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NORTHEAST UTILITIES SYSTEM

Form 8-K

December 17, 2003

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549-1004

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) December 16, 2003

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Commission File Number 1-5324  
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NORTHEAST UTILITIES  
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(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

MASSACHUSETTS

04-2147929

-----  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
organization)

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(I.R.S. Employer incorporation or  
Identification No.)

174 BRUSH HILL AVENUE, WEST SPRINGFIELD,  
MASSACHUSETTS

01090-0010

-----  
(Address of principal executive offices)

-----  
(Zip Code)

(413) 785-5871

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable  
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(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

On December, 16, 2003, Northeast Utilities ("NU") announced that Michael G. Morris, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of NU, has been named president and chief executive officer of American Electric Power, Inc., effective January 1, 2004. NU's Board of Trustees has named Elizabeth T. Kennan, Lead Trustee, as interim Chairman of the Board, and Charles W. Shivery, President - Competitive Group, as interim President, effective in each case January 1, 2004. An executive search committee will conduct a search for a new chief executive officer. For further information concerning this matter, see Exhibit 99.

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

Exhibit 99 Northeast Utilities News Release dated December 16, 2003.

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

SIGNATURE

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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

NORTHEAST UTILITIES  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Randy A. Shoop  
Name: Randy A. Shoop  
Title: Assistant Treasurer - Finance

Date: December 16, 2003