NORTHEAST UTILITIES SYSTEM Form SC 13G February 10, 2004

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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities exchange Act of 1934

NORTHEAST UTILS

(NAME OF ISSUER)

COM

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(TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES)

664397106

\_\_\_\_\_

(CUSIP NUMBER)

December 31, 2003

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(Date of event which requires filing of this Statement)

NOTE: A MAJORITY OF THE SHARES REPORTED IN THIS SCHEDULE 13G ARE HELD BY UNAFFILIATED THIRD-PARTY CLIENT ACCOUNTS MANAGED BY ALLIANCE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT L.P., AS INVESTMENT ADVISER. (ALLIANCE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT L.P. IS A MAJORITY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF AXA FINANCIAL, INC.)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

X Rule 13d-1(b) Rule 13d-1(c) Rule 13d-1(d)

\* The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be 'filed' for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ('Act') or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

(CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE(S))

CUSIP NO. 664397106 13G Page 2 of 12 Pages 1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON AXA Assurances I.A.R.D. Mutuelle 2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP \* (A) [X] (B) [] 3. SEC USE ONLY 4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION France NUMBER OF SHARES 5. SOLE VOTING POWER 7,397,350 BENEFICIALLY OWNED AS OF 6. SHARED VOTING POWER 371,948 December 31, 2003 BY EACH 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 9,693,715 REPORTING PERSON WITH: 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 388,100 9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH 10,081,815 REPORTING PERSON (Not to be construed as an admission of beneficial ownership) 10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES \* 11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9 7.9% 12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON \* IC \* SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT! CUSIP NO. 664397106 13G Page 3 of 12 Pages 1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON AXA Assurances Vie Mutuelle (A) [X] 2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP \* (B) [] 3. SEC USE ONLY 4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION France NUMBER OF SHARES 5. SOLE VOTING POWER 7,397,350 OWNED AS OF 6. SHARED VOTING POWER 371,948 December 31, 2003

Edgar Filing: NORTHEAST UTILITIES SYSTEM - Form SC 13G				
	7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	9,693,715		
REPORTING PERSON WITH:	8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	388,100		
REPORTING PERSON	FICIALLY OWNED BY EACH as an admission of beneficial ov	10,081,815 wnership)		
10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGR SHARES *	EGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES	S CERTAIN		
11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPR	ESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9	7.9%		
12. TYPE OF REPORTING PER IC	SON *			
	INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!	!		
CUSIP NO. 664397106	13G	Page 4 of 12 Pages		
1. NAME OF REPORTING PER S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTI	SON FICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON			
AXA Courtage Assur	ance Mutuelle			
2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE	BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP *	(A) [X] (B) [ ]		
3. SEC USE ONLY				
4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE France	OF ORGANIZATION			
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY	5. SOLE VOTING POWER	7,397,350		
	6. SHARED VOTING POWER	371,948		
BY EACH REPORTING	7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	9,693,715		
	8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	388,100		
9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENE REPORTING PERSON	FICIALLY OWNED BY EACH	10,081,815		
(Not to be construed	as an admission of beneficial ow	vnership)		
10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGR SHARES *	EGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES	S CERTAIN		
11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPR	esented by amount in row 9	7.9%		
12. TYPE OF REPORTING PER IC	SON *			
* SEE	INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!	!		

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CUSII	P NO.	664397106		13G	Page 5 of 12 Pages	
1.		OF REPORTING PERS OR I.R.S. IDENTIF		ON NO. OF ABOVE PERSON		
	AZ	XA				
2.	CHECI	X THE APPROPRIATE	BOX I	F A MEMBER OF A GROUP *	(A) [ ] (B) [ ]	
3.	SEC U	JSE ONLY				
4.		ZENSHIP OR PLACE O rance	F ORG	ANIZATION		
		MBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY	5.	SOLE VOTING POWER	7,397,350	
		6.	SHARED VOTING POWER	371,948		
	Det	BY EACH	7.	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	9,693,715	
	I	REPORTING PERSON WITH:	8.	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	388,100	
9.	9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH 10,081,815 REPORTING PERSON					
	(Not	to be construed a	s an	admission of beneficial ow	mership)	
10.	CHECI SHARI		GATE	AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES	G CERTAIN	
11.	PERCI	ENT OF CLASS REPRE	SENTE	d by amount in row 9	7.9%	
12.	TYPE IC	OF REPORTING PERS	ON *			
* SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!						
CUSI	P NO.	664397106		13G	Page 6 of 12 Pages	
1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON						
	Až	XA Financial, Inc.		13-3623351		
2.	CHECI	X THE APPROPRIATE	BOX I	F A MEMBER OF A GROUP *	(A) [ ] (B) [ ]	
3.	SEC (	JSE ONLY				
4.		ZENSHIP OR PLACE O ate of Delaware	F ORG	ANIZATION		
			5.	SOLE VOTING POWER	7,068,450	
		BENEFICIALLY OWNED AS OF cember 31, 2003	6.	SHARED VOTING POWER	371,948	

