

**SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR NORTHEAST UTILITIES SERVICE COMPANY 401K PLAN**

This is a summary of the annual report for the Northeast Utilities Service Company 401k Plan, EIN 06-0810627, Plan No. 005, for the period January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

**Basic Financial Statement**

Benefits under the plan are provided through insurance and through a trust fund. Plan expenses were \$60,166,719. These expenses included \$25,441 in administrative expenses, \$53,680,556 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries, and \$6,460,722 in other expenses. A total of 11,649 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$919,310,972 as of December 31, 2003, compared to \$751,930,993 as of January 1, 2003. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$167,379,979. This increase includes unrealized appreciation and depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of \$227,546,698 including employer contributions of \$18,148,660, employee contributions of \$34,082,905, realized gains of \$1,684,649 from the sale of assets, and earnings from investments of \$164,139,828.

**Your Rights To Additional Information**

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. an accountant's report;
2. financial information and information on payments to service providers;
3. assets held for investment; and
4. insurance information, including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of Northeast Utilities Service Company, P.O. Box 270, Hartford, 06141-0270, (860) 665-5000.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan (Northeast Utilities Service Company, P.O. Box 270, Hartford, 06141-0270) and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: Public Disclosure Room, Room N1513, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.