, prepares negotiations on energy agreements and assists with their realisation. It represents the SFOE in international organisations and committees, including the International Energy Agency (IEA), the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Agency for Renewable Energy (IRENA).

**Cleantech (CT)** functions as a coordination centre for the support of pilot, demonstration and flagship projects and the promotion of know-how and technology transfer. It acts as a platform for dialogue between the economy, science and politics, coordinates measures arising from the Cleantech Masterplan, and provides advice on offers relating to the promotion of innovation.

## Our resources

As of 1 January 2014 the SFOE employed 223 staff in 195 full-time jobs, plus 3 graduate trainees and 5 commercial apprentices. The proportion of women is 37 percent overall, and around 23 percent in management positions. In order for the SFOE to perform its official mandates, its personnel have to possess a great deal of specialised know-how from practice and research. In view of this, the proportion of employees with a degree from a university or college of technology is very high (around 79 percent). The SFOE ensures that its personnel are provided with further education, and it also supports constant exchange with representatives from the administration, the economy, politics, science and non-governmental organisations.

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## Further information

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The **administrative complex of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC)**, which accommodates around 1,100 employees, is located in a section of the site of former Gurit-Worbla AG in It-

tigen, near Bern. In addition to providing a home for the SFOE, the three buildings that form the DETEC complex also house the Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA), the Federal Roads Office (FEDRO) and the Federal Office of Transport (FOT).

## Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE)

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