

LAWS AND THE ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (EIA)

A summary of [Major Laws Affecting EIA](#) is available on EIA's web site. The two most important laws for EIA are:

The Federal Energy Administration (FEA) Act, Public Law 93-275, as amended, created the first U.S. agency with the primary focus on energy and mandated it to collect, assemble, evaluate, and analyze energy information. It also provided FEA with data collection enforcement authority for gathering data from energy producing and major consuming firms. [Section 52](#) of the FEA Act mandated establishment of the National Energy Information System to “. . . contain such energy information as is necessary to carry out the Administration's statistical and forecasting activities . . . as is required to define and permit analysis of -

- (1) the institutional structure of the energy supply system including patterns of ownership and control of mineral fuel and nonmineral energy resources and the production, distribution, and marketing of mineral fuels and electricity;
- (2) the consumption of mineral fuels, nonmineral energy resources, and electricity by such classes, sectors, and regions as may be appropriate for the purposes of this Act;
- (3) the sensitivity of energy resource reserves, exploration, development, production, transportation, and consumption to economic factors, environmental constraints, technological improvements, and substitutability of alternate energy sources;
- (4) the comparability of energy information and statistics that are supplied by different sources;
- (5) industrial, labor, and regional impacts of changes in patterns of energy supply and consumption;
- (6) international aspects, economic and otherwise, of the evolving energy situation; and
- (7) long-term relationships between energy supply and consumption in the United States and world communities.”

The Department of Energy (DOE) Organization Act, Public Law 95-91, created the DOE in 1977. [Section 205](#) of the DOE Organization Act established EIA to carry out a “. . . central, comprehensive, and unified energy data and information program which will collect, evaluate, assemble, analyze, and disseminate data and information which is relevant to energy resource reserves, energy production, demand, and technology, and related economic and statistical information, or which is relevant to the adequacy of energy resources to meet demands in the near and longer term future for the Nation's economic and social needs.”

The majority of EIA surveys are based on the general mandates set forth above. However, there are some surveys specifically mandated by law, examples include the Financial Reporting System ([Section 205\(h\) of the DOE Act](#)), the Annual Survey of Alternative Fueled Vehicle Suppliers and Users ([Section 503\(b\) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992](#)), and the Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases ([Section 1605\(b\) Of the Energy Policy Act of 1992](#)).