

EXECUTIVE'S PREFACE

Canadian energy development and the policy making that attends it constitute a large and ever changing subject. When the Standing Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was directed to review the National Energy Program and its effect on Canadian energy development, we recognized not only the size of the task but also that the Committee's work could be overtaken by events. The intervening federal election did not make this task easier.

The Committee conducted 33 wide-ranging hearings in Ottawa and two in Calgary at which individuals, companies, governments and other organizations presented their views. The Committee also benefitted from more than 40 submissions received from across Canada, and we are indebted to those who made their thoughts known to us.

The preparation of this interim report was considerably affected by the Western Accord of 28 March 1985. However, mindful of its mandate to examine the National Energy Program in the wider context of energy development in Canada, your Committee believed it important to continue its review, thereby providing a forum for opinion on these matters.

It has not been possible to consider all aspects of Canada's energy affairs in this report; we release it knowing that many subjects remain to be studied. Your Committee anticipates extending this work on what continues to be one of Canada's most important policy concerns.