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*Federal Electric Power Utilities in 1945-1951. Institutions and the importance of archival records in the holdings on Electric Power Utilities*

*Summary*

After the end of World War II, the Yugoslav state accorded a priority to reconstruction and development of electric power utilities as a drive of industry and life in general. The electric power utilities were organized in line with the general framework of organization of the new (socialist) economy and society. In the quest for the best solution, the electric power utilities underwent several organizational and developmental stages. After the initial total fragmentation of the electric power utilities (with jurisdiction shared by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Commission on Economic Reconstruction and Development and DUND in the period from the autumn 1944 to February 1945), their systematization started and they were gradually linked in a uniform body. Nevertheless, for over two years the federal power utilities failed to grow, in organizational terms, into a fully independent body and were managed through several institutionalized forms (by the Electrification Section, Electrification Division, Energy Division, Electric Power Utilities Head Office, Head Office for Electric Power Utilities, General Directorate of Federal Electric Power Utilities) first by the Commission and then by the Ministry of Industry of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia (FPRY) Government. It was only in July 1947 that the "federal-republican" Ministry of Electric Power Utilities of the FPRY Government was established and was the peak of centralization in electric power operations, but carried in itself an imminent germ of dissolution of the federal electric power utilities into its republican factors. The Ministry of Electric Power Utilities was subjected to a number of reorganizations seeking the best possible method of management and control. Nevertheless, as the powers of republican governments broadened, the federal electric power utilities gradually lost their importance even before the Ministry of Electric Power Utilities was abolished (on 8 February, 1950 and especially after that date. Following the abolishment of the Ministry of Electric Power Utilities, the federal state remained responsible only for managing the affairs of common importance and coordinating the work of republican electric power authorities (through the Committee for Electric Power Authorities), and especially following June 1950, when the entire executive function was transferred to the republics, including administrative-technical management of power companies for exploration, design, assembly and procurement affairs (through the Directorate for Electrification). The phasing out of the federal electric power utilities was finalized in April 1951 when the Directorate for Electrification was transferred to the republican governments, even though the Directorate itself was abolished in June 1951. At the same time (since 8 February 1950), there was a Council for Energy and Extractive Industry of the FPRY Government as the coordinating body of the committees, general directorates and other bodies of the FPRY Government managing the affairs of energy and extractive industries within the federal competence. The Council was abolished on 10 October 1951.

The archival records of the federal electric power utilities, which are kept in four holdings of the Yugoslav Archives: AJ-11, AJ-59, AJ-556, AJ-625, is an impressive source for researchers into the Yugoslav social and economic history in the 1945-1951

period. The said archival records allow research into numerous topics - history of institutions of the federal electric power utilities, the Yugoslav electrification process, power enterprises of the federal, republican and local significance, international economic (electric power industry) relations; labor-force and personnel in the socialist Yugoslavia; financial history; effects of modernization processes; etc.