

## INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104  
Estimated average burden  
hours per response: 0.5Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>SCHIVLEY WILLIAM W</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O NORTHEAST UTILITIES</u> <u>107 SELDEN STREET</u>  (Street) <u>BERLIN CT 06037</u>  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>01/19/2004</u>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>NORTHEAST UTILITIES SYSTEM [ NU ]</u>	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Pres. (Interim), compet. subs.</u>	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)  6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

## Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Shares, \$5 par value	872 <sup>(1)</sup>	I	By 401k Plan trustee
Common Shares, \$5 par value	569 <sup>(1)</sup>	I	Deferred Comp Plan
Common Shares, \$5 par value	19,513 <sup>(2)</sup>	D	

## Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
Options to Purchase	(3)	(3)	Common Shares, \$5 par value	58,250	(3)	D	

## Explanation of Responses:

- Beneficially owned as of January 16, 2004, according to information supplied by the plan's recordkeeper.
- Includes restricted shares.
- 22,000 options granted on 2/22/2000 with an exercise price of \$18.4375, 18,750 options granted on 2/27/2001 with an exercise price of \$21.03, and 17,500 options granted on 2/25/2002 with an exercise price of \$18.58, each such grant becoming exercisable 1/3 on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date and expiring on the tenth anniversary of the grant date.

/s/ William W. Schivley 01/20/2004

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.

Date: January 20, 2004

Securities and Exchange Commission  
Attention: Securities Ownership Reports  
450 Fifth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20549

Re: Authorization to Sign and File Securities Ownership Reports

To whom it may concern:

I, William W. Schivley, hereby authorize the following officers and agents of Northeast Utilities to sign and file Forms 3, 4 and 5 on my behalf, via the EDGAR system or otherwise, to report changes in my beneficial ownership of securities of Northeast Utilities and its subsidiaries and to obtain required EDGAR access codes to facilitate such filings:

Gregory B. Butler (Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel, Northeast Utilities)

Jeffrey C. Miller (Assistant General Counsel of Northeast Utilities Service Company)

O. Kay Comendul (Assistant Secretary, Northeast Utilities)

This authorization shall remain in effect until I notify you otherwise.

Very truly yours,

/s/ William W. Schivley