NSTAR/MA Form 425 December 07, 2010

Filed by Northeast Utilities Pursuant to Rule 425

Under the Securities Act of 1933

And Deemed Filed Pursuant to Rule 14a-12

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Subject Company: NSTAR

Commission File No.: 333-170754

of the Announced

Overview

NU/NSTAR

Merger

December 6, 2010

2 Safe Harbor Information Concerning Forward-Looking Statements In addition to historical

information, this filing may contain number of forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Words such as anticipate, expect, project, intend, plan, believe, and words and terms of similar substance used in connection with any discussion of future plans, actions, or events

identify

forward-looking statements. Forward-looking

and

statements
relating
to
the
proposed
merger
include,
but
are
not
limited
to:
statements
about
the
benefits
of
the
proposed
merger
involving
NSTAR
and
Northeast
Utilities,
including
future
financial
and
operating
results;
NSTAR s
and
Northeast
Utilities'
plans,
objectives,
expectations
and
intentions; the expected timing of completion of the transaction; and other statements relating to the merger that are not historia
Forward-looking statements involve estimates, expectations and projections and, as a result, are subject to risks and uncertaint
can be no assurance that actual results will not materially differ from expectations. Important factors could cause actual results
materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements. With respect to the proposed merger, these factors include
limited
to:
wielen

uncertainties relating

the ability to obtain the

the

or

combined company

requisite **NSTAR** and Northeast Utilities shareholder approvals; the risk that **NSTAR** or Northeast Utilities may be unable to obtain governmental and regulatory approvals required for the merger, or required governmental and regulatory approvals may delay the merger or result in the imposition of conditions that could reduce the an benefits from the merger or cause the parties to abandon the merger; the risk that a condition to closing of the merger may not the length of time necessary to consummate the proposed merger; the risk that the businesses will not be integrated successfull that the cost savings and any other synergies from the transaction may not be fully realized or may take longer to realize than e disruption from the transaction making it more difficult to maintain relationships with customers, employees or suppliers; the management time on merger-related issues; the effect of future regulatory or legislative actions on the companies; and the risk credit ratings of

its
subsidiaries
may
be
different
from
what
the
companies
expect.
These
risks,
well
as
other
risks associated with the merger, are more fully discussed in the joint proxy statement/prospectus that is included in the Regist
Statement on Form S-4 (Registration No. 333-170754) that was filed by Northeast Utilities with the SEC in connection with the
Additional
risks
and
uncertainties
are
identified
and
discussed
in
NSTAR s
and
Northeast
Utilities
reports
filed
with
the
SEC
and
available
at
the
SEC s
website
at
www.sec.gov.
Forward-looking
statements
included
in this
UIIS

release

speak			
only			
as			
of			
the			
date			
of			
this			
release.			

Neither
NSTAR nor Northeast Utilities undertakes any obligation to update its forward-looking statements to reflect events or circums the date of this release.

3 Agenda Rationale and Benefits of Merger Overview of NSTAR Impacts on CL&P and Yankee Gas

4

A

Compelling Combination

Creates

Largest

Utility

Company in New England Significant transmission investment opportunities combined with balance sheet strength provides for substantial growth potential

Larger, more diverse and better positioned to support economic growth and renewables in New England
Accretive to earnings in Year 1 and provides enhanced total shareholder return proposition

Enhances service quality capabilities to the largest customer base in New England Highly experienced and complementary leadership team with proven track record

NSTAR Electric Service Area

NSTAR Gas Service Area

Northeast Utilities Electric Service Area

Northeast Utilities Gas Service Area

ME

NY

VT

NH

M

A RI

**Combined Service Territory** 

5
A New England Based Utility Holding Company
Supporting the Regional Economy
Combined Statistics
2009 Revenue (\$bn)
\$8.5
Regulated Utilities

Regulated States **Electric Customers** 3,000,000 Gas Customers 500,000 Electric Transmission (Miles) 4,500 Electric Distribution (Miles) 72,000 Gas Distribution (Miles) 6,300 Generation (MW) 1,200 Total Rate Base (\$bn) \$10.8 **Employees** 9,300 \$10.8 \$9.5 \$8.0 \$7.0 \$6.9 \$6.8 \$6.6 \$5.4 \$5.2 \$4.1 \$4.1 \$31.6 SO **XEL** Pro Forma NU DTE **WEC AEE CNP CEG** NU SCG **TEG** 

NST #16 #21 #1 #29 3.1

3.0 2.7 2.4 2.4 2.1 2.1 2.1 1.9 1.8 1.1 1.1 0.7 5.4 **EXC PGN** Pro Forma NU **ETR AEE** D **CNP** DTE PEG NU **POM PNW** NST SCG #13 #19 #1 #26 Source: FactSet, company filings.

