

ORGANIZATION, STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS  
OF THE ENERGY PROGRAM  
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES

On behalf of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, I am most happy to appear before you today in response to your request for an overview of the structure and operations of the Energy Program.

My presentation is divided into three parts. First, I want to trace briefly the evolution of the Department and its energy-related responsibilities from its creation in the mid-1960s to the present. I would then like to summarize the main responsibilities and concerns of the Energy Program. Finally, I would like to provide a sketch of the three sectors and two administrations which report to me, and the two energy agencies which report directly to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

This overview will provide an introduction to the later presentations, which have been scheduled with officials from different parts of the Energy Program. My intention now will be to describe how the separate parts of the organization fit together into a coordinated effort toward implementing the Government's energy policy.

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources was created in 1966 from the previous Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Energy-related responsibilities in the Department were modest in those early years. However, the 1973 OPEC oil embargo, and the extraordinary increases in the world price of oil which ensued, shattered the view in Canada, as elsewhere, that continued secure and low-cost energy could be taken for granted. Following the 1973 crisis, the responsibilities of the Department grew in tandem with the Government's concern with the pricing, supply and use of energy. Conservation programs were launched, energy research and development efforts were accelerated, and our capacity to undertake energy analyses was strengthened.

By 1977, the energy group in EMR had developed into a sector consisting of energy commodity and analytical groups. The commodity groups specialized in petroleum, coal, electrical energy, uranium and nuclear energy, and renewable energy resources. The energy policy groups cooperated closely with the other energy agencies which reported to the Minister: Petro-Canada, National Energy Board, Atomic Energy of Canada