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NORTHEAST UTILITIES SYSTEM

Form 8-K

March 30, 2004

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) March 30, 2004

Commission File Number 1-5324

NORTHEAST UTILITIES

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

MASSACHUSETTS

04-2147929

(State or other jurisdiction of organization) (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

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

On March 30, 2004, the Northeast Utilities Board of Trustees announced that Charles W. Shivery has been named chairman, president and chief executive officer of the Company, effective immediately. For further information concerning this matter, see Exhibit 99.

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

Exhibit 99 Northeast Utilities News Release dated March 30, 2004.

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

SIGNATURE

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

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authorized.

NORTHEAST UTILITIES
(Registrant)

By: /s/ David R. McHale
Name: David R. McHale
Title: Vice President and Treasurer

Date: March 30, 2004