

Recently, the finance committee of the Chamber of Deputies recommended eliminating four secretariats, including the *SE*. Under the proposal, the secretariats would either be replaced by commissions, or their duties would be assumed by other secretariats. The administration of President Ernesto Zedillo had not formally replied to this proposal as of October 1995.

If this proposal proceeds, the most likely scenario is that the functions of the *SE* would be assumed by a National Energy Commission. The greatest concern raised about the elimination of the *SE*, is that the move could be a first step in the privatization of *PEMEX* and the *CFE*, even though this would be a violation of the Mexican constitution.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE ELECTRICITY SECTOR

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| <i>Secretaría de Energía (SE)</i> , Secretary of Energy | oversees the development of the new rules |
| <i>Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE)</i> , Federal Electricity Commission | planning and development of Mexico's electricity system |
| <i>Compañía de Luz y Fuerza del Centro (LyF)</i> , Central Light and Power Company | planning and development of the electricity system in the Mexico City metropolitan area. |
| <i>Comisión Reguladora de Energía (CRE)</i> , Energy Regulatory Commission | responsible for awarding permits, licences and concessions in both the gas and electricity sectors |
| <i>Comisión Nacional Para el Ahorro de Energía (CONAE)</i> , National Commission for Energy Conservation | responsible for the <i>Programa de ahorro de energía del sector eléctrico (PAESE)</i> , energy conservation program for the electrical sector, which involves devising norms and programs for saving energy |
| <i>Instituto de Investigaciones Eléctricas (IIE)</i> , Electrical Research Institute | conducts research into the generation and transportation of electrical energy |
| <i>Instituto de Investigaciones Nucleares (IININ)</i> , Nuclear Research Institute | responsible for research in the domain of nuclear energy supplies, the construction of nuclear power plants, the storage of atomic waste and the development of safety measures and norms. |