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NORTHEAST UTILITIES SYSTEM

Form 8-K

November 18, 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) November 17, 2004  
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| Commission<br>File Number<br>----- | Registrant; State of Incorporation;<br>Address; and Telephone Number<br>-----  | I.R.S. Employer<br>Identification No.<br>----- |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1-5324                             | NORTHEAST UTILITIES<br>-----<br>(a Massachusetts voluntary association)<br>One Federal Street, Building 111-4<br>Springfield, Massachusetts 01105<br>Telephone: (413) 785-5871 | 04-2147929                                     |
| 0-7624                             | WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY<br>-----<br>(a Massachusetts corporation)<br>One Federal Street<br>Springfield, Massachusetts 01105<br>Telephone: (413) 785-5871        | 04-1961130                                     |

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

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- [ ] Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- [ ] Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- [ ] Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- [ ] Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Section 7 - Regulation FD

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

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On November 17, 2004, Western Massachusetts Electric Company ("WMECO") issued a news release announcing a two-year rate settlement with the Attorney General of Massachusetts. The news release is incorporated herein. The information contained in this report on Form 8-K, including Exhibit 99, shall not be deemed "filed" with the Securities and Exchange Commission nor incorporated by reference in any registration statement filed by Northeast Utilities or WMECO under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, unless specified otherwise.

Section 9 - Financial Statements and Exhibits

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(c) Exhibits

| Exhibit<br>----- | Description<br>-----                        |
|------------------|---|
| Exhibit 99       | WMECO News Release dated November 17, 2004. |

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

SIGNATURE

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

NORTHEAST UTILITIES  
WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY  
(Registrants)

By: /s/ Randy A. Shoop  
Name: Randy A. Shoop  
Title: Assistant Treasurer - Finance  
Northeast Utilities Service Company, as  
Agent for each of the Registrants

Date: November 18, 2004