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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

The Energy Research
and Development Administration (ERDA)

The President today has signed H.R. 11510, which establishes the Energy Research and Development Administration. This new executive agency will consolidate the Federal energy research and development efforts of four existing agencies, the Atomic Energy Commission, Interior Department, National Science Foundation, and the Environmental Protection Agency. ERDA will be the central energy research and development agency with broad charter to develop new and improved energy source and utilization technologies consistent with sound environmental and safety practices.

Such technologies will cover a broad range of energy sources including fossil, nuclear, solar, geothermal and advanced as well as conservation research and development. ERDA will provide a sound organizational framework and management and technical expertise to achieve the Nation's research and development goals in the energy area.

ERDA Responsibilities

ERDA will have a central role in the planning and management of the Administration's accelerated five-year, \$10 billion plus energy research and development program. Major responsibilities will include:

- exercising central responsibility for policy planning, coordination, support and management of research and development respecting all energy sources and utilization technologies.
- encouraging and conducting research, development and demonstration for extraction, conversion, storage transmission and utilization energy phases.
- engaging in and supporting environmental, biomedical, physical and safety research.
- participating in and supporting cooperative research and development projects.
- developing, collecting, distributing scientific information.

Agency Transfers to ERDA

The bill provides for the transfer of the following agency functions to ERDA:

- All of the functions, authorities and resources of the Atomic Energy Commission, except the AEC's licensing, regulatory and related environment and safety functions. Functions transferred to ERDA

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from AEC will include nuclear materials production, reactor development, military applications, physical research, biomedical and environmental research, controlled thermonuclear research, nonnuclear energy R&D and other nonregulatory functions.

- From Interior, the functions of the Office of Coal Research, six energy research centers of the Bureau of Mines, the synthane pilot plant for high BTU coal conversion at Bruceton, Pa., and underground power transmission research and development.
- From the National Science Foundation, programs for solar heating and cooling development and geothermal power development.
- From the Environmental Protection Agency, research, development and demonstration of alternative automotive power systems except those programs relating to assessment or monitoring for regulatory purposes.

Funding and Personnel

The energy R&D involved in the transfers to ERDA are estimated at:

	FY 1975 Budget Request (millions)	Year end FY 75 Employment (Full time Permanent)
Atomic Energy Commission:*		5,988
Civilian energy (mostly nuclear programs)	\$1,453	
Physical, biomedical and environ. research	554	
Program support (all categories)	<u>230</u>	<u> </u>
Total AEC	<u>\$2,237</u>	<u>5,988</u>
Interior:		
Office of Coal Research	283	222
Bureau of Mines (6 energy centers)	81	865
Underground power transmission, R&D	<u>8</u>	<u>19</u>
Total Interior	<u>\$ 372</u>	<u>1,106</u>
National Science Foundation:		
Solar energy development	25	8
Geothermal energy development	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>
Total NSF	<u>\$ 37</u>	<u>13</u>
Environmental Protection Agency:		
Alternative Automotive Power Systems	<u>\$ 5</u>	<u>17</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>\$2,651</u>	<u>7,124</u>

*In addition the military development and production functions of AEC estimated at \$1,542 million will be transferred.

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The Administrator (Level II) will review alternative concepts and set program priorities among alternative technologies. The Deputy Administrator (Level III) will assist the Administrator in the conduct of the agency's business. The Assistant Administrator will sponsor their technologies in the process. The ERDA Administrator will be supported by a strong and independent staff at the headquarters level. A great deal of flexibility will be available to the Administrator to carry out needed R&D programs.

There will be six Assistant Administrators each responsible for a major program area as follows:

- Assistant Administrator for fossil energy - Responsible for developing new and improved technology for the production and utilization of fossil fuels including coal, oil, oil shale, gas, etc. Significant programs include coal liquefaction, coal gasification, oil shale transformation, control technology.
- Assistant Administrator for nuclear energy - Responsible for developing nuclear technologies including fission and fusion. Major programs include reactor research and development, naval reactors, reactor safety research, thermonuclear fusion research.
- Assistant Administrator for environment and safety - Responsible for environmental and safety oversight for all technology developed by ERDA. Major programs include biomedical and environmental research, waste management, transportation, operational safety programs.
- Assistant Administrator for conservation - Responsible for conservation R&D programs including automotive power systems, end-use consumption technologies, and improving energy efficiency.
- Assistant Administrator for solar, geothermal and advanced energy systems - Responsible for developing energy source and utilization technologies including solar, geothermal, conducting physical research, and advanced energy conversion concepts.
- Assistant Administrator for national security - Responsible for nuclear weapons research, development and production including the production of weapons materials and the testing, manufacture, and reliability assessment of weapon components and systems.

Energy Resources Council

The bill provides for establishment of an interagency Energy Resources Council in the Executive Office of the President to insure communication and coordination among the Federal agencies that have responsibilities for the development and implementation of energy policy. Members of the Council identified in the bill include:

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Secretary of the Interior
 Secretary of State
 Administrator, Federal Energy Administration
 Administrator, Energy Research and Development
 Administration
 Director, Office of Management and Budget

The Energy Resources Council is entirely consistent with the approach of the National Energy Board referred to in the President's Economic Message. Therefore, an Executive Order is being issued simultaneous with President's approval of this bill immediately activating the Energy Resources Council with the following members, in addition to those listed in the bill:

Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs
 Secretary of the Treasury
 Secretary of Defense
 Attorney General
 Secretary of Commerce
 Secretary of Transportation
 Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
 Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers
 Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
 Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality
 Director, National Science Foundation
 Executive Director, Domestic Council

In addition, the President is authorized to designate other officials of the Federal Government as members of the Council. Also, the President is designating the Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C. B. Morton, as Chairman, as indicated in his Economic Message.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

The current Atomic Energy Commission will be abolished and a new five-member Commission will be established with responsibility for the licensing, regulatory and related functions of the AEC.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will be organized into three offices reporting through an Executive Director of Operations:

- Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation will have the principal licensing and related regulatory responsibilities for the construction and operation of commercial nuclear reactors.
- Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards will have the principal licensing and related regulatory responsibility for all other nuclear facilities and overall nuclear materials including its processing, handling and transportation.

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- Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research will be responsible for conducting research in the form of a confirmatory assessment of technology relating to reactor safety, safeguards, and environmental protection in support of the licensing and regulatory process.

The bulk of the new Commission's resources will come from the regulatory side of the AEC with part of the Division of Reactor Safety also being transferred to form the nucleus of the Office of Regulatory Research. Anticipated resources for the Commission in FY 75 include approximately \$140 million in obligations and 1,900 full-time permanent employees. It is also expected that ERDA and other Federal agencies would be available to perform research-related work in support of NRC on a reimbursable basis.

The establishment of this new independent regulatory commission will maximize regulatory objectivity and impartiality, thereby increasing public confidence in nuclear regulations. NRC will enhance the orderly development of the nuclear industry and at the same time assure protection of the public health and safety in civilian nuclear activities.

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