BY EACH	7.	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	9,693,715
REPORTING			
PERSON WITH:	8.	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	0

- 9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH 9,693,715 REPORTING PERSON (Not to be construed as an admission of beneficial ownership)
- 10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES \* | |
- 11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9 7.6%
- 12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON \* HC

\* SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

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Item 1(a) Name of Issuer: NORTHEAST UTILS

- Item 1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices: 174 Brush Hill Ave. West Springfield, CT 06037
- Item 2(a) and (b)
   Name of Person Filing and Address of Principal
  Business Office:

AXA Assurances I.A.R.D Mutuelle, and AXA Assurances Vie Mutuelle, 370, rue Saint Honore 75001 Paris, France

AXA Courtage Assurance Mutuelle 26, rue Louis le Grand 75002 Paris, France

as a group (collectively, the 'Mutuelles AXA').

AXA 25, avenue Matignon 75008 Paris, France

AXA Financial, Inc. 1290 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10104

(Please contact Dean Dubovy at (212) 314-5528 with any

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Item 2(c) Citizenship: Mutuelles AXA and AXA - France

AXA Financial, Inc. - Delaware

Item 2(d) Title of Class of Securities:

COM

- Item 2(e) Cusip Number: 664397106

The Mutuelles AXA, as a group, acting as a parent holding company.

AXA as a parent holding company.

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	No. of	Shares
The Mutuelles AXA, as a group		0
AXA		0
AXA Entity or Entities		
Common Stock acquired solely for investment purpo AXA Rosenberg Investment Management LLC	ses:	388,100
AXA Financial, Inc.		0
Subsidiaries:		
Alliance Capital Management L.P. acquired solely for investment purposes on behalf of client discretionary investment advisory accounts:		
Common Stock 9,6	90 <b>,</b> 465	
The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United Sta	tes	9,690,465
acquired solely for investment purposes:		
Common Stock	3 <b>,</b> 250	3,250
Total		10,081,815

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Each of the Mutuelles AXA, as a group, and AXA expressly declares that the filing of this Schedule 13G shall not be construed as an admission that it is, for purposes of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act, the beneficial owner of any securities covered by this Schedule 13G.

Each of the above subsidiaries of AXA Financial, Inc. operates under independent management and makes independent decisions.

(b) Percent of Class:

7.9% =========

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ITEM 4. Ownership as of December 31, 2003 (CONT.)

(c) Deemed Voting Power and Disposition Power:

	to have Sole Power to Vote or to Direct	<pre>(ii) Deemed to have Shared Power to Vote or to Direct the Vote .</pre>	to have Sole Power to Dispose or to Direct the	Shared Power to Dispose or to Direct the
The Mutuelles AXA,				
as a group	0	0	0	0
AXA	0	0	0	0
AXA Entity or Entities: AXA Rosenberg Investment Management LLC	328,900	0	0	388,100
AXA Financial, Inc.	0	0	0	0
Subsidiaries:				
Alliance Capital Management L.P.	7,065,200	371,948	9,690,465	0
The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United	3,250	0	3,250	0
-		371,948		
=				

Each of the above subsidiaries of AXA Financial, Inc. operates under independent management and makes independent voting and investment decisions.

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Pages Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class: If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the

#### Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on behalf of Another Person. N/A

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary which Acquired the Security Being Reporting on by the Parent Holding Company:

This Schedule 13G is being filed by AXA Financial, Inc.; AXA, which owns AXA Financial, Inc.; and the Mutuelles AXA, which as a group control AXA:

- (X) in the Mutuelles AXAs' capacity, as a group, acting as a parent holding company with respect to the holdings of the following AXA entity or entities:
- (X) in AXA's capacity as a parent holding company with respect to the holdings of the following AXA entity or entities:

AXA Rosenberg Investment Management LLC

- (X) in AXA Financial, Inc.'s capacity as a parent holding company with respect to the holdings of the following subsidiaries:
- (X) Alliance Capital Management L.P. (13-3434400), an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.
- (X) The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States (13-5570651), an insurance company and an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

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N/A

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Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group. $\sf N/A$
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Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group:

Item 10. Certification:

By signing below I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purposes or effect.

#### Signature

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: February 13, 2004 AXA FINANCIAL, INC.\*

/s/ Alvin H. Fenichel

Alvin H. Fenichel Senior Vice President and Controller

\*Pursuant to the Joint Filing Agreement with respect to Schedule 13G  $\,$ attached hereto as Exhibit I, among AXA Financial, Inc., AXA Assurances I.A.R.D Mutuelle, AXA Assurances Vie Mutuelle, AXA Courtage Assurance Mutuelle, and AXA, this statement Schedule 13G is filed on behalf of each of them.