1. US utility rankings as of 10/15/10, based on companies in the S&P 500 Utilities Index excluding IPPs and Gas LDCs.

Ranking

by

Market

Capitalization

(\$

in

billions)

Ranking

by

Electric

Customers

(in

millions)

(1)

(1)

6
Specific Benefits to NU
A projected ~ 20% dividend increase
Cash flow increase to eliminate equity issuance for foreseeable future
Likely credit upgrades and reduction in debt issuance leading to lower long-term, short-term interest costs

Increased market liquidity
Enhanced opportunities to reduce costs over time
Ability to achieve higher earnings growth rate

7

**Enhanced Credit Quality** 

Strong balance sheet and cash flows position NU to fund rate base growth program principally through internally generated funds

Combined company and operating subsidiaries will have an enhanced credit profile

Highest quality business profile
Highly diversified earnings and cash flow
100% stock transaction
no new debt issued for merger
No long-term debt triggers

8
Benefits to NSTAR
Enhanced earnings and dividend growth outlook
Ability to apply strong balance sheet and cash flow to attractive transmission investment opportunities
Larger utility footprint provides access to projects and opportunities not available today

More diverse and better balanced earnings profile Compelling total return opportunity

9
Key Merger Terms
Timing / Approvals:
Expected
to
close
within
9

12

months

Shareholders, federal, and state

Headquarters:

Dual

Hartford and Boston

Company Name:

Northeast Utilities

Consideration:

100% NU shares

Exchange Ratio:

1.312 shares of NU per NSTAR share

Pro Forma Ownership:

56% NU shareholders

44% NSTAR shareholders

Pro Forma Dividend:

Following close, dividend increase for NU shareholders to NSTAR

level

Dividend parity for NSTAR shareholders

Governance:

Chuck Shivery to be non-executive Chairman

Tom May to be President and CEO

14 Board members

7 nominated by Northeast Utilities including Chuck Shivery

7 nominated by NSTAR including Tom May

Balanced Terms and Governance

10
Post Merger High Level Company Organization Chart
Northeast Utilities
Connecticut Light
& Power
Yankee Energy
Systems, Inc.

(Holding Company)

NU Enterprises, Inc

**Public Service** 

Company of New

Hampshire

Western

Massachusetts

Electric Company

NSTAR LLC

(Holding Company)

**NSTAR Companies** 

(NSTAR Electric,

NSTAR Gas, etc.)

Other NU Companies

(NUSCO, Rocky

River Realty, etc.)

Yankee Gas

Services Company

11
Executive Management Organization
Tom May
President & Chief
Executive Officer
Greg Butler
General Counsel

David McHale

Chief Administrative

Officer

Lee Olivier

**Chief Operating** 

Officer

**Christine Carmody** 

**Human Resources** 

Jim Judge

Chief Financial Officer

Joe Nolan

Corporate Relations

Chuck Shivery

Non-Executive

Chairman

12
Building A Larger, More Diverse and Better Positioned
Regulated Utility Business
FERC
31%
CT
26%

NH

11%

MA

32%

Rate Base By State / Federal

Electric

Generation

4%

Electric

Distribution

54%

Gas

Distribution

11%

Electric

Transmission

31%

Rate Base By Business

Combined 2009 Rate Base: \$10.8 billion

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13
Southwest Connecticut Reliability:
Projects Complete
1
Connecticut Borders (MA, RI):
NEEWS Projects Under Way
3
```

