and solar applications, who had specialized expertise in commercialization and energy markets. The assistant secretary for environment would assure that all departmental programs were consistent with environmental and safety laws, regulations, and policies. The assistant secretary for defense programs would inherit responsibility for the nuclear weapons programs.[49]

The Department, despite its diverse origins, was structured to allow for the continuity of programs and functions from predecessor organizations while blending their expertise into new management teams. All activities of the Federal Energy Administration and the Energy Research and Development Administration were distributed among appropriate assistant secretaries, administrators, and the director of the Office of Energy Research. Also, limited functions were transferred from the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation. Additional transfer included the Alaska, Bonneville, Southeastern, and Southwestern power marketing administrations from the Interior Department and the Navy oil reserves and oil shale reserves from the Department of Defense.[50]

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission was established as an independent agency within the Department of Energy. The five-member commission, headed by a chairman, was given the responsibility for the licensing and regulation of hydroelectric power projects, the regulation of electric utilities, the transmission and sale of electric power, the transportation and sale of natural gas, and the operation of natural gas and oil pipelines. The commission inherited most of its functions and personnel from the Federal Power Commission, which had been established in 1920. In addition, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's authority to regulate oil pipelines came from the Interstate Commerce Commission.[51]

Regulatory programs not included in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission were placed under the Economic Regulatory Administration, one of two administrations created in the Department. The Economic Regulatory Administration assumed the oil pricing, allocation, and import programs, which had been administered by the Federal Energy Administration. Most of these programs had been established during the 1973-1974 oil embargo under the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act and extended by subsequent legislation. Other regulatory programs included emergency and contingency plans, controls over importing and exporting natural gas, supervision of utilities and industry converting from oil and gas to coal, establishment of priorities for natural gas curtailment, and coordination of regional power systems.

The Department's second administration, the Energy Information Administration, consolidated the Federal Government's many diverse energy data systems. By centralizing the most important data-gathering activities, the Energy Information Administration would provide comprehensive data and timely analysis for the President, the Department, Congress, and the public. To determine reliability of data, the administration would conduct field audits. Besides projecting long-term energy trends, the administration was expected to develop systems for estimating national fuel reserves and reporting the financial status of energy producing companies.

The Department of Energy inherited about forty regional and field offices, research centers, university programs, and laboratories from the predecessor agencies. These varied from the ten regional regulatory offices of the Federal Energy Administration to the Bureau of Mines research laboratories at Bartlesville, Morgantown, Pittsburgh, and Laramie. The bulk of the Department's inherited facilities came from the Atomic Energy Commission, passed on through the short-lived Energy Research and Development Administration. These included eight operations offices and various production and weapons facilities. Perhaps the jewels in the crown were the scientific laboratories at Argonne, Berkeley, Brookhaven, Livermore, Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and the new Solar Energy Research Institute established in Golden, Colorado. The Department of Energy thus kept intact the network of national laboratories as a valuable national resource.[52]