

### **Regional Board for Industry, Research and Environment Ile-de-France**

### **MISSIONS AND ORGANISATION**

Although loosely attached to the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry Service, the DRIRE (Regional Board for Industry, Research and Environment) is also linked to Ministries in charge of Environment, Research and Transport. It is placed under the Region and Department Prefects (Préfets de région et de départements) authority. It carries out various tasks such as inspection, incentive and creative activity programs, for economically sustainable development.

The DRIRE structure relies on a two foundations. The first one is divided into 7 specific divisions, all centered in the DRIRE head office. The second one is made up of 8 subdivisions which enforce the DRIRE policy in each Ile-de-France department.

The DRIRE employs 300 people in 10 offices, 1 of which are purely technical : the French Type-Approval Department for vehicles (CNRV).

### **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Backing the small and medium size industries**

Faced with increasingly intense global competition, the State has a decisive role to play in establishing a business environment that encourages the creation of new companies and ensures their vitality by providing the conditions for balanced and sustainable growth.

The DRIRE strives to implement this national economic development strategy through a number of activities:

- defining ways in which the DRIRE can contribute to the region's strategy for economic development as promoted by the Regional Council, based on an analysis of the strengths of the region's economic fabric and of the national, transverse and sectorial strategies;
- bolstering the research and development (R&D) and innovation effort, especially on the part of businesses, to align with the national and European goals of raising R&D spending to 3% of GDP by 2010;
- anticipating and managing economic change, which is occurring at an ever-increasing pace and creating promising opportunities as well as significant risks for companies and the economy;
- improving the dissemination of new technologies and innovative services, especially among small- and medium-sized enterprises;
- disseminating the principles of sustainable development and building awareness among companies of this new strategic approach, which constitutes one of their primary competitive assets;

- preparing the human resources of the future, to ensure a good match between available skills and company needs and enhance the attractiveness of professions needed to keep step with economic growth.

In this area, cooperation and networking among all stakeholders will be a vital component in project success. Accordingly, the DRIRE is placing a priority on mobilising its appropriation for operations in support of initiatives aimed at providing collective solutions for the issues facing SMEs/SMIs. Tasked notably with the responsibility of guiding and supporting the implementation and organisation of competitive clusters, the DRIRE allocates a significant portion of its resources to this goal.

In parallel, the DRIRE is pursuing and intensifying its effort to listen to, inform, guide and support companies on a case-by-case basis according to their needs.

### **ENERGY**

#### **Ensuring energy supply**

The DRIRE examines projects designed to supply the region with energy by checking their compliance with safety and environmental standards, monitoring their construction and operation, and encouraging careful and efficient use of energy resources.

To this end, it:

- authorises the construction or modification of electric power or gas transmission infrastructure;
- contributes to defining regional plans concerning energy generation, transmission and supply; the development of renewables; and energy savings;
- issues the certificates of eligibility for mandatory power purchase;
- issues energy-saving certificates;
- examines applications for wind farm development zones;
- examines requests for approval of organisations and accreditation of experts who inspect the energy efficiency of boiler installations;
- acts as labour inspectorate for power transmission infrastructure;
- collaborates with Prefects to ensure economic defence.

With consumption of more than 24 million tonnes of oil equivalent (Mtoe) per year, the Ile-de-France region is the country's largest energy-consumer (15.6%). The grid lines and networks that transport the various types of energy (electricity, gas and crude oil) play a key strategic role in ensuring the energy supply to the Ile-de-France region.

## NUCLEAR ACTIVITY

### Watching over the nuclear installations

The DRIRE, as the competent regional authority in the area of nuclear safety and radiation protection until 13 November 2006, monitored nuclear activities in the medical, industrial and research sectors from the standpoint of radiation protection of workers, patients, the public and the environment. For these inspections, the DRIRE relies on the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Divisions (DSNR) based in Paris and Orléans, with the latter being responsible for monitoring the safety of the major nuclear installations at Saclay (91), Fontenay-aux-Roses (92) and Orsay (91).

Within the scope of its activities in this area, the DRIRE:

- inspected:
  - the safety of major installations,
  - the holders of radiation sources,
  - the safety of transport of radioactive materials,
  - the management of sites and soils contaminated by radioelements.
- examined:
  - requests for authorisation, modernisation or decommissioning filed by nuclear licensees,
  - notifications of medical and dental diagnostic X-ray equipment,
  - licensing authorisations to use and hold sources of ionising radiation in the medical, industrial and research sectors,
  - provided information to the public, other public authorities and professionals,
  - provided expertise to the Prefect concerning any incidents or accidents.

To carry out these assignments, the DRIRE inspects installations and meets with the parties

involved in radiation protection and the holders of radiation sources.

Since 13 November 2006, this activity has been placed within the competence of the Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN). Staff from the DSNRs are assigned to the ASN, which became an independent administrative authority by virtue of the French law of 13 June 2006 on transparency and safety in the nuclear field. The DSNRs have become the new "divisions" of the ASN, based in Paris and Orléans respectively. The regional director of industry, research and the environment for Ile-de-France continues to be made available to the ASN as Paris' delegate for all matters pertaining to the Ile-de-France region and as such, has authority over both of these divisions.

## INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT

### Controlling 2000 industrial sites

In the *départements* of Greater Paris ("Grande Couronne"), the DRIRE is responsible for controlling industrial facilities with the aim of preventing and limiting the hazards and detrimental effects related to these installations, in order to safeguard human health and safety and protect the environment. This role is in keeping with regulations on installations classified on environmental protection grounds, under which installations fall into two categories: those subject to notification and those subject to authorisation.

The latter category of installations cannot be operated without an authorisation issued by the Prefect pursuant to a procedure that includes a public enquiry. Such installations must comply with the requirements specified by the authorisation (*arrêté préfectoral d'autorisation*), such as: prevention and control of accident risks, establishment of emergency plans, reduction of discharges to air and water, monitoring of pollutant emissions, waste treatment, and prevention of soil and groundwater contamination.

The DRIRE, under the authority of the Prefect of each *département*:

- examines authorisation applications filed by plant managers,
- inspects sites for compliance with specified requirements and proposes administrative sanctions (lock-down, temporary suspension of authorisation, permanent shutdown) or penal sanctions in the event of any failure to comply.
- monitors installations by analysing the documents that plant managers are obliged to submit regularly to the authorities.

The inter-departmental technical inspection department for classified installations (STIIC), under the authority of the Paris prefecture, is in charge of inspecting the classified facilities in Paris and the three *départements* immediately bordering the city ("Petite Couronne"). The departmental veterinary services directorates are in charge of inspecting the livestock farms and plants of the animal-processing sector.

The DRIRE, for its part, coordinates inspections of classified installations for the region as a whole.

It coordinates or takes part in drawing up environmental planning documents such as the master plan for the Ile-de-France region, waste disposal plans, the regional health and environment plan, the water development and management master plan, the regional air quality management plan, and the atmospheric pollution control plan.

DRIRE Ile-de-France, given its responsibility as the DRIRE competent for the Seine-Normandy basin, represents the ten DRIREs of the basin in their dealings with the board of directors of the Seine-Normandy Water Authority as well as with various consultative bodies such as the Basin Committee (analogous to a water parliament) or the Subsidies Commission (*Commission des Aides*).

## GROUND AND UNDERGROUND RESOURCES

### Improving the underground resources

The DRIRE (Regional Directorate for Industry, Research and the Environment) for the Ile-de-France region pursues a two-pronged strategy with the aim of ensuring the sustainable management of subsoil resources:

- it facilitates access to subsoil resources (materials, oil, geothermal, groundwater) while making sure that they are exploited in an optimised and environmentally-responsible manner, and contributing to the definition of master plans;
- it monitors the conditions in which quarries, underground gas storage, and oil and geothermal drilling are carried out in order to protect human health and safety and preserve the environment.

Thanks to its subsoil resources, the Ile-de-France region:

- is the country's leading producer of sand and gypsum, accounting for two-thirds of the nation's reserves,
- provides heating for 140,000 people using geothermal energy,
- produces about 500,000 tonnes of crude oil per year, representing half of the country's output,
- has strategic groundwater resources to meet the needs of the local population in the event of a major emergency,
- has six underground storage facilities vital to the security of the country's natural gas supply

## ROAD VEHICLES

### Backing cleaner and safer transport

The DRIRE exercises regulatory control regarding the safety of vehicles, pipelines and pressure equipment and the reliability of measurement apparatus.

It checks that imported, rebuilt and special custom vehicles as well as newly bodyworked heavy-goods

vehicles meet the provisions of the French highway code.

The aim of this role is to ensure that such vehicles do not constitute any danger when used on public roads. The DRIRE also exercises second-level control of the organisations that perform technical inspections of light and heavy-goods vehicles. The quality of services provided by these private inspection centres is an important tool for maintaining the satisfactory condition of vehicles on French roads.

Additionally, DRIRE Ile-de-France has oversight at the national level over networks of vehicle inspection centres, and also monitors the organisations that train vehicle inspectors.

DRIRE Ile-de-France is France's designated authority in charge of European vehicle type approval for passenger cars, farm tractors, motorcycles and "minicars". It also issues a substantial share of the national type approvals for utility and heavy-goods vehicles, coaches and buses.

Approval testing is carried out by the national vehicle approval test centre (CNRV) in Monthéry (91).

The approvals ensure that assembly-line vehicles are in full compliance with applicable vehicle safety regulations.

## PRESSURE EQUIPMENTS

### Checking the equipments security

The DRIRE inspects pressure pipelines that transport gas, hydrocarbons, chemicals and steam or superheated water to ensure the safety of people living near these types of infrastructure – crucial to meeting the region's energy needs – in a highly urbanised area.

The DRIRE also has oversight over the activities of bodies accredited to inspect regulated pressure equipment to ensure a level of safety suitable for this type of industrial plant.

## METROLOGY

### Ensuring measurement quality in the public interest

Finally, the DRIRE's remit also includes the inspection of metrology equipment used in commercial transactions (scales, gasoline dispensers, taxi meters, etc.) and to safeguard public health and hygiene (exhaust gas analysers, traffic radars, etc.). Depending on the type of instrument, these inspections are carried out either directly by the DRIRE, or by accredited bodies regularly controlled by the DRIRE.