```
5
Excellent Transmission Opportunities into Largest
New England Load Centers
Hydro-Québec-
HVDC
4
HVDC Line between Québec and New
Hampshire
Potential Wind Sites
Southeastern Massachusetts (MA):
Cape Cod Line
Load Center Populations
(1)
Greater Boston:
4,600,000
Hartford:
1,200,000
Fairfield County:
900,000
1.
.Source: IHS Global Insight Winter 2009 2010, US Markets: State Economies, U.S. Census Bureau 2009 estimates.
Renewables & Clean Energy (ME/NH/VT):
Projects in Development/
```

High Wind potential areas

Regulatory Timeline
Oct 2010
Closing Expected in 9
12 months
Q4 2010
Q1 2011
Q2 2011

Q3 2011

Merger Announced

Commence

Regulatory Filings

File Joint Proxy

Statement/Prospectus

Regulatory Processes

FERC, SEC, NRC, DOJ,

MDPU, FCC, Maine PUC

Northeast Utilities and

**NSTAR Shareholder** 

Meetings

**Develop Transition Implementation Plans** 

Receive Regulatory

Approvals

Close Merger

15 NSTAR A Track Record of Strong Performance

High levels of customer service and reliability

Constructive regulatory outcomes

Solid, consistent financial results

Strong credit profile and positive cash flow

NSTAR
Key Facts and Figures
NSTAR is the largest Massachusetts-based investor-owned electric and gas utility
NSTAR transmits and delivers electricity and gas to 1.1 million electric customers in 81 communities and approximately 300,000 gas

customers in 51 communities
Residential customers comprise 87% of the
total electric customers and 90% of the total
gas customers
For the nine months ended September 30,
2010, NSTAR derived 86% of its operating
revenues from electric operations and 14%
from gas operations
NSTAR employs more than 3,000 people
Service Territory
MA
NSTAR Electric Service Area
NSTAR Gas Service Area

#### 17

#### **NSTAR Electric**

Provides distribution and transmission electricity service to 1.1 million customers over an area of 1,702 square miles

Approximately 35,000 miles of distribution lines with 37% being under ground, and 951 miles of transmission lines

Created January 1, 2007 through the merger of Commonwealth Electric

Company, Cambridge Electric Light Company, and Boston Edison Company
Currently
operating
under
a
2007

2012

distribution

rate

settlement

that establishes annual inflation-adjusted distribution rates that are generally offset by an equal reduction in transition rates (stranded cost charges)

Distribution rate base at 12/31/09 of \$2.5 billion Transmission rates set by the FERC as part of ISO-NE regional system (similar to NU)

NSTAR Gas
Distributes natural gas to approximately 300,000 customers over an area of 1,067 square miles
Like Yankee Gas, the sales and transportation of gas are divided into two categories

firm and interruptible

Supply portfolio consists of natural gas supply contracts, transportation contracts on interstate pipelines, market area storage and peaking services

A portion of the gas supply storage is provided by Hopkinton, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NSTAR, with facilities consisting of LNG liquefaction and vaporization, and above-ground storage tanks Last rate proceeding was a settlement in 2005 Commercial, industrial, and residential customers can choose their supplier of natural gas Rate base at 12/31/09 of \$500 million

19 A Long History of Negotiated, Multi-Year Distribution Rate Agreements

25 years of

rate agreements

last litigated rate increase in 1986

Fully reconciling pension & post-retirement mechanism and recovery of energy supply

Current electric seven year rate plan through December 31, 2012

10.5% ROE with +/-2% neutral zone

Plan to pursue a new rate agreement effective in 2013

20 History of Disciplined Cost Control \$453 2005 \$431

2006 2007

Operations & Maintenance Expense

\$447

\$ IN MILLIONS

2008

\$454

2009

\$431

Productivity & automation

Performance driven culture

Engaged workforce and constructive union relations

Continuous improvement philosophy Key Drivers

21
Highest Credit Rating in the Industry
NSTAR
A+
FPL Group, Inc.
A
Southern Company

A-
Dominion Resources, Inc.
A-
DPL Inc.
A-
Duke Energy Corporation
A-
Energy East Corporation
A-
KeySpan Corp.
A-
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
A-
Vectren Corporation
A-
ALLETE, Inc.
BBB+
Alliant Energy Corporation
BBB+
Integrys Energy Group, Inc.
BBB+
Kentucky Utilities Company
BBB+
Louisville Gas and Electric Company
BBB+
MDU Resources Group, Inc.
BBB+
MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company
BBB+
OGE Energy Corp.
BBB+
PG&E Corporation
BBB+
Portland General Electric Company
BBB+
Progress Energy, Inc.
BBB+
SCANA Corporation
BBB+
Sempra Energy
BBB+
Wisconsin Energy Corporation
BBB+
Xcel Energy Inc.
BBB+
American Electric Power Company, Inc.
BBB
CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

A

Consolidated Edison, Inc.

**BBB** Cleco Corporation **BBB** El Paso Electric Company BBB **Energy Corporation BBB Exelon Corporation** BBB FirstEnergy Corp. **BBB** Great Plains Energy Inc. **BBB Green Mountain Power Corporation BBB** Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc. **BBB** IDACORP, Inc. **BBB** Northeast Utilities **BBB** North Western Corporation **BBB** Pepco Holdings, Inc. **BBB PPL Corporation BBB** Public Service Enterprise Group Inc. **BBB** TECO Energy, Inc. **BBB UIL Holdings Corporation BBB** Allegheny Energy, Inc. BBB-Ameren Corporation BBB-Avista Corporation BBB-**Black Hills Corporation** BBB-**CMS Energy Corporation** BBB-Constellation Energy Group, Inc. BBB-**Duquesne Light Company** BBB-**Edison International** BBB-**Empire District Electric Company** 

BBB-

IPALCO Enterprises, Inc.

BBB-

NiSource Inc.

BBB-

Otter Tail Corporation

BBB-

Pinnacle West Capital Corporation

BBB-

Westar Energy, Inc. Puget Energy, Inc.

BBB-

Puget Energy, Inc.

BB+

NV Energy, Inc.

BB

PNM Resources, Inc.

BB-

Energy Future Holdings Corp.

R-

#1 NSTAR

A+

\*As published by EEI

# 22

Earnings and Dividend Growth \$2.22

\$1.93

\$2.07

2006

2007

2008 2009 \$2.37 \$2.45 -\$2.60 2010 Guidance \$1.21 \$1.30 \$1.40 2006 2007

2008 2009

\$1.50

2010

\$1.60

Earnings Growth of 7% Outperforms Industry 19 Consecutive Years of Operating Earnings Growth Consistent, Above Average Dividend Growth 12 Consecutive Years of Increase

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Impact on CL&P and Yankee Gas

No changes to the tariff rates or services of CL&P or Yankee Gas

other NU affiliates) are planned or contemplated as a condition of the merger

There is no consolidation of NSTAR Electric, NSTAR Gas, CL&P,

and/or Yankee Gas (or other NU affiliates) that would result from the merger

The merger will not result in a change of control of CL&P or Yankee Gas (or other NU affiliates) and they will continue to be first-tier subsidiaries of NU

The merger will strengthen the financial integrity and investment capability of NU; a corollary effect will be the enhancement of CL&P  $\,$ s and Yankee Gas

capability to maintain reliable and cost-effective delivery systems

Over time, the integration of NSTAR and NU is anticipated to produce net savings in costs that will be passed on to customers through reduced costs of service

#### 24

Creates New England s premier energy provider
More diverse, stable and higher earnings growth profile than could
be achieved standalone
Highly experienced management teams with proven track records
of success
Combined company will have one of the most attractive total

return profiles in the industry Summary

26
NSTAR Electric
Comparison of typical bills\*
Boston
Cambridge
Commonwealth
CL&P

Edison Electric Electric Generation \$82.88 \$59.85 \$59.85 \$59.85 Transmission \$13.39 \$11.15 \$13.70 \$11.80 Delivery \$38.34 \$48.10 \$42.26 \$48.96 Other \$7.98 \$5.14 -\$3.07 \$11.90 TOTAL BILL \$142.59 \$124.24 \$112.74 \$132.51 Non-Generation \$59.71 \$64.39 \$52.89 \$72.66 Residential (Based on 750 kWh per Month) Boston Cambridge Commonwealth CL&P Edison Electric Electric Generation \$1,172 \$853 \$853 \$798 Transmission \$182 \$372

\$204

\$160 Delivery \$464 \$865 \$436 \$419 Other \$142 \$69 \$1 \$159 TOTAL BILL \$1,960 \$2,159 \$1,494 \$1,536 Non-Generation \$788 \$1,306 \$641 \$738

Commercial (Based on 10,000 kWh per Month & 40 kW (33% Load Factor))

Typical Bills, Summer 2010

<sup>\*</sup>As published by EEI

27
NSTAR Electric
Comparison of typical bills\*
Boston
Cambridge
Commonwealth
CL&P

Edgar Filing: NSTAR/MA - Form 425 Edison Electric Electric Generation \$25,582 \$28,424 \$28,424 \$28,236 Transmission \$5,368 \$6,220 \$4,987 \$6,316 Delivery \$7,404 \$17,829 \$7,285 \$8,975 Other \$4,208 \$3,262 -\$611 \$6,810 TOTAL BILL \$42,562 \$55,735 \$40,085 \$50,337 Non-Generation \$16,980 \$27,311 \$11,661

Industrial (Based on 400,000 kWh per Month & 1,000 kW (54% Load Factor))

\$22,101

\*As published by EEI Typical Bills, Summer 2010 \* \* \*

#### **Information Concerning Forward Looking Statements**

In addition to historical information, this filing may contain a number of forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Words such as anticipate, expect, project, intend, plan, believe, and words and terms of similar substance used in connection with any discussion of future plans, actions, or events identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements relating to the proposed merger include, but are not limited to: statements about the benefits of the proposed merger involving NSTAR and Northeast Utilities, including future financial and operating results; NSTAR s and Northeast Utilities plans, objectives, expectations and intentions; the expected timing of completion of the transaction; and other statements relating to the merger that are not historical facts. Forward-looking statements involve estimates, expectations and projections and, as a result, are subject to risks and uncertainties. There can be no assurance that actual results will not materially differ from expectations. Important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements. With respect to the proposed merger, these factors include, but are not limited to: risks and uncertainties relating to the ability to obtain the requisite NSTAR and Northeast Utilities shareholder approvals; the risk that NSTAR or Northeast Utilities may be unable to obtain governmental and regulatory approvals required for the merger, or required governmental and regulatory approvals may delay the merger or result in the imposition of conditions that could reduce the anticipated benefits from the merger or cause the parties to abandon the merger; the risk that a condition to closing of the merger may not be satisfied; the length of time necessary to consummate the proposed merger; the risk that the businesses will not be integrated successfully; the risk that the cost savings and any other synergies from the transaction may not be fully realized or may take longer to realize than expected; disruption from the transaction making it more difficult to maintain relationships with customers, employees or suppliers; the diversion of management time on merger-related issues; the effect of future regulatory or legislative actions on the companies; and the risk that the credit ratings of the combined company or its subsidiaries may be different from what the companies expect. These risks, as well as other risks associated with the merger, are more fully discussed in the joint proxy statement/prospectus that is included in the Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Registration No. 333-170754) that was filed by Northeast Utilities with the SEC in connection with the merger. Additional risks and uncertainties are identified and discussed in NSTAR s and Northeast Utilities reports filed with the SEC and available at the SEC s website at www.sec.gov. Forward-looking statements included in this release speak only as of the date of this release. Neither NSTAR nor Northeast Utilities undertakes any obligation to update its forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this release.

#### Additional Information And Where To Find It

This communication does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities or a solicitation of any vote or approval. In connection with the proposed merger between Northeast Utilities and NSTAR, on November 22, 2010 Northeast Utilities filed with the SEC a Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Registration No. 333-170754) that includes a preliminary joint proxy statement of Northeast Utilities and NSTAR and that also constitutes a preliminary prospectus of Northeast Utilities. These materials are not yet final and may be amended. Northeast Utilities and NSTAR will mail the final joint proxy statement/prospectus to their respective shareholders. **Northeast Utilities and NSTAR urge investors and shareholders to read the registration statement, and any other relevant documents filed with the SEC, including the preliminary joint proxy statement/prospectus that is a part of the registration statement, and the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus, when available, because they will contain important information. You may obtain copies of all documents filed with the SEC regarding this proposed transaction, free of charge, at the SEC s website (www.sec.gov). You may also obtain these documents, free of charge, from Northeast Utilities website (www.nu.com) under the tab Investors and then under the heading Financial/SEC Reports. You may also obtain these documents, free of charge, from NSTAR s website (www.nstar.com) under the tab Investor Relations.** 

#### **Participants In The Merger Solicitation**

Northeast Utilities, NSTAR and their respective trustees, executive officers and certain other members of management and employees may be soliciting proxies from Northeast Utilities and NSTAR shareholders in favor of the merger and related matters. Information regarding the persons who may, under the rules of the SEC, be deemed participants in the solicitation of Northeast Utilities and NSTAR shareholders in connection with the proposed merger is contained in the preliminary joint proxy statement/prospectus filed with the SEC and will be contained in the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus when it becomes available. You can find information about Northeast Utilities executive officers and trustees in its definitive proxy statement filed with the SEC on April 1, 2010. You can find information about Northeast Utilities executive officers and trustees in its definitive proxy statement filed with the SEC on March 12, 2010. Additional information about Northeast Utilities executive officers and trustees and NSTAR s executive officers and trustees can be found in the above-referenced Registration Statement on Form S-4 in the preliminary joint proxy statement/prospectus. You can obtain free copies of these documents from Northeast Utilities and NSTAR using the website